

*State of Vermont*  
*Agency of Human Services*

**Global Commitment to Health**  
**11-W-00194/1**

**Section 1115**  
**Demonstration Year: 5**  
**(10/1/2009 – 9/30/2010)**

**Quarterly Report for the period**  
**January 1, 2010 to March 31, 2010**

**May 25, 2010**

## **Background and Introduction**

The Global Commitment to Health is a Demonstration Initiative operated under a Section 1115(a) waiver granted by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, within the Department of Health and Human Services.

The state of Vermont is a national leader in making affordable health care coverage available to low-income children and adults. Vermont was among the first states to expand coverage for children and pregnant women, through the implementation in 1989 of the state-funded Dr. Dynasaur program. In 1992, Dr. Dynasaur became part of the state-federal Medicaid program.

When the federal government introduced the State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP) in 1997, Vermont extended coverage to uninsured and under-insured children living in households with incomes below 300 percent of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL).

In 1995, Vermont implemented an 1115(a) waiver program, the Vermont Health Access Plan (VHAP). That program's primary goal was to expand access to comprehensive health care coverage for uninsured adults with household incomes below 150 percent (later raised to 185 percent) of FPL, through enrollment in managed care. VHAP also included a prescription drug benefit for low-income Medicare beneficiaries who did not otherwise qualify for Medicaid. Both waiver populations pay a modest premium on a sliding scale based on household income.

Implemented October 1, 2005, the Global Commitment converts the Office of Vermont Health Access (OVHA), the state's Medicaid organization, to a public Managed Care Entity. AHS will pay the Managed Care Entity a lump sum premium payment for the provision of all Medicaid services in the state (with the exception of the Long-Term Care Waiver, managed separately). A Global Commitment to Health Waiver Amendment, approved October 31<sup>st</sup> 2007 by CMS, allows Vermont to implement the Catamount Health Premium Subsidy Program with the corresponding commercial Catamount Health Program (implemented by state statute October 1, 2007). The Catamount Plan is a new health insurance product offered in cooperation with Blue Cross Blue Shield of Vermont and MVP Health Care. It provides comprehensive, quality health coverage at a reasonable cost no matter how much an individual earns. The intent of this program is to reduce the number of uninsured citizens of Vermont. Subsidies are available to those who fall at or below 300% of the federal poverty level (FPL). Vermont claims federal financial participation for those uninsured Vermonters who fall at or below 200% of the FPL. For those individuals who fall between 200 and 300% Vermont provides subsidies through general fund revenue. Benefits include doctor visits, check-ups and screenings, hospital visits, emergency care, chronic disease care, prescription medicines and more.

The Global Commitment and its newest amendment provide the state with the ability to be more flexible in the way it uses its Medicaid resources. Examples of this flexibility include new payment mechanisms (e.g., case rates, capitation, combined funding streams) rather than fee-for-service, to pay for services not traditionally reimbursable through Medicaid (e.g., pediatric psychiatric consultation) and investments in programmatic innovations (e.g., the Vermont Blueprint for Health). The managed care model will also encourage inter-departmental collaboration and consistency across programs.

One of the Terms and Conditions of the Global Commitment Waiver requires the State "to submit progress reports 60 days following the end of each quarter. ***This is the second quarterly report for waiver year five, covering the period from January 1, 2010 through March 31, 2010.***

**Enrollment Information and Counts**

Please note the table below provides point in time enrollment counts for the Global Commitment to Health Waiver. Due to the nature of the Medicaid program and its beneficiaries, enrollees may become retroactively eligible; move between eligibility groups within a given quarter or after the quarter has closed. Additionally, the Global Commitment to Health Waiver involves the majority of the state’s Medicaid program; as such Medicaid eligibility and enrollment in Global Commitment are synonymous, with the exception of the Long Term Care Waiver and SCHIP recipients.

Reports to populate this table are run the Monday after the last day of the quarter. Results yielding less than or equal to a 5% fluctuation quarter to quarter will be considered as illustrating normal deviations reflecting retroactive eligibility determinations and expected terminations. Results reflecting more than a 5% fluctuation between quarters will be reviewed by OVHA and AHS staff for further detail and explanation.

Enrollment counts are person counts, not member months.

<b>Demonstration Population</b>	<b>Current Enrollees Last Day of Qtr 3/31/2010</b>	<b>Previously Reported Enrollees Last Day of Qtr 12/31/2009</b>	<b>Variance 03/31/10 to 12/31/10</b>
Demonstration Population 1:	43,933	43,896	0.08%
Demonstration Population 2:	43,734	42,980	1.75%
Demonstration Population 3:	9,910	9,707	2.09%
Demonstration Population 4:	N/A	N/A	N/A
Demonstration Population 5:	1,220	1,210	0.83%
Demonstration Population 6:	2,945	2,767	6.43%
Demonstration Population 7:	33,468	31,042	7.82%
Demonstration Population 8:	7,531	7,435	1.29%
Demonstration Population 9:	2,606	2,547	2.32%
Demonstration Population 10:	N/A	N/A	N/A
Demonstration Population 11:	10,075	9,617	4.76%

**Green Mountain Care Outreach / Innovative Activities**

This quarter began with significant momentum directed at a campaign to reach the largest group of uninsured Vermonters, namely those between the ages of 18 – 24 years. The Office of Vermont Health Access embarked upon a semester long project with over 80 marketing students at the University of Vermont and Champlain College. The initial purpose was to conduct research, focus groups and produce videos to reach 18 – 24 year olds. Vermont’s largest bank, Chittenden Bank, had agreed to partner with the OVHA for the second year. One of Vermont’s largest marketing firms, JDK Design donated their space for focus groups, and students produced 19 videos to reach their peers. Twenty of Vermont’s 22 colleges prepared to do outreach to approximately 5,000 college seniors. Given that a majority of the insurers in Vermont will provide extended coverage for graduating seniors, it became imperative that we redirect our efforts and develop new strategies going forward.

The Children’s Health Insurance Program Reauthorization Act of 2009 (CHIPRA) directs employers to notify their employees about premium assistance under Medicaid and the Children’s Health Insurance Program. The OVHA worked with the Vermont Department of Labor (DOL) to develop a model letter that directs all employees who may qualify for premium assistance to Green Mountain Care. The OVHA tested the letter with several employers before it was posted to the DOL website and mailed to over

20,000 employers.

The OVHA provided information about Green Mountain Care at five company lay offs and one job fair as compared to 27 lay offs and one job fair during this same quarter last year.

The Green Mountain Care style guide has been completed in an effort to establish standards and improve consistency in the way we describe programs across state government. The OVHA is also involved in an agency-wide effort to redesign the web portal to the Agency of Human Services, again to ensure that services are consistently described in consumer-friendly manner.

*Enrollment and legislative action:* Enrollment in the premium assistance program components of Green Mountain Care (Catamount Health and Employer-Sponsored Insurance) has continued to grow slowly over the quarter. As of the end of March there were 11,456 individuals enrolled.

Vermont submitted a waiver amendment request to CMS in late August to implement two minor changes to eligibility required by Act 61, an omnibus health care reform bill passed during the 2009 legislative session. The two changes to the VHAP and premium assistance eligibility determination process were as follows:

- Depreciation would be allowed as a business expense for self-employed applicants
- Self-employed people who lose their non-group insurance coverage due to no longer being self-employed would not have a 12-month waiting period to enroll in premium assistance.

In the amendment request, Vermont noted that an August 18, 2009 Joint Fiscal Committee decision rescinded the allocated funding to implement these changes. OVHA submitted a report to the legislature in January on the estimated cost of implementing the depreciation change. The Budget Adjustment bill which was passed by the General Assembly deferred the implementation of these provisions to July 1, 2011.

As required by Act 25, An Act Relating to Palliative Care, passed by the legislature during the 2009 session, OVHA submitted a report in November on the programmatic and cost implications of applying for a waiver amendment to provide Medicaid children who have life-limiting illnesses with concurrent palliative and curative care. It appears that the legislature will add language to the 2011 budget bill to require OVHA to request a waiver to implement a palliative care program for children.

CMS approved Vermont's waiver request to reduce from 12 months to six months the waiting period required for uninsured people to enroll in VHAP and the premium assistance programs. OVHA submitted a report to the legislature in February on the estimated cost of implementing this change. The legislature has so far not acted to move forward on implementation.

To ensure the solvency of the Catamount Fund, the Administration proposed a change to the Catamount Health benefit structure that would increase the deductible from \$250 to \$1200 and increase co-pays for office visits and pharmacy. It appears that the legislature will most likely approve an increase in the deductible from \$250 to \$500, and an increase in the co-pays for brand-name and non-preferred drugs.

## Operational/Policy Developments/Issues

Catamount Health Premium Assistance Programs: The OVHA issues monthly reports on enrollment numbers and demographics, as well as a Catamount Fund financial report. The report that includes the actual enrollment as of the end of March 2010 is included as Attachment 1.

The Dental Dozen: Many Vermonters face challenges in receiving appropriate oral health care due to the limited number of practicing professionals, the affordability of services and a lack of emphasis on the importance of oral health care. Challenges frequently are more acute for low-income Vermonters, including those Vermonters participating in the State's public health care programs. The Dental Dozen recognizes oral health as a fundamental component of overall health and moves toward creating parity between oral health and other health care services.

The OVHA, in conjunction with the Vermont Department of Health (VDH), has implemented 12 targeted initiatives listed below to provide a comprehensive, balanced approach to improve oral health and oral health access for all Vermonters. Updates as of March 2010 are summarized below:

Initiative #1: Ensure Oral Health Exams for School-age Children - The Vermont Department of Health (VDH), the Office of Vermont Health Access (OVHA) and the Department of Education (DOE) collaborated to reinforce the importance of oral health exams and encourage preventive care. Brochures were provided to schools for distribution in October, 2008 to educate parents and children on the importance of fluoride, sealants and regular checkups.

Initiative #2: Increase Dental Reimbursement Rates - The OVHA committed to increase Medicaid reimbursement rates over a three-year period to stabilize the current provider network, encourage new dentists to enroll as Medicaid providers and encourage enrolled dentists to see more Medicaid beneficiaries. Rates were increased by \$637,862 in SFY 2008 and by \$1,412,441 for SFY 2009. Rates were not increased for SFY 2010 due to budgetary constraints; however, dentists were held harmless from a 2% provider rate reduction experienced by many other Medicaid providers.

Initiative #3: Reimburse Primary Care Physicians for Oral Health Risk Assessments - The OVHA reimburses Primary Care Providers (PCPs) for performing Oral Health Risk Assessments (OHRAs) to promote preventive care and increase access for children from ages 0-3. An action plan has been developed to educate/train physicians on performing OHRA's, including online web links.

Initiative #4: Place Dental Hygienists in Each of the 12 District Health Offices - A successful pilot project resulted in the start of placement of part-time dental hygienists in District Health Offices. Current funding now covers one half-time dental hygienist in the Newport, Vermont District Office.

Initiative #5: Selection/Assignment of a Dental Home for Children - The OVHA introduced the capability to select/assign a primary dentist for a child, allowing for the same continuity of care as assigning a Primary Care Physician (PCP) for health improvement; most new enrollees select a dental home, emphasizing the importance of keeping oral health care on par with regular physicals and health checkups.

Initiative #6: Enhance Outreach - The OVHA and VDH conducted outreach and awareness activities to support understanding of the Dental Dozen and help ensure the success of the initiatives. In SFY 2009, work continued to promote benefits available to dental providers, highlight incentives designed to bring and keep more dentists in Vermont and continue outreach with schools, parents and children. A retired Vermont dentist, with grant assistance, is helping recruit and retain more dentists.

Initiative #7: Codes for Missed Appointments/Late Cancellations - Vermont introduced a code to report missed appointments and late cancellations. The OVHA plans to evaluate this data with the intent of exploring processes to reduce missed appointments and late cancellations in the future.

Initiative #8: Automation of the Medicaid Cap Information for Adult Benefits - The OVHA introduced a system upgrade to allow enrolled dentists to access Medicaid cap information for adult benefits automatically. Currently, the annual cap for adult benefits is set at \$495 and the OVHA will track provider use of this upgrade.

Initiative #9: Loan Repayment Program – In SFY 2008, Vermont awarded \$195,000 in loan repayment incentives to dentists in return for a commitment to practice in Vermont and serve low income populations; thirteen awards ranged from \$5,000 to \$20,000. Funding remained at \$195,000 for SFY 2009. Funding is targeted to be \$97,500 for SFY 2010.

Initiative #10: Scholarships - Scholarships, administered through the Vermont Student Assistance Corporation, are awarded to encourage new dentists to practice in Vermont. The combined allocation of \$40,000 for SFY 2008/09 was distributed for the 2008-2009 academic year. The program is scheduled to continue in SFY 2010.

Initiative #11: Access Grants - In SFY 2008, a total of \$70,000 was awarded as an incentive for dentists to expand access to Medicaid beneficiaries. Seven grants ranged from \$5,000 to \$20,000. Funding remained at \$70,000 for SFY 2009 and into SFY 2010.

Initiative #12: Supplemental Payment Program – In SFY 2008, the OVHA distributed \$292,836 to recognize and reward dentists serving high volumes of Medicaid beneficiaries; 30 dentists qualified for semi-annual payouts. For SFY 2009, a distribution of \$146,418 was made in October, 2008 and another distribution of \$146,418 was made in the Spring of 2009; total \$292,836. The program has continued on the same cycle for SFY 2010.

## **Expenditure Containment Initiatives**

### *Vermont Chronic Care Initiative*

The goal of the OVHA's Vermont Chronic Care Initiative (VCCI) is to improve health outcomes of Medicaid beneficiaries through addressing the increasing prevalence of chronic illness. Specifically, the program is designed to identify and assist Medicaid beneficiaries with chronic health conditions in accessing clinically appropriate health care information and services; coordinate the efficient delivery of health care to this population by attempting to remove barriers, bridge gaps, and avoid duplication of services; and educate, encourage and empower this population to eventually self-manage their chronic conditions.

The VCCI uses a holistic approach of evaluating both the physical and behavioral conditions, as well as the socioeconomic issues, that often are barriers to health improvement. The OVHA's VCCI emphasizes evidence-based, planned, integrated and collaborative care for beneficiaries who exhibit high-prevalence chronic disease states, high-expense utilization, high medication utilization, and/or high emergency room and inpatient utilization. Ultimately, the VCCI aims to improve health outcomes by supporting better self-care and lowering health care expenditures through appropriate utilization of health care services. Through targeting predicted high cost beneficiaries, resources can be allocated where there is the greatest cost savings opportunity. The VCCI focuses on helping beneficiaries understand the health risks of their conditions; engage in changing their own behavior, and by facilitating effective communication with their primary care provider. The intention ultimately is to support the person in taking charge of his or her own health care.

The VCCI supports and aligns with other State health care reform efforts, including the Blueprint for Health and the Capitated Office-Based Medically Assisted Treatment (COBMAT) for Opioid Dependence initiative (see below). VCCI staff partner with providers, hospitals, community agencies and other Agency of Human Services (AHS) departments to support a patient-focused model of care

committed to enhanced self-management skills, healthcare systems improvement, and efficient coordination of services in a climate of increasingly complex health care needs and scarce resources.

The VCCI focuses on beneficiaries identified as having a specified chronic health condition and are enrolled in Medicaid, VHAP, PCPlus or Dr. Dynasaur under the Vermont Health Access Program with approval by the Centers for Medicaid and Medicare; beneficiaries are not eligible for the VCCI if they receive Medicare or other third party insurance. Those targeted for enrollment in VCCI programs have at least one chronic condition including, but not limited to: Arthritis, Asthma, Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD), Chronic Renal Failure, Congestive Heart Failure (CHF), Depression, Diabetes, Hyperlipidemia, Hypertension, Ischemic Heart Disease, and Low Back Pain. Eligible beneficiaries are identified and risk stratified by the OVHA's disease management vendor, APS Healthcare, using a proprietary disease identification and stratification system based on Adjusted Clinical Group predictive modeling. Referrals from physicians, hospitals, and other community agencies also are accepted. Beneficiaries at highest risk are referred to OVHA care coordinators for intensive face-to-face case management services and those considered at lower risk for complications are assigned to APS Healthcare for telephonic disease management provided by a RN health coach. Service level needs are ultimately determined through both predictive modeling and clinical assessment, in accordance with national evidence-based, disease-specific clinical guidelines. The VCCI is designed to enable seamless transition between service tiers as a beneficiary's needs change.

The OVHA's care coordinators began providing face-to-face intensive case management services in 2006 to the highest risk, most medically complex beneficiaries. Especially among these high risk beneficiaries, chronic conditions and their management are often complicated by co-occurring mental health and substance abuse conditions, as well as challenges due to financial insecurity such as availability of food, safe and affordable housing, and transportation. The OVHA care coordinators, which include registered nurse case managers and medical social workers, facilitate a medical home, support the primary care provider in achieving the clinical plan of care, facilitate effective communication among service providers, and remove barriers to beneficiary success.

In July 2007, the OVHA considerably expanded operations beyond care coordination to provide a full spectrum of disease management interventions using contracted services from APS Healthcare. At that time, the OVHA VCCI implemented a tiered intervention protocol with services along a continuum from printed education and self-management information to telephonic health coaching and disease management services, to intensive face-to-face case management. This comprehensive model includes hospital-based nurses, community-based nurse case managers and medical social workers, as well as centrally located nurse, disease management, and social work staff. All staff shares the same vertically and horizontally integrated web-based chronic care data management system, APS CareConnection®. In addition to being a case tracking system and repository for information on every beneficiary served, the APS CareConnection® system enables secure communications among staff regarding co-managed beneficiaries, and also is accessible by medical providers as a means to be informed about a patient's activities, goals and progress.

The VCCI provides ongoing outreach, education and support to the primary care providers (PCPs) of participating beneficiaries. OVHA care coordinators or APS nurse health coaches collaborate with the beneficiary and their PCP to develop a customized plan of care (POC), and PCPs are provided periodic updates on patients' progress in completing goals established through the POC. OVHA pays an enhanced rate to PCPs for collaborating with OVHA care coordinators working with their highest risk patients. During the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter of FFY 2010, participating providers were reimbursed \$55 for meeting with care coordination staff when one of their patients enrolled in care coordination services, \$55 for a discharge meeting to emphasize the importance of a smooth transition to a less intense level of service, and an

enhanced capitated payment rate of \$15 per month for each care coordination participant. As a result of feedback received from the 2009 Provider Satisfaction Survey, billing procedures will be streamlined in the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter so providers will only have to bill once, at the conclusion of care coordination services. The amount of the enhanced payment will remain the same.

Vermont's state budget rescission for State Fiscal Year 2009 included elimination of approximately 25% from the funds budgeted for the APS Healthcare contract; as a result, efforts were refocused predominantly on very high, high and moderate risk beneficiaries most likely to benefit from face-to-face intensive care coordination services and/or telephonic disease management health coaching. Lower risk individuals are sent information on the program, may request information and educational materials, and are contacted twice each year to assess current needs. During the second full year of operation, from July 1, 2008 through June 30, 2009, 3,189 beneficiaries received face-to-face case management services or telephonic disease management health coaching from a registered nurse. The goal for program year 3 (July 1, 2009 through June 31, 2010) is to provide the same level of services.

The OVHA contracted with the University of Vermont (UVM) for VCCI program evaluation and identification of quality improvement projects. UVM began a thorough evaluation of VCCI administrative (claims) data and completed a Medical Record Review (MRR) during the first quarter of FFY 2010. 1,001 chart audits were conducted on a randomly selected sample of VCCI beneficiaries with a primary diagnosis of diabetes (N=501) or hypertension (N=500). During the second quarter of FFY 2010, UVM assisted the OVHA in identifying clinical quality measures amenable to performance improvement activities likely to have the greatest impact on the VCCI managed population. These efforts will focus proactively on the top 5% of beneficiaries who are the highest users of health care resources. UVM will subsequently assist with implementing quality improvement activities and evaluate the VCCI's success at improving clinical and utilization outcomes.

### **Highlights of the Vermont Chronic Care Initiative for Quarter 2 of FFY 2010**

- UVM completed analysis and recommendations from the Medical Record Review of a random sample of VCCI participants.
- OVHA care coordinators expanded meetings and electronic data exchange systems with hospital emergency departments (EDs) for increased collaboration regarding emergency room utilization among VCCI beneficiaries.
- During the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter of FFY 2009, OVHA care coordinators began providing case management to buprenorphine patients from five pilot provider practices. During the first two quarters of FFY 2010, 45 buprenorphine patients received case management services from OVHA care coordinators.
- During the second quarter of FFY 2010, the average monthly program caseload was 2,016. Monthly caseload includes beneficiaries in active outreach by VCCI staff, as well as those successfully engaged and receiving care coordination or health coaching services.

2,187 unique beneficiaries were served by either OVHA care coordinators or APS disease management health coaches during the first two quarters of FFY 2010 (10/01/2009 through 03/31/2010). This number includes the 45 buprenorphine patients who received case management services from OVHA care coordinators.

Buprenorphine Program

The OVHA, in collaboration with ADAP, maintains a capitated payment program for the treatment of Opiate Dependency (CPTOD). The Capitated Program for the Treatment of Opiate Dependency (CPTOD) provides an enhanced remuneration for physicians in a step-wise manner depending on the number of beneficiaries treated by a physician enrolled in the program. The Capitated Payment Methodology is depicted in **(Figure 1)** below:

**(Figure 1)**

Complexity Level	Complexity Assessment	Rated Capitation Payment				Final Capitated Rate (depends on the number of patients per level, per provider)
III.	Induction	\$366.42	+	<u>BONUS</u>	=	
II.	Stabilization/Transfer	\$248.14				
I.	Maintenance Only	\$106.34				

On January 1, 2010 OVHA notified all of the providers and implemented an automated payment system for the Capitated Program for the Treatment of Opiate Dependency. All claims are now submitted directly to HP Enterprise Services and processed through the MMIS, enabling the OVHA to more accurately budget and track expenditures. The billing requirements are aligned with the treatment complexity levels outlined in the Buprenorphine Provider Agreements. The Buprenorphine Guidelines were revised and the rates were also changed with an effective date of 1 January 2010. All of these changes will streamline the payment procedures and make it more efficient. All of the providers received revised agreements and payment guidelines to ensure a smooth transition. HP Enterprise also provides a service representative for any issues or questions around the payment process.

**(Figure 2)**

<b>Buprenorphine Program Payment Summary FFY '10</b>	
<b>FIRST QUARTER</b>	
Oct-09	\$ 54,512.45
Nov-09	\$ 51,177.27
Dec-09	\$ 53,567.75
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 159,257.47</b>
<b>SECOND QUARTER</b>	
Jan-10	\$ 32,801.15
Feb-10	\$ 31,634.36
Mar-10	\$ 30,784.87
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 95,220.38</b>
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>\$254,477.47</b>

The total for both quarters (October 2009-March 2010) is \$254,477.47 **(Figure 2)**. As the second quarter in FFY '10, the Capitated Program for the Treatment of Opiate Dependency continues to have 32 providers and approximately 332 beneficiaries enrolled and undergoing opiate addiction treatment. The five piloted practices utilizing OVHA's Chronic Care Initiative care coordinators account for approximately 47% of the total number of buprenorphine beneficiaries enrolled with a capitated treatment provider. The enhanced remuneration coupled with the care coordination in the five (5) pilot areas

continues to be successful at improving access to clinically appropriate health care information and services and encouraging and empowering beneficiaries to self-manage their chronic conditions.

## **Mental Health – Vermont Futures Planning**

### ***Community System Development***

This January the six-bed Meadowview community residential recovery program opened accepting referrals from the Vermont State Hospital (VSH) of patients who would otherwise remain at VSH due to the complexity and intensity of their treatment needs. This clinically targeted and cost effective alternative to hospitalization nearly completes the development of community-based programs designed to reduce the need for State Hospital Services. Meadowview is licensed as a Level Three Residential Care Facility, and is the newest program in the Community Rehabilitation and Treatment (CRT) system.

Vermont Psychiatric Survivors, Inc., Vermont's adult mental health consumer organization has entered into a contract with a program development to create a peer-run alternative to traditional crisis stabilization services. The developer will facilitate the hiring of a project developer and work to create a new 501 C-3 organization for the program.

The care management system design work included the development of a consensus medical screening protocols for all hospital emergency departments to use when referring individuals for psychiatric inpatient care. This consensus document is being reviewed by the five psychiatric inpatient programs. DMH offered a Request for Proposals for a vendor to develop a "bed board" to identify inpatient and crisis bed availability state-wide for use by the emergency and inpatient providers. Unfortunately there were no bids responsive to the RFP. DMH will work with the Hospital Association of Minnesota to import a system developed in that state which has the functionality we required.

### ***Secure Residential Recovery Treatment Program***

Vermont intends to enhance the continuum of services available to CRT participants and fulfill the objectives of the Vermont Futures Project by creating a 15-bed, secure residential recovery treatment program. The residential recovery treatment program will provide comprehensive, patient-centered care in a newly constructed facility. The residential treatment program will fill a gap in the current delivery system, providing treatment at a level of care not currently available in the community while offering a lower-cost option to hospital-level care.

DMH has submitted a Certificate of Need (CON) application to develop the 15-bed secure (locked) adult psychiatric treatment and recovery residential program on the grounds of the state office complex in Waterbury described in the FFY 08 annual report and the last quarterly report is proceeding. It is expected that the program will be state licensed as a Level III Community Care Home and seek accreditation from the Commission of the Accreditation of Rehabilitation Programs. The program will be state-run, operate independently from other state programs (including Vermont State Hospital) and have its own governance, management team, medical director, clinical team, operating policies and procedures, and business office.

The clinical services provided as part of the 24-hour care will include evidence-based psychiatric rehabilitation services and psychosocial treatment delivered in a positive behavioral support framework to assist individuals to engage in their own recovery and to develop the necessary skills to move to less intensive services and achieve a higher level of independent living. The anticipated length of stay in the program ranges from approximately three months to two years or more. This level of care is unique and not currently available in the Vermont system of care.

DMH and OVHA have sought concurrence from the Centers for Medicaid and Medicare that the SRR program will be eligible as a covered benefit of Vermont's Managed Care Organization via the Community Rehabilitation and Treatment<sup>1</sup> (CRT) program under the Global Commitment Waiver. Vermont's Section 1115 Demonstration Waiver, amended in 1999 to include the CRT program, provides federal authority to include residential treatment and alternative to hospital services as covered services for CRT program participants. Further, under the terms of the Global Commitment Waiver the Managed Care Organization (MCO) has the authority to reimburse for cost effective alternatives. Should either of these types of Demonstration authority terminate or be revised at some indefinite point in the future, Vermont would need to modify our programs to comply with traditional state Medicaid rules.

### ***Acute Psychiatric Inpatient Care***

DMH presented a Master Plan to replace the Vermont State Hospital to the General Assembly in February, 2010. The plan reflects the broad consensus reached by state policy makers, providers, consumers and advocates that the physical plant of Vermont State Hospital in Waterbury should be closed. The nearly unanimous recommendation of the Futures Advisory Group<sup>2</sup> was that the State Hospital should be replaced with a different model of care rather than simply replacing the old building with a new, fifty bed facility. This group further recommended that the new model of care should address the concepts of integration of mental health with general health care, be based on the best practices, and reflect Vermont's longstanding commitment to community-based care. It called for the development of community programs to decrease the need for inpatient care and to create new inpatient programs in collaboration with general hospitals.

The consensus framework - that Vermont would move away from institutional care; develop new community resources and create new psychiatric inpatient programs in integrated health care settings – guides the Master Plan.

The Futures Master Plan confirms that new construction will be necessary for the completion of VSH successor beds. The most recent new construction for an inpatient facility currently used for psychiatric care in Vermont was in 1968 at Central Vermont Hospital – although the initial use of the space was not planned for psychiatric inpatient care. Vermont's general hospital psychiatric inpatient services operate in buildings that are over forty years old. These programs and facilities are designed for less acute patients than are served at VSH. Despite downsizing VSH by some 250 beds since the early eighties there has been relatively little development of psychiatric inpatient services at Vermont's general hospitals (the State has invested in the community system of care). Any new, intensive inpatient services will require significant capital investments. Developing new inpatient programs with general hospital partners will also require creating new operational frameworks to support long term partnerships. The State and hospitals together are challenged to develop new approaches to raising the capital necessary for new facilities both to replace VSH and to improve general psychiatric care.

DMH continues to explore inpatient development options with the Rutland Regional Medical Center, the Brattleboro Retreat, Dartmouth Medical School, and Fletcher Allen Health Care.

The full plan is available at the DMH website: [MentalHealth.Vermont.gov](http://MentalHealth.Vermont.gov)

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<sup>1</sup> The Community Rehabilitation and Treatment program (CRT) is Vermont's program for treating adults with severe and persistent mental illness. Under the Vermont's 1115 Waiver, the CRT program includes mental health treatment and rehabilitation services, residential services, employment services, crisis services and acute psychiatric inpatient care.

<sup>2</sup> No. 22 An Act Making Appropriations for the Support of Government Fiscal Year 2005 Sec. 141 (a) created the State Hospital Future Planning Advisory Group.

## Financial/Budget Neutrality Development/Issues

On March 22, 2010, AHS received official notification from CMS that the FFY09 and FFY10 IGAs, containing FFY09 and FFY10 PMPM rates, (submitted to CMS on August 31, 2009) have been approved.

AHS received CMS' approval on December 23, 2009 (effective December 31, 2009) to include three new populations in the GC Waiver: Catamount 200-300% FPL, ESIA 200-300% FPL, and VPharm3. On January 20, 2010, AHS received confirmation from CMS that it is acceptable to pay OVHA the existing PMPMs for these populations. Accordingly, on January 1, 2010, AHS began paying OVHA these expansion populations at the PMPM rates set for the Catamount  $\geq$ 200% FPL, ESIA  $\geq$ 200% FPL, and GlobalRxDual MEGs.

## Member Month Reporting

Demonstration project eligibility groups are not synonymous with Medicaid Eligibility Group reporting in this table. For example, an individuals in the Demonstration population 4 HCBS (home and community based services) and Demonstration Project 10 may in fact be in Medicaid Eligibility Group 1 or 2. Thus the numbers below may represent duplicated population counts.

This report is run the first Monday following the close of month for all persons eligible as of the 15<sup>th</sup> of the preceding month.

Data reported in the following table is NOT used in Budget Neutrality Calculations or Capitation Payments as information will change at the end of quarter; information in this table cannot be summed across the quarters. All payments are adjusted at the end of the year to reconcile expected population movement between eligibility groups.

Demonstration Population	Month 1 1/31/2010	Month 2 2/28/2010	Month 3 3/31/2010	Total for Quarter Ending 2nd Qtr FFY '10	Total for Quarter Ending 1st Qtr FFY '10	Total for Quarter Ending 4th Qtr FFY '09	Total for Quarter Ending 3rd Qtr FFY '09	Total for Quarter Ending 1st Qtr FFY '09	Total for Quarter Ending 4th Qtr FFY '08	Total for Quarter Ending 3rd Qtr FFY '08	Total for Quarter Ending 2nd Qtr FFY '08	Total for Quarter Ending 1st Qtr FFY '08
Demonstration Population 1:	44,099	43,898	43,933	131,930	131,513	129,656	128,203	125,825	123,997	122,281	121,926	120,113
Demonstration Population 2:	43,429	43,583	43,734	130,746	129,075	128,698	128,590	122,210	121,981	123,283	122,118	120,309
Demonstration Population 3:	9,827	9,830	9,910	29,567	29,352	29,428	28,628	26,555	26,452	25,723	24,676	24,821
Demonstration Population 4:	N/A	N/A	N/A	0	0	N/A						
Demonstration Population 5:	1,199	1,195	1,220	3,614	3,546	3,410	3,568	3,832	3,850	3,767	3,542	3,767
Demonstration Population 6:	2,820	2,730	2,945	8,495	8,218	8,088	7,480	8,208	7,428	7,357	6,208	6,084
Demonstration Population 7:	32,360	32,748	33,468	98,576	92,217	89,158	87,116	75,277	74,301	73,966	72,336	65,803
Demonstration Population 8:	7,425	7,506	7,531	22,462	22,254	21,905	23,165	22,032	21,715	23,100	22,697	22,445
Demonstration Population 9:	2,574	2,590	2,606	7,770	7,673	7,634	7,665	7,649	7,626	7,838	7,919	7,929
Demonstration Population 10:	N/A	N/A	N/A	0	0	N/A						
Demonstration Population 11:	9,710	9,943	10,075	29,728	28,278	26,444	24,717	19,465	16,136	12,525	7,997	1,641

## Consumer Issues

The AHS and OVHA have several mechanisms whereby consumer issue are tracked and summarized. The first is through the Managed Care Entity, Health Access Member Services. This is a contracted function for providing information on health care programs, assisting with the eligibility process, and helping beneficiaries to understand the benefits and responsibilities of their particular programs. The complaints received by Member Services are based on anecdotal weekly reports that the contractor provides to OVHA (see Attachment 2). Member services works to resolve the issues raised by beneficiaries, and their data helps OVHA look for any significant trends. The weekly reports are seen by several management staff at OVHA and staff asks for further information on complaints that may appear to need follow-up to ensure that the issue is addressed. When a caller is dissatisfied with the resolution that Member Services offers, the member services representative explains the option of filing a grievance

and assists the caller with that process. It is noteworthy that Member Services receives an average approximately 25,000 calls a month. We believe that the low volume of complaints and grievances is an indicator that our system is working well.

The second mechanism to assess trends in consumer issues is the Managed Care Entity Grievance and Appeal report. This report is based on data entered by grievance and appeal coordinators in various locations throughout the Managed Care Entity (see Attachment 3). The unified Managed Care Entity database in which they enter information helps them track the timeframes for responding to the grievances and appeals, as well as assists OVHA and AHS in monitoring compliance and assessing if there are trends that may benefit from a performance improvement project.

The third mechanism to track consumer issues is the report for the Office of Health Care Ombudsman (HCO) is a comprehensive report of all contacts with beneficiaries (see Attachment 4). These include inquiries, requests for information, and requests for assistance. HCO's role is to assist individuals to navigate health care insurance systems, and help to resolve eligibility and coverage problems. The data is not broken down into requests for assistance as opposed to complaints.

### **Quality Assurance/Monitoring Activity**

*External Quality Review Organization:* During this quarter, the Performance Improvement Project (PIP) work group met to discuss the next steps of the project and to prepare for this year's External Quality Review Organization (EQRO) PIP validation. The steps discussed included the following: analyze data, interpret study results, and report baseline data. A work plan was developed and agreed upon by all members of the group. Baseline data collection will run through the beginning of next quarter. Also during this quarter, the AHS Quality Improvement Manager (QIM) worked with the PIP work group to prepare for a technical assistance call with the EQRO to discuss this year's reporting requirements. The call is scheduled to take place during the next quarter. The AHS also met with Managed Care Entity (MCE) staff responsible for calculating and reporting the set of measures that will be used to monitor MCE performance during this year. It was decided that the OVHA would contract with a HEDIS certified software vendor in order to meet its reporting requirements. This represents a departure from the previous two years, but is thought to make better use of staff resources. During this quarter, the AHS Quality Improvement Manager also participated in a conference call between the EQRO and OVHA related to how the use of a certified software vendor will impact this year's Performance Measure Validation Review. It is anticipated that initial measures and rates will be ready for EQRO review by the end of next quarter. Finally, the State worked with the EQRO to develop a review tool that will be used by the EQRO to assess the MCE's ability to comply with Federal and State Medicaid MCO Access standards (i.e., availability of services, assurances of adequate capacity and services, coordination and continuity of care, and coverage and authorization of services).

*Quality Assurance Performance Improvement Committee (QAPI):* During this quarter, the Quality Assessment and Performance Improvement (QAPI) Committee continued to discuss the scope of this year's Managed Care Entity (MCE) Compliance Review. The discussion focused on the coverage & authorization of service and coordination and continuity of care requirements contained in the Code of Federal Regulations. The Committee reviewed the specific items associated with this requirement including but not limited to the following: written authorization criteria, mechanism to ensure consistent application of authorization criteria, identification of beneficiaries with special health needs, assessment of needs, and treatment/service planning. Also during this quarter, the group began monitoring/oversight of the MCE QAPI activities using the newly developed reporting/review format. During this quarter, the following MCE QAPI activities were reviewed/discussed: Health Information Systems, Experience of Care Survey, and Performance Improvement Projects. In addition, the group continued to work together

to prepare for the two other 2009/2010 mandatory EQRO activities (i.e., performance measure validation and performance improvement project validation). Finally, the group continued to develop a list of sample measures to support an Agency-wide performance management system. In addition to developing a list of measures, the group began the process of identifying Key Concepts of Quality. This approach remains in line with a broader State-wide support for the use of performance measures and establishing a performance management system.

*Quality Strategy:* The AHS Quality Improvement Manager and the members of the QAPI committee will review the Quality Strategy on a regular basis and recommend any necessary modifications.

### **Demonstration Evaluation**

At the end of FFY09, the interim evaluation report of the Global Commitment to Health 1115 Waiver prepared by Pacific Health Policy Group (PHPG) accompanied the State's formal waiver extension request to CMS. During this quarter, there was no action taken on Vermont's request. Once the outcome of the waiver extension request is known, the AHS Quality Improvement Manager will meet with the PHPG project manager to modify the current evaluation work plan to correspond with the time period agreed upon in CMS's response to the request.

### **Reported Purposes for Capitated Revenue Expenditures**

Provided that OVHA's contractual obligation to the populations covered under the Demonstration is met, any revenue from capitation payments related to the beneficiaries covered under this demonstration may only be used for the following purposes:

- Reduce the rate of uninsured and/or underinsured in Vermont;
- Increase the access of quality health care to uninsured, underinsured, and Medicaid beneficiaries;
- Provide public health approaches to improve the health outcomes and the quality of life for Medicaid-eligible individuals in Vermont; and
- Encourage the formation and maintenance of public-private partnerships in health care.

Please see Attachment 6 for a summary of Managed Care Entity Investments, with applicable category identified, for State fiscal year 2009.

## **Enclosures/Attachments**

Identify by title any attachments along with a brief description of what information the document contains.

Attachment 1: Catamount Health Enrollment Report

Attachment 2: Budget Neutrality Workbook

Attachment 3: Complaints Received by Health Access Member Services

Attachment 4: Medicaid Managed Care Entity Grievance and Appeal Reports

Attachment 5: Office of VT Health Access Ombudsman Report

Attachment 6: OVHA Managed Care Entity Investment Summary

## **State Contact(s)**

Fiscal:	Jim Giffin, CFO VT Agency of Human Services 103 South Main Street Waterbury, VT 05671-0201	802-241-2949 (P) 802-241-1200 (F) <a href="mailto:jim.giffin@ahs.state.vt.us">jim.giffin@ahs.state.vt.us</a>
Policy/Program:	Suzanne Santarcangelo, Director AHS Health Care Operations, Compliance, and Improvement VT Agency of Human Services 103 South Main Street Waterbury, VT 05671-0203	802-241-3155 (P) 802-241-4461 (F) <a href="mailto:suzanne.santarcangel@ahs.state.vt.us">suzanne.santarcangel@ahs.state.vt.us</a>
Managed Care Entity:	Susan W. Besio, PhD, Director VT Office of Health Access 312 Hurricane Lane, Suite 201 Williston, VT 05495	802-879-5901 (P) 802-879-5952 (F) <a href="mailto:susan.besio@ahs.state.vt.us">susan.besio@ahs.state.vt.us</a>

**Date Submitted to CMS:** May 25, 2010

## **ATTACHMENTS**



Office of Vermont Health Access  
SFY 10 Catamount Health Actual Revenue and Expense Tracking  
Monday, April 19, 2010

	SFY '10 BAA				Consensus Estimates for SFY to Date				Actuals thru 3/31/10				
	<=200%	>200% before 1/1/10	>200% after 1/1/10	Total	<=200%	>200% before 1/1/10	>200% after 1/1/10	Total	<=200%	>200% before 1/1/10	>200% after 1/1/10	Total	% of SFY to-Date
<b>TOTAL PROGRAM EXPENDITURES</b>													
Catamount Health	32,353,840	5,479,988	6,483,491	44,317,319	23,087,867	5,479,988	3,086,466	31,654,321	22,298,874	6,436,111	3,595,940	32,330,925	102.14%
Catamount Eligible Employer-Sponsored Insurance	1,365,354	259,097	334,275	1,958,726	959,431	259,097	161,193	1,379,721	738,856	239,713	130,628	1,109,197	80.39%
<b>Subtotal New Program Spending</b>	33,719,193	5,739,085	6,817,766	46,276,045	24,047,298	5,739,085	3,247,659	33,034,042	23,037,729	6,675,825	3,726,568	33,440,122	101.23%
Catamount and ESI Administrative Costs	1,254,021	471,714	471,714	2,197,448	940,516	471,714	314,476	1,726,705	940,516	628,951	157,238	1,726,705	100.00%
<b>TOTAL GROSS PROGRAM SPENDING</b>	34,973,214	6,210,799	7,289,480	48,473,493	24,987,814	6,210,799	3,562,135	34,760,747	21,067,393	7,304,776	2,541,995	35,166,827	101.17%
<b>TOTAL STATE PROGRAM SPENDING</b>	10,505,954	6,210,799	3,008,368	19,725,120	7,506,339	6,210,799	1,470,093	13,717,138	6,328,645	7,304,776	763,615	13,633,421	99.39%
<b>TOTAL OTHER EXPENDITURES</b>													
Immunizations Program	-	1,327,000	1,250,000	2,577,000	-	1,327,000	833,333	2,160,333	-	1,327,000	833,333	2,160,333	100.00%
VT Dept. of Labor Admin Costs Assoc. With Employer Assess	-	197,036	197,036	394,072	-	197,036	131,357	328,393	-	197,036	131,357	328,393	100.00%
Marketing and Outreach	500,000	-	-	500,000	375,000	-	-	375,000	375,000	-	-	375,000	100.00%
Blueprint	-	923,357	923,357	1,846,713	-	923,357	615,571	1,538,928	-	923,357	615,571	1,538,928	100.00%
<b>TOTAL OTHER SPENDING</b>	500,000	2,447,393	2,370,393	5,317,785	375,000	2,447,393	1,580,262	4,402,654	375,000	2,447,393	1,580,262	4,402,654	100.00%
<b>TOTAL STATE OTHER SPENDING</b>	150,200	2,447,393	2,370,393	4,967,985	112,650	2,447,393	1,580,262	4,140,304	112,650	2,447,393	1,580,262	4,140,304	100.00%
<b>TOTAL ALL STATE SPENDING</b>	10,656,154	8,658,191	5,378,761	24,693,105	7,618,989	8,658,191	3,050,355	19,327,535	6,441,295	9,752,168	2,343,877	18,537,340	95.91%
<b>TOTAL REVENUES</b>													
Catamount Health Premiums	4,851,343	1,800,889	2,305,426	8,957,657	3,501,307	1,800,889	1,102,908	6,405,103	3,480,288	1,704,249	1,114,063	6,298,600	98.34%
Catamount Eligible Employer-Sponsored Insurance Premiums	378,607	158,259	204,249	741,115	270,972	158,259	98,492	527,723	225,114	115,175	68,782	409,071	77.52%
<b>Subtotal Premiums</b>	5,229,949	1,959,148	2,509,675	9,698,772	3,772,279	1,959,148	1,201,400	6,932,826	3,705,402	1,819,424	1,182,845	6,707,671	96.75%
Federal Share of Premiums	(3,658,873)	-	(1,473,932)	(5,132,805)	(2,639,086)	-	(705,582)	(3,344,668)	(2,592,299)	-	(827,518)	(3,419,818)	102.25%
<b>TOTAL STATE PREMIUM SHARE</b>	1,571,077	1,959,148	1,035,743	4,565,967	1,133,192	1,959,148	495,818	3,588,158	1,113,103	1,819,424	355,327	3,287,853	91.63%
Cigarette Tax Increase (\$60 / \$80)				9,774,300				7,330,725				7,439,165	101.48%
Floor Stock				340,934				255,701				341,858	0.00%
Employer Assessment				7,121,207				5,340,905				5,124,000	95.94%
Interest				-				-				13,700	0.00%
State Fund Transfer due to Enhanced ARRA				(3,352,082)				(2,377,223)				(2,273,031)	95.62%
<b>TOTAL OTHER REVENUE</b>				13,884,359				10,550,108				10,645,692	100.91%
<b>TOTAL STATE REVENUE</b>	1,571,077	1,959,148	1,035,743	18,450,326	1,133,192	1,959,148		14,138,266	1,113,103	1,819,424		13,933,545	98.55%
State-Only Balance				(6,242,779)				(5,189,269)				(3,840,180)	
Carryforward				7,311,891				7,311,891				7,311,891	
<b>(DEFICIT)/SURPLUS</b>				1,069,111				2,122,621				3,471,711	
Reserve Account Funding				-				-				-	
<b>REVISED (DEFICIT)/SURPLUS WITH RESERVE FUNDING</b>				1,069,111				2,122,621				3,471,711	

NOTE: The total program expenditures include both claims and premium costs

### Green Mountain Care Enrollment Report

March 2010

#### TOTAL ENROLLMENT BY MONTH

	Jul-07	Nov-07	Jul-08	Nov-08	Apr 09	May 09	Jun 09	Jul 09	Aug 09	Sep 09	Oct 09	Nov 09	Dec 09	Jan 10	Feb 10	Mar 10
<b>Adults:</b>																
VHAP-ESIA	-	35	672	759	952	948	957	966	955	953	962	959	968	958	954	952
ESIA	-	21	336	499	542	577	578	586	589	633	706	692	698	708	744	749
CHAP	-	320	4,608	6,120	7,538	7,710	7,842	7,988	8,235	8,477	8,802	8,954	9,138	9,339	9,503	9,755
Catamount Health	-	120	697	932	1,220	1,243	1,320	1,339	1,404	1,455	1,516	1,556	1,660	1,651	1,709	1,733
<b>Total</b>	-	<b>376</b>	<b>6,313</b>	<b>8,310</b>	<b>10,252</b>	<b>10,478</b>	<b>10,697</b>	<b>10,879</b>	<b>11,183</b>	<b>11,518</b>	<b>11,986</b>	<b>12,161</b>	<b>12,464</b>	<b>12,656</b>	<b>12,910</b>	<b>13,189</b>
<b>Adults:</b>																
VHAP	23,725	24,849	26,441	26,860	30,064	30,747	30,997	31,270	31,605	31,629	32,469	32,429	33,067	33,469	33,965	35,010
Other Medicaid	69,764	69,969	70,947	35,601	37,331	37,663	37,857	37,930	38,117	38,207	37,625	37,689	38,411	37,852	39,053	38,972
<b>Children:</b>																
Dr Dynasaur	19,738	19,733	19,960	20,511	20,636	20,675	20,798	20,705	20,466	20,525	20,434	20,418	20,472	20,503	20,489	20,602
SCHIP	3,097	3,428	3,396	3,527	3,264	3,290	3,330	3,398	3,412	3,430	3,412	3,446	3,451	3,405	3,432	3,514
Other Medicaid*	Included	Included	Included	34,015	37,035	37,354	37,519	37,671	37,605	37,579	37,212	37,291	38,116	38,261	38,678	38,480
<b>Total</b>	<b>116,324</b>	<b>117,979</b>	<b>120,744</b>	<b>120,514</b>	<b>128,330</b>	<b>129,729</b>	<b>130,501</b>	<b>130,974</b>	<b>131,205</b>	<b>131,370</b>	<b>131,152</b>	<b>131,273</b>	<b>133,517</b>	<b>133,490</b>	<b>135,617</b>	<b>136,578</b>
<b>TOTAL ALL</b>	<b>116,324</b>	<b>118,355</b>	<b>127,057</b>	<b>128,824</b>	<b>138,582</b>	<b>140,207</b>	<b>141,198</b>	<b>141,853</b>	<b>142,388</b>	<b>142,888</b>	<b>143,138</b>	<b>143,434</b>	<b>145,981</b>	<b>146,146</b>	<b>148,527</b>	<b>149,767</b>

**KEY:**

\* Prior to November 2008, the numbers for Other Medicaid included both children and adults enrolled in this eligibility category

VHAP-ESIA = Eligible for VHAP and enrolled in ESI with premium assistance

ESIA = Between 150% and 300% and enrolled in ESI with premium assistance

CHAP = Between 150% and 300% and enrolled in Catamount Health with premium assistance

Catamount Health = Over 300% and enrolled in Catamount Health with no premium assistance

VHAP = Enrolled in VHAP with no ESI that is cost-effective and/or approvable

Dr. Dynasaur = Enrolled in Dr. Dynasaur

SCHIP = Enrolled in SCHIP

Totals do not include programs such as Pharmacy, Choices for Care, Medicare Buy-in

Data on the range and types of ESI plans has not been included in this report, but will be included as soon as the data is available.

Green Mountain Care Enrollment Report

Mar 2010 Demographics

Income	VHAP-ESIA*	ESIA*	CHAP*	TOTAL
0-50%	18	-	511	
50-75%	45	2	94	
75-100%	112	3	139	
100-150%	474	7	433	
150-185%	283	239	3,697	
185-200%	11	241	2,213	
200-225%	6	142	1,302	
225-250%	1	80	792	
250-275%	-	35	427	
275-300%	2	-	147	
<b>Total</b>	<b>952</b>	<b>749</b>	<b>9,755</b>	<b>11,456</b>

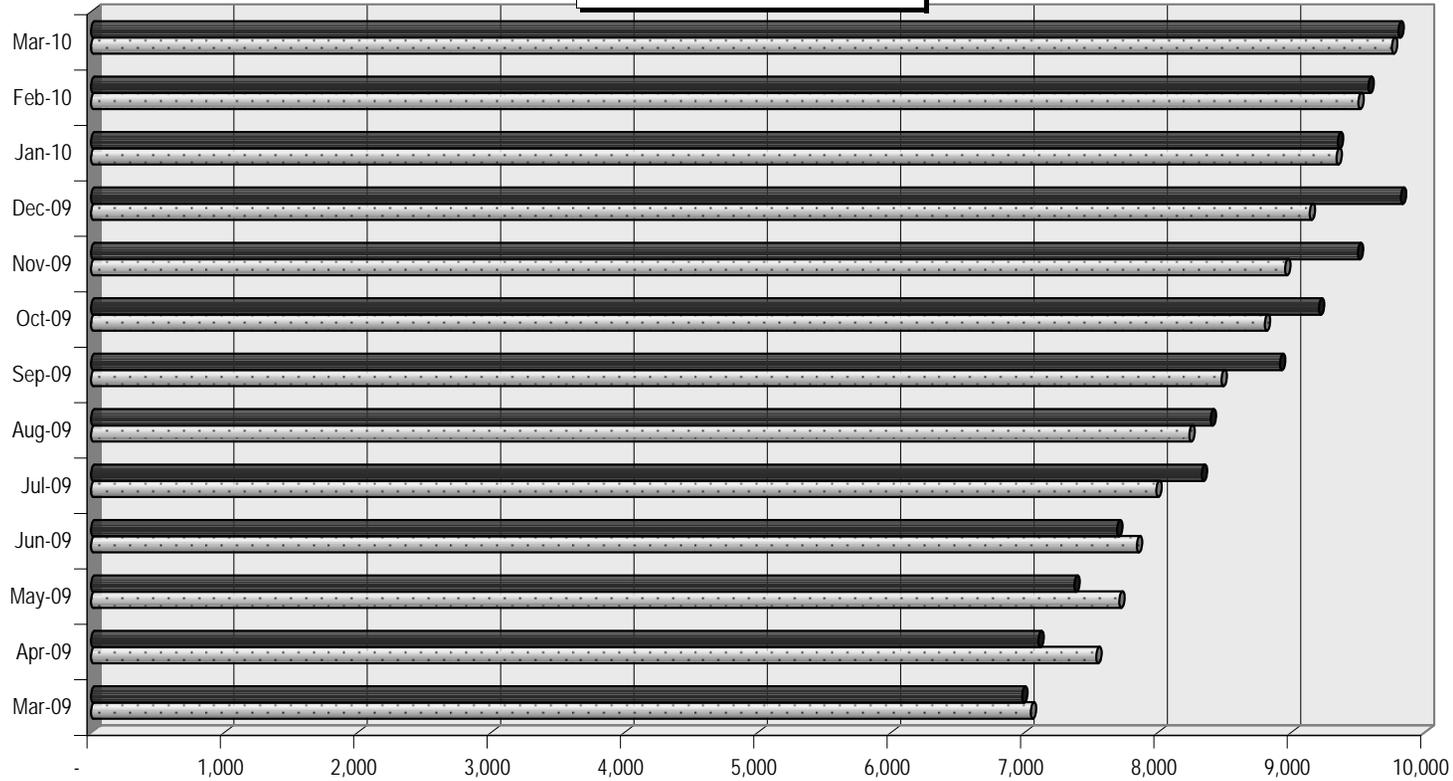
Age	VHAP-ESIA	ESIA	CHAP	TOTAL
18-24	61	78	2,206	
25-35	264	179	1,713	
36-45	351	217	1,502	
46-55	218	198	2,028	
56-64	57	77	2,302	
65+	1	-	4	
<b>Total</b>	<b>952</b>	<b>749</b>	<b>9,755</b>	<b>11,456</b>

**Green Mountain Care Enrollment Report (continued)**
**Mar 2010 Demographics**

Gender	VHAP-ESIA	ESIA	CHAP	TOTAL
Male	337	270	4,287	
Female	615	479	5,468	
<b>Total</b>	<b>952</b>	<b>749</b>	<b>9,755</b>	<b>11,456</b>

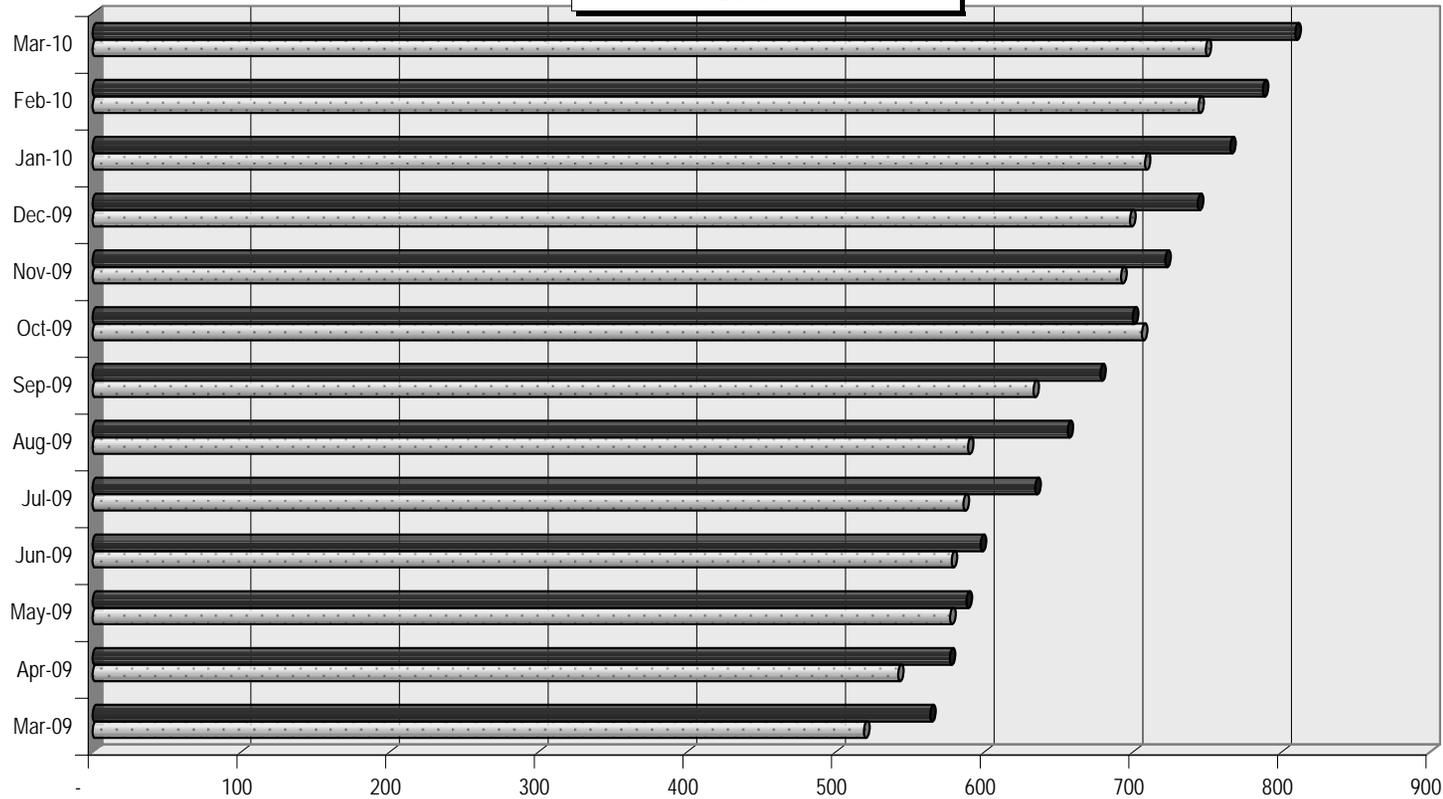
County	VHAP-ESIA	ESIA	CHAP	TOTAL
Addison	60	44	626	
Bennington	81	60	549	
Caledonia	43	35	606	
Chittenden	192	163	1,942	
Essex	11	4	120	
Franklin	100	52	641	
Grand Isle	6	10	107	
Lamoille	54	47	491	
Orange	45	25	491	
Orleans	54	51	549	
Other	2	-	3	
Rutland	99	91	991	
Washington	71	54	960	
Windham	53	53	769	
Windsor	81	60	910	
<b>Total</b>	<b>952</b>	<b>749</b>	<b>9,755</b>	<b>11,456</b>

Catamount Health Assistance Program  
 Enrollment



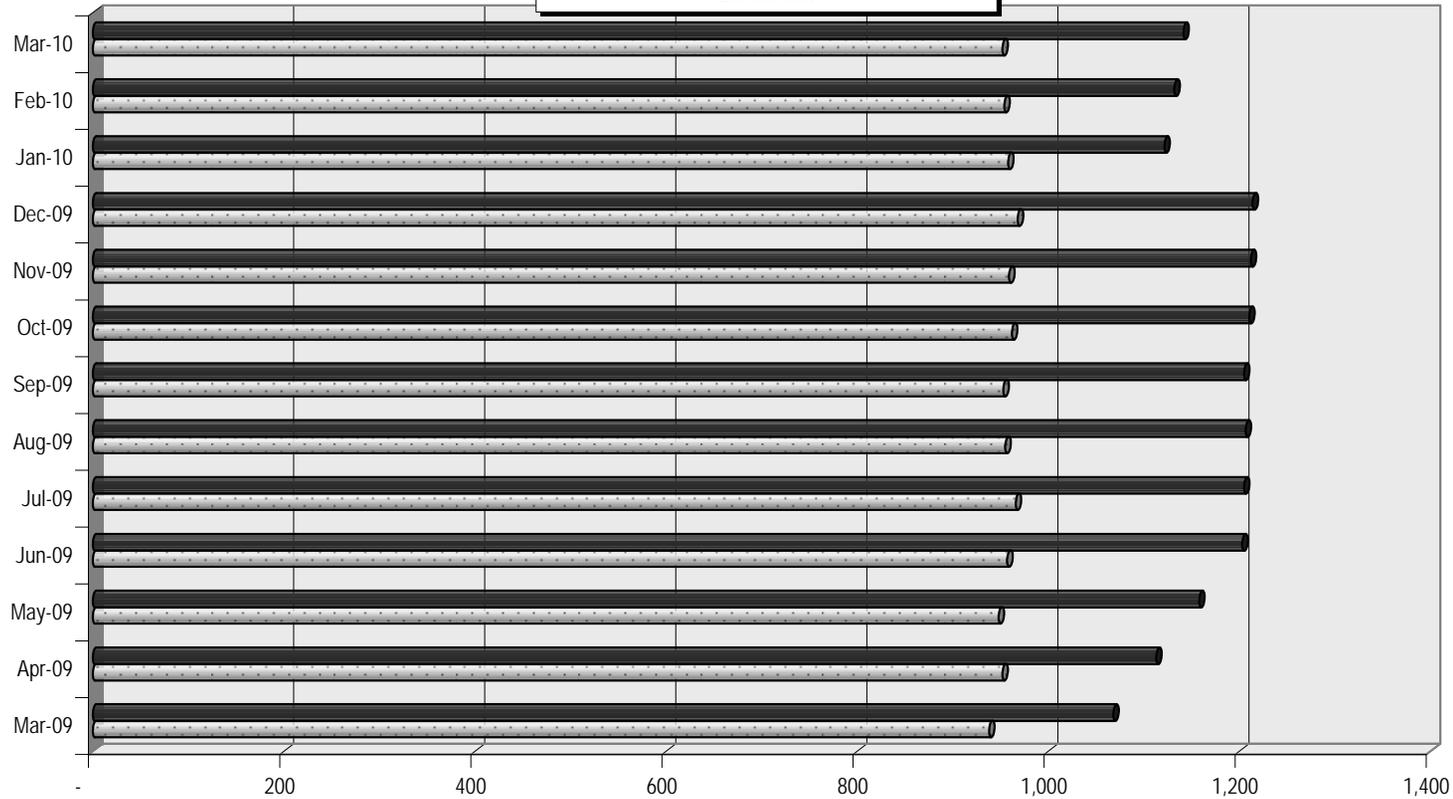
	Mar-09	Apr-09	May-09	Jun-09	Jul-09	Aug-09	Sep-09	Oct-09	Nov-09	Dec-09	Jan-10	Feb-10	Mar-10
■ Projected	6,983	7,103	7,374	7,694	8,329	8,394	8,914	9,206	9,498	9,822	9,349	9,577	9,803
▨ Actual	7,046	7,538	7,710	7,842	7,988	8,235	8,477	8,802	8,954	9,138	9,339	9,503	9,755

Employer Sponsored Insurance Assistance  
 Enrollment



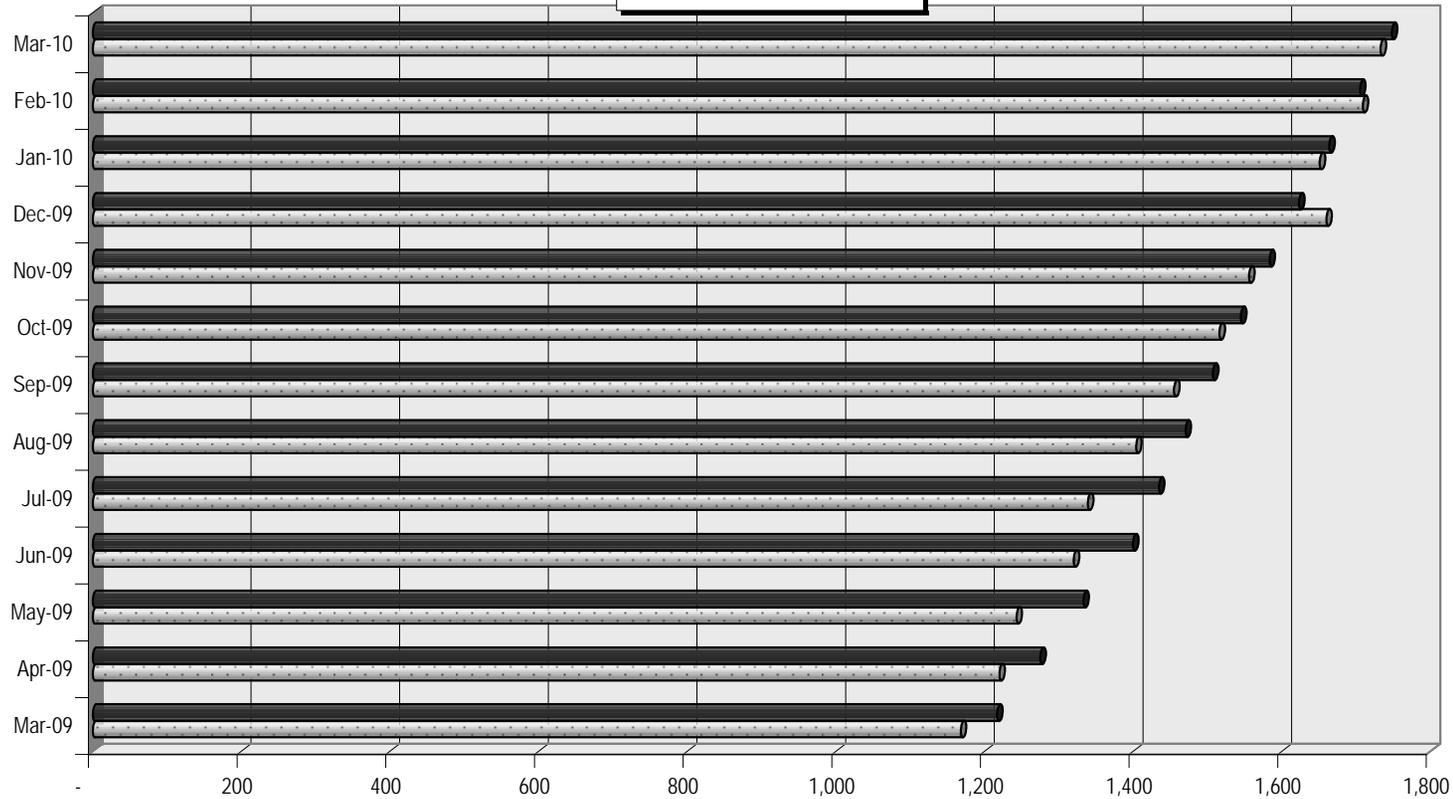
	Mar-09	Apr-09	May-09	Jun-09	Jul-09	Aug-09	Sep-09	Oct-09	Nov-09	Dec-09	Jan-10	Feb-10	Mar-10
■ Projected	564	577	588	597	634	656	678	700	722	744	765	787	809
□ Actual	519	542	577	578	586	589	633	706	692	698	708	744	749

VHAP - Employer Sponsored Insurance Assistance  
 Enrollment



	Mar-09	Apr-09	May-09	Jun-09	Jul-09	Aug-09	Sep-09	Oct-09	Nov-09	Dec-09	Jan-10	Feb-10	Mar-10
■ Projected	1,068	1,113	1,158	1,203	1,205	1,207	1,205	1,210	1,212	1,214	1,122	1,132	1,141
□ Actual	938	952	948	957	966	955	953	962	959	968	958	954	952

Catamount Health - Unsubsidized Enrollment



	Mar-09	Apr-09	May-09	Jun-09	Jul-09	Aug-09	Sep-09	Oct-09	Nov-09	Dec-09	Jan-10	Feb-10	Mar-10
■ Projected	1,217	1,275	1,333	1,400	1,435	1,471	1,507	1,545	1,584	1,623	1,664	1,705	1,748
▨ Actual	1,168	1,220	1,243	1,320	1,339	1,404	1,455	1,516	1,556	1,660	1,651	1,709	1,733

Global Commitment Expenditure Tracking

QE	Quarterly Expenditures	PQA: WY1	PQA: WY2	PQA: WY3	PQA: WY4	PQA: WY5	Net Program PQA	Net Program Expenditures as reported on 64	non-MCO Admin Expenses	Total columns J:K for Budget Neutrality calculation	Cumulative Waiver Cap	Variance to Cap under/(over)	MBES reported Program cost (Current and PQA)	variance
1205	\$ 178,493,793							\$ 178,493,793					178,493,793	\$ -
0306	\$ 189,414,365	\$ 14,472,838					\$ 14,472,838	\$ 203,887,203					203,887,203	\$ -
0606	\$ 209,647,618	\$ (14,172,165)					\$ (14,172,165)	\$ 195,475,453					195,475,453	\$ -
0906	\$ 194,437,742	\$ 133,350					\$ 133,350	\$ 194,571,092					194,571,092	\$ -
WY1 SUM	\$ 771,993,518	\$ 434,023	\$ -				\$ 434,023	\$ 782,159,845	\$ 4,620,302	\$ 786,780,147	\$ 1,015,000,000	\$ 228,219,853		
1206	\$ 203,444,640	\$ 8,903					\$ 8,903	\$ 203,453,543					205,413,310	\$ 1,959,767
0307	\$ 203,804,330	\$ 8,894,097	\$ -				\$ 8,894,097	\$ 212,698,427					212,698,427	\$ -
0607	\$ 186,458,403	\$ 814,587	\$ (68,408)				\$ 746,179	\$ 187,204,582					187,204,582	\$ -
0907	\$ 225,219,267	\$ -	\$ -				\$ -	\$ 225,219,267					225,219,267	\$ -
WY2 SUM	\$ 818,926,640	\$ 9,717,587	\$ (68,408)				\$ 9,649,179	\$ 802,884,359	\$ 6,464,439	\$ 809,348,797	\$ 1,936,000,000	\$ 339,871,055		
Cumulative										\$ 1,596,128,945	\$ 1,936,000,000	\$ 339,871,055		
1207	\$ 213,871,059	\$ -	\$ 1,010,348				\$ 1,010,348	\$ 214,881,406					214,881,405	\$ (1)
0308	\$ 162,921,830	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -			\$ -	\$ 162,921,830					162,921,830	\$ (0)
0608	\$ 196,466,768	\$ 14,717		\$ 40,276,433			\$ 40,291,150	\$ 236,757,918					236,757,917	\$ (1)
0908	\$ 228,593,470						\$ -	\$ 228,593,470					228,593,469	\$ (1)
WY3 SUM	\$ 801,853,126	\$ 14,717	\$ 1,010,348	\$ 40,276,433			\$ 41,301,498	\$ 881,845,245	\$ 6,457,896	\$ 888,303,141	\$ 2,848,000,000	\$ 363,567,915		
Cumulative										\$ 2,484,432,085	\$ 2,848,000,000	\$ 363,567,915		
1208	\$ 228,768,784			\$ -			\$ -	\$ 228,768,784					228,768,784	\$ 0
0309	\$ 225,691,930		\$ (16,984,221)	\$ 38,998,635	\$ (4,144,041)		\$ 17,870,373	\$ 243,562,303					243,562,302	\$ (1)
0609	\$ 204,169,638			\$ 686,851	\$ 5,522,763		\$ 6,209,614	\$ 210,379,252					210,379,251	\$ (1)
0909	\$ 235,585,153			\$ 30,199	\$ 34,064,109		\$ 34,094,308	\$ 269,679,461					269,679,461	\$ -
WY4 SUM	\$ 894,215,505	\$ -	\$ (16,984,221)	\$ 39,715,685	\$ 35,442,831	\$ -	\$ 58,174,295	\$ 935,381,944	\$ 5,478,789	\$ 940,860,733	\$ 3,779,000,000	\$ 353,707,182		
Cumulative										\$ 3,425,292,818	\$ 3,779,000,000	\$ 353,707,182		
1209	\$ 241,939,196			\$ 5,192,468			\$ 5,192,468	\$ 247,131,664					247,131,664	\$ 0
0310	\$ 246,257,198			\$ 531,141	\$ 4,400,166		\$ 4,931,306	\$ 251,188,504					251,188,504	\$ -
0610							\$ -	\$ -						
0910							\$ -	\$ -						
WY5 SUM	\$ 488,196,394	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 5,723,608	\$ 4,400,166	\$ 10,123,774	\$ 492,596,560	\$ 2,533,044	\$ 495,129,604	\$ 4,700,000,000	\$ 779,577,578		
Cumulative	\$ 3,775,185,183	\$ 10,166,327	\$ (16,042,281)	\$ 79,992,118	\$ 41,166,439	\$ 4,400,166		\$ 3,894,867,952	\$ 25,554,470				3,896,827,714	

PQA = Prior Quarter Adjustments



**Office of Vermont Health Access**  
 312 Hurricane Lane Suite 201  
 Williston, VT 05495-2086  
[www.ovha.state.vt.us](http://www.ovha.state.vt.us)  
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*Agency of Human Services*

**Complaints Received by Health Access Member Services  
 January 1, 2010 – March 31, 2010**

Eligibility forms, notices, or process	19
ESD Call-center complaints (IVR, rudeness, hold times)	22
Use of social security number as identifiers	2
General premium complaints	4
Catamount Health Assistance Program premiums, process, ads, plans	6
Coverage rules	2
Member services	2
Eligibility rules	8
Eligibility local office	18
Prescription drug plan complaint	1
Copays/service limit	1
Pharmacy coverage	4
Provider issues (perceived rudeness, refusal to provide service, prices) (variety of provider types)	5
Provider enrollment issues	0
Chiropractic coverage change	0
Shortage of enrolled dentists	1
Green Mountain Care Website	0
OVHA	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>97</b>



**Grievance and Appeal Quarterly Report  
Medicaid MCO All Departments Combined Data  
January 1, 2010 – March 31, 2010**

The MCO is composed of various administrative areas within the Agency of Human Services (AHS). These include: the Office of Vermont Health Access (OVHA), the Department for Children and Families (DCF), the Department of Mental Health (DMH), the Department of Disabilities, Aging and Independent Living (DAIL), and the Department of Health (VDH). Also included in the MCO are the Designated Agencies (DA) and Specialized Service Agencies (SSA) that provide service authorizations for DMH and DAIL. Each entity should have at least one assigned grievance and appeal coordinator who enters data into the MCO database. This report is based on data compiled on April 7, 2010, from the centralized database for grievances and appeals that were filed from January 1, 2010 through March 31, 2010.

**Grievances:** A grievance is an expression of dissatisfaction about any matter that is not an action taken by the MCO. It includes a request for a written response.

During this quarter, there were twelve grievances filed with the MCO. Eight were addressed during the quarter, one was withdrawn and three were still pending at the end of the quarter. Grievances must be addressed within 90 days of filing, so having pending cases at the end of the quarter is to be expected. The grievances were addressed in an average of 16 days. Acknowledgement letters of the receipt of a grievance must be sent within five days, and as the MCO, we averaged only one day, although one letter was sent late. Of the grievances filed, 58% were filed by beneficiaries, 17% were filed by a representative of the beneficiary and 25% were filed by someone else at the request of the beneficiary. Of the twelve grievances filed, DMH had 84%, OVHA had 8%, and VDH had 8%. There were no grievances filed for the DCF or the DAIL during this quarter.

On the last quarterly report, it was reported that there were seven grievances pending from that quarter and three still pending from previous quarters. In actuality, there were only nine total. A DMH case had been addressed, but that information had not been entered into the database in time to be accurately reflected in the last quarterly report. Of the nine actual cases that were pending at the end of the last quarter, all nine were resolved this quarter, with 67% addressed within the required timeframes. The other three cases had all exceeded the timelines.

There was one Grievance Review filed this quarter through the DMH. Acknowledgement letters of the receipt of a grievance review must be sent within five days, and it was sent, late, in eleven days. The five Grievance Reviews that were filed in previous quarters have not been addressed yet. Three are with Rutland Mental Health, one with Clara Martin Center, and the last with HowardCenter.

**Appeals:** Medicaid rule 7110.1 defines actions that a MCO entity makes that are subject to an internal appeal. These actions are:

1. denial or limitation of authorization of a requested covered service or eligibility for service, including the type, scope or level of service;
2. reduction, suspension or termination of a previously authorized covered service or a service plan;
3. denial, in whole or in part, of payment for a covered service;
4. failure to provide a clinically indicated, covered service, when the MCO provider is a DA/SSA;
5. failure to act in a timely manner when required by state rule;
6. denial of a beneficiary's request to obtain covered services outside the network.

During this quarter, there were thirty-seven appeals filed with the MCO, of which four requested an expedited decision, and none met the criteria. Of these 37 appeals, twenty-four were resolved (65% of filed appeals), one was withdrawn (3%), and twelve appeals were still pending (32%). In thirteen cases (54% of those resolved), the original decision was upheld by the person hearing the appeal, four cases (17% of those resolved) were reversed, two were modified (8% of those resolved), and five were approved by the department/DA/SSA before the appeal meeting (21% of those resolved).

Of the twenty-four appeals that were resolved this quarter 96% were resolved within the statutory time frame of 45 days. In addition, 92% of the resolved appeals were resolved within 30 days. The remaining case had been extended, and it was resolved with the statutory timeframes for extended cases. The average number of days it took to resolve these 23 non-extended cases was 18 days. Acknowledgement letters of the receipt of an appeal must be sent within five days, and as the MCO, we averaged only one day, although three of those letters were sent late.

Of the 37 appeals filed, twenty-three were filed by beneficiaries (62%), thirteen were filed by a representative of the beneficiary (35%), none were filed by a provider, and one was filed by someone else at the request of the beneficiary (3%). Of the 37 appeals filed, OVHA had 59%, DAIL had 38%, and DMH had 3%. There were no appeals filed for the Department of Health (neither ADAP nor CSHN), or the Department for Children and Families during this quarter.

As each appeal was received the grievance and appeal coordinator assigned it to an action category that related to the content of the appeal as defined in rule 7110 (see above). There were 25 appeals for a denial or limitation of authorization of a requested service or eligibility for service (68%), eleven were for a reduction/suspension/termination of a previously authorized covered service or service plan (30%), and one was for a denial, in whole or in part, of payment for a covered service (2%).

There were four DAIL, and six OVHA cases filed between October 1, 2009, and December 31, 2009 that were still pending at the beginning of this quarter. In addition, there were four DAIL cases that were still pending from before October 1, 2009. Of those fourteen pending cases, ten were resolved this quarter. 90% of these cases were upheld (four for DMH & five for OVHA), none were reversed; none were modified, none were withdrawn, and 10% were approved before the appeal hearing (OVHA). 20% of the cases were resolved within thirty days, 80% in forty-five days, and 90% within fifty-nine days (DAIL case was late, not extended). On March 31, 2010 there were four cases still pending; two for DAIL, and two for DAIL's DS program through NKHS for 435 days.

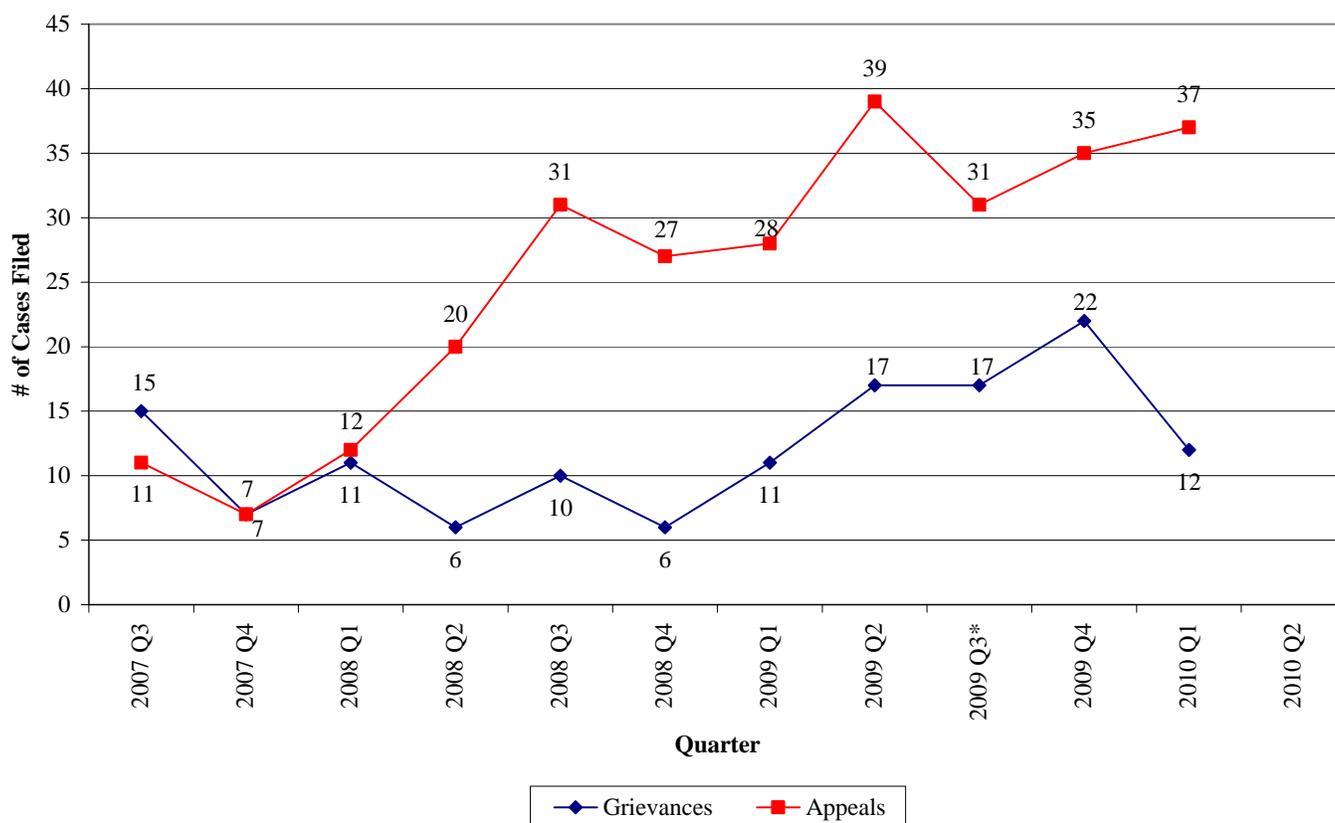
Individuals can file an appeal and a fair hearing at the same time, and they can file a fair hearing if their appeal is not decided in their favor. There were three fair hearings filed this quarter; one for DAIL and two for OVHA. One was filed concurrently with the appeal, while the other two were filed subsequent to the appeal decision. Two cases are still pending, with one DAIL case being withdrawn. There were seventeen fair hearings that were pending from previous quarters. One OVHA case was upheld, so there are a total of eighteen fair hearings still pending, four for DAIL and fourteen for OVHA.

#### **Other Information:**

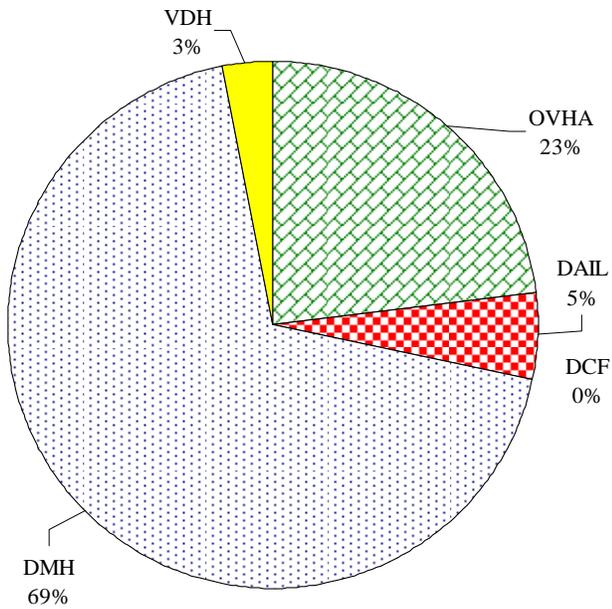
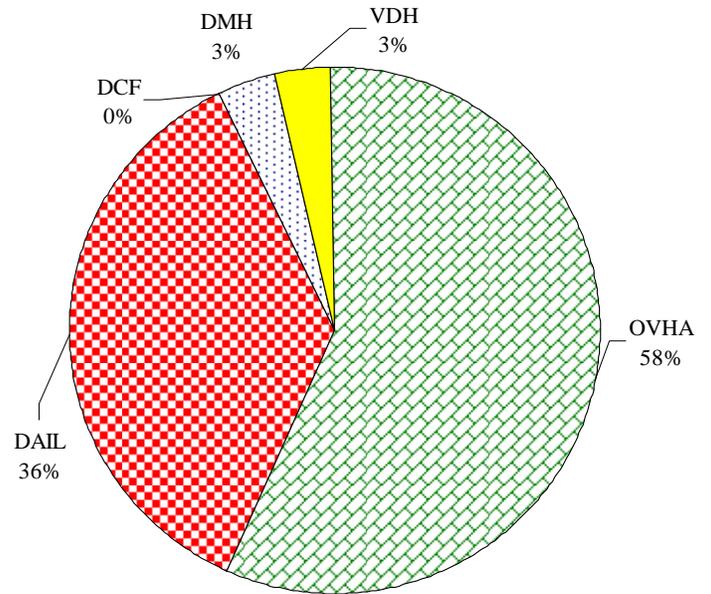
There is one SSA that has refused to be trained in the G&A process (Sterling Area Services) and that DAIL was going to contact them to ensure that an individual was identified and trained. That has still not happened after two years.

DCF has not yet implemented the MCO Grievance and Appeal process; however, DCF has relied to date on previous internal grievance and appeal processes to handle matters when they arise, and is working towards implementation. There are two persons in the DCF Commissioner's Office who have been trained in the MCO Grievance & Appeal process, although front-line DCF staff have not been identified or trained. The MCO Grievance and Appeal Coordinator has agreed to provide all the necessary training to the Department of Children & Families' staff.

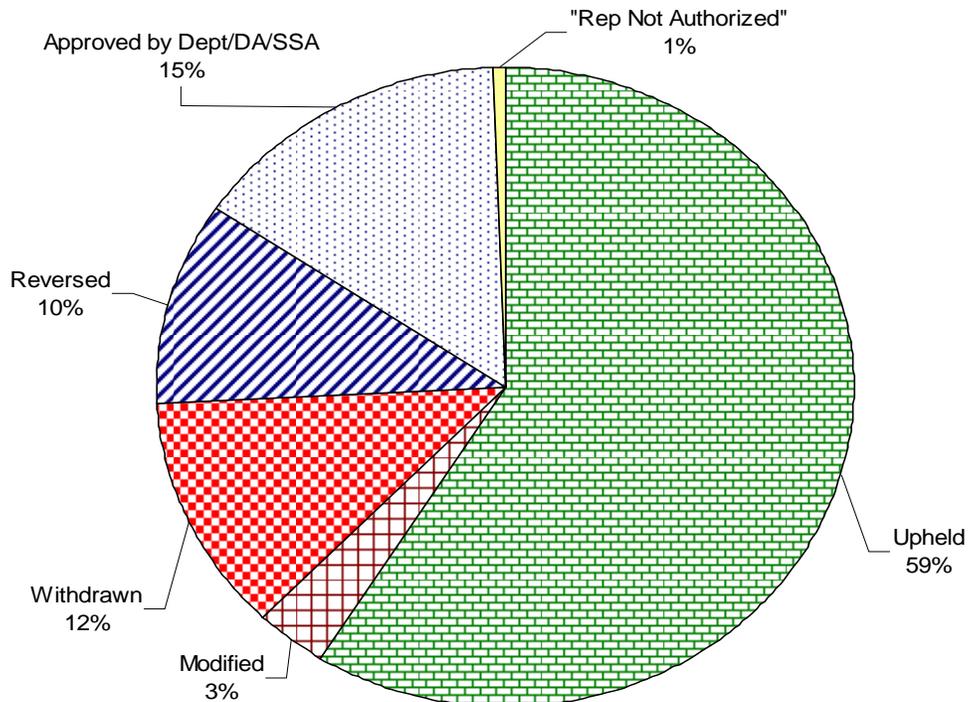
### Medicaid MCO Grievances & Appeals



### MCO Grievance & Appeals by Department from July 1, 2007 through March 31, 2010

**Grievances**

**Appeals**


### MCO Appeal Resolutions from July 1, 2007 through March 31, 2010



Grievance and Appeal Quarterly Report  
 Medicaid MCO All Departments Combined Data  
 for the period: January 1, 2010 – March 31, 2010

**Grievances**

**Total number of grievances filed: 12**

Number pending: 3 *DMH*

Number withdrawn: 1 *OVHA*

Number addressed: 8 *DMH-6; OVHA-1; VDH-1*

    Within 90 days: 100%

    Exceeding 90 days: 0%

Number of grievances filed too late: 2

Average number of days from "pertinent issue" to filing grievance: 9

Average number of days from filing to entering into database: 3

Average number of days from filing to being addressed: 16

Average number of days to send acknowledgement letter: 1

Number of late acknowledgement letters: 1 *DMH*

Average number of days from filing to withdrawing: 22

Average number of days to send withdrawal letter: 0 = same day

Number of late withdrawal letters: 0

Number of grievance reviews requested: 1 *DMH*

Average number of days to send grievance review acknowledgement letter: 11

Number of late grievance review acknowledgement letters: 1 *DMH*

Number of grievance reviews addressed: 0

Source of grievance request:

    Beneficiary: 7 58%

    Beneficiary Representative: 2 17%

    Other: 3 25%

Number related to:

    OVHA: 1 8%

    DAIL: 0 0%

    DCF: 0 0%

    DMH: 10 84%

    VDH: 1 8%

Top services grieved:

    1. Mental Health Services (5)

    2. Case Management (3)

Number by category: [Check ALL that apply]

    Staff/Contractor: 3

    Program Concern: 4

    Management: 0

    Policy or Rule Issue: 2

    Quality of Service: 6

    Service Accessibility: 1

    Timeliness of Service Response: 2

    Service Not Offered/Available: 1

    Other: 2

    Enrollee Rights: 1

    Adverse Effect/Exercising Rights: 0

\* \* \* \* \*

Number pending from all previous quarters: 9 *DMH*

Number that were pending in previous quarters and addressed this quarter: 9

    Within 90 days: 67%

    Exceeding 90 days: 33%

Number of grievances still pending at the end of this quarter: 0

Number of grievance reviews pending from all previous quarters: 5 *DMH*

Number of pending grievance reviews addressed this quarter: 0

## Appeals

### Number of appeals filed: 37

Number pending: 12 *DAIL-7; OVHA-4*

Number withdrawn: 1 *OVHA*

Number resolved: 24

Number upheld: 13 54% *DAIL-4; OVHA-9*

Number reversed: 4 17% *DAIL-1; OVHA-3*

Number modified: 2 8% *DAIL-1; OVHA-1*

Number approved by Dept/DA/SSA:  
5 21% *DAIL-1; OVHA-4*

Number of cases extended: 1

by beneficiary: 1

by MCO: 0

Resolved time frames

Within 30 days: 92% *DAIL-7; OVHA-15*

Within 45 days: 96% *DAIL-7; OVHA-16*

Within 59 days: 100% *DAIL-7; OVHA-17*

Extended (1) vs. Late (0) *OVHA*

Over 59 days: 0%

Number of appeals filed too late: 2

Average number of days from NOA to filing appeal:  
21

Average number of days from filing to entering  
data into database: 2

Average number of days from filing to resolution:  
18

Average number of days from filing to resolution  
when extended: 58

Average number of days to send acknowledgement  
letter: 1

Number by category:

1. Denial or limitation of authorization of a requested service or eligibility for service: 25
2. Reduction/suspension/termination of a previously authorized covered service or service plan: 11
3. Denial, in whole or in part, of payment for a covered service: 1
4. Failure to provide clinically indicated covered service when the MCO provider is a DA/SSA: 0
5. Denial of a beneficiary request to obtain covered services outside the network: 0
6. Failure to act in a timely manner when required by state rule: 0

Number of late acknowledgement letters: 3 *DAIL-2;  
DMH-1*

Average number of days from filing to withdrawing:  
13

Average number of days to send withdrawal letter:  
0 = same day

Number of late withdrawal letters: 0

Source of appeal request:

Beneficiary:	23	62%
Beneficiary Representative:	13	35%
Provider:	0	0%
Other:	1	3%

Number related to:

OVHA:	22	59%
DAIL:	14	38%
DCF:	0	0%
DMH:	1	3%
VDH:	0	0%

Top services appealed:

1. Personal Care (12)
2. Prescriptions (9)
3. Surgical (4)
4. Orthodontic (3)

Number of beneficiaries that requested that their  
services be continued: 8 22%

Of those that requested their services be  
continued:

Number that met criteria:	7	88%
Number that did not meet criteria:	1	12%

## Expedited Appeals

Number of expedited appeals filed: 4  
*DAIL-1; OVHA-3*

Number of expedited appeals that:  
Met criteria: 0  
Did not meet criteria: 4

### ***NOT meeting criteria:***

Average number of business days to orally notify beneficiary of not meeting criteria: 1

Average number of business days to notify beneficiary in writing of not meeting criteria: 1

Number late letters: 0

\* \* \* \* \*

Number pending from last quarter: 10  
*DAIL-4; OVHA-6*

Resolution time frames for resolving above cases:

Within 30 days: 20% *OVHA-2*  
Within 45 days: 80% *DAIL-2; OVHA-6*  
Within 59 days: 90% *DAIL-3; OVHA-6*  
Extended (0) vs. Late (1)  
Over 59 days: 10% *DAIL-1*

Number pending from previous quarters: 4 *DAIL*

Total pending from ALL quarters: 14  
*DAIL-8; OVHA-6*

Number of appeals still pending from all previous quarters: 4 *DAIL-4*

Number of total pending that were resolved this quarter: 10

Number upheld: 9 90% *DAIL-4; OVHA-5*  
Number reversed: 0 0%  
Number modified: 0 0%  
Number approved by Dept/DA/SSA:  
1 10% *OVHA*  
Number withdrawn: 0 0%

## Fair Hearings

**Total number of Fair Hearings filed: 3** *DAIL-1; OVHA-2*

Number of Fair Hearings filed with a concurrent appeal: 1 *OVHA*

Number of pending Fair Hearings from previous quarters: 17 *DAIL-5; OVHA-12*

Number of Fair Hearings filed after appeal resolution: 2 *DAIL-1; OVHA-1*

Number of pending Fair Hearings from previous quarters resolved this quarter: 1

Number pending: 2 *OVHA*

Number upheld: 1 *DAIL*  
Number reversed: 0  
Number modified: 0  
Number dismissed: 0  
Number withdrawn: 0

Number resolved: 1  
Number upheld: 0  
Number reversed: 0  
Number modified: 0  
Number dismissed: 0  
Number withdrawn: 1 *DAIL*

Average number of days for resolution for pending Fair Hearings from previous quarters: 143

\* \* \* \* \*

Number of pending Fair Hearings from previous quarters still pending at the end of this quarter: 18  
*DAIL-4; OVHA-14*

# Office of Health Care Ombudsman

264 N. Winooski Ave.  
P.O. Box 1367  
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## QUARTERLY REPORT January 1, 2010 – March 31, 2010 to the OFFICE OF VERMONT HEALTH ACCESS

### I. Overview

This is the Office of Health Care Ombudsman's (HCO) report to the Office of Vermont Health Access (OVHA) for the quarter January 1, 2010 through March 31, 2010. We received 251 calls (36%) from OVHA program beneficiaries this quarter, compared to 190 (35%) last quarter.

The total number of all cases/all coverages that we opened this quarter was 696, compared to 547 last quarter. This compares to 751 calls in the first quarter of 2009, 770 in 2008, and 670 in 2007. The total call volume for January was unusually low at just 218 calls. January is typically our busiest month of the year because many plans change at the start of the calendar year causing problems. In 2009 we had 240 calls in January, in 2008 we had 309 and in 2007 we had 280. This drop in January calls was not due to a significant decrease in Medicare Part D calls. In January 2010 we had 21 Part D calls; in January 2009 we also had 21. Call volume for February and March was close to the call volumes for those months in previous years. [See the Table A and B at the end of this narrative for further detail.]

### A. Eligibility

The percentage of calls related to eligibility for state programs continues to rise. This quarter we had 235 calls related to eligibility or 33.76% of all calls. Last quarter we received 195, which was 25.97% of all calls. Of the 235 calls, 86 were from current OVHA beneficiaries, 34 were from individuals with commercial insurance, and 53 callers were uninsured. The insurance status of the others was either irrelevant or unknown.

The number of callers who were uninsured rose to 73 from 59 last quarter. Calls from the uninsured are usually about eligibility for state programs. This quarter 72.6% of those calls were regarding eligibility, with access to care a distant second at 16.44%. The number of calls from uninsured callers has remained relatively consistent over the past three years. In 2009, 64 callers per quarter on average were uninsured. In 2008 the average was 52. In 2007 it was 64.

We continue to see significant numbers of problems related to eligibility determinations. A look at all issues, not just the primary issues of callers, reveals some serious problems in this area. Of the 235 calls about eligibility this quarter:

- 17 involved application processing delays (compared to 5 last quarter);
- 32 involved Department for Children and Families (DCF) mistakes (compared to 11);
- 17 involved lost paperwork (compared to 9);
- 7 involved an error by Member Services; and
- 9 appeared to be at least partially the result of high DCF caseloads.

Note that there is overlap of these cases. That is, some of the 17 cases involving lost paperwork are most likely the same cases that resulted in processing delays. However, it is troubling that these problems are trending in the wrong direction. Typically when the HCO directly intervenes in these cases we are able to resolve them. However, not everyone with a problem like this calls us, so more people are likely being harmed without remedy. [See Table C at the end of this narrative for geographic break out of some of these problems.]

## **B. Access to Care**

This quarter we had a total of 170 calls related to access issues or 24.43% of all calls. Of these, 84 (49.41%) were from OVHA beneficiaries. In the previous quarter we had 157 total Access calls, with 70 (45%) coming from OVHA beneficiaries. Since only about 36% of our total calls were from OVHA callers, this is a comparatively high percentage of calls regarding access issues, and remains a cause of some concern. The percentage of calls from OVHA beneficiaries about access issues consistently runs about 35%. For beneficiaries of commercial carriers it usually runs about 20-25%. This quarter only 31 individuals on commercial plans called us about access issues. Access is clearly a bigger issue for OVHA beneficiaries.

## **C. Hybrid programs**

We track hybrid program problems, which involve both government and commercial insurance, because these tend to be more complicated and take more time to sort out. We received 125 of our total calls (18%) related to the hybrid programs as the primary issue, compared to 59 calls (11%) last quarter. We received 49 calls about federal Medicare Modernization Act (Medicare Part C, Medicare Part D and VPharm) issues, compared to 21 calls last quarter. For the state hybrid programs (Catamount Health and the Premium Assistance programs), we received 76 calls this quarter, compared to 42. [See Table B at the end of this narrative for detail.]

## **D. Pain Management**

The number of calls related to pain management jumped back up this quarter. We received a total of 17 calls with pain management as the primary issue, up from eight last quarter. However, 27 calls involved a pain management issue, when non-primary issue codes are added. Of these 27, 15 involved OVHA beneficiaries, which is about 56%. We had one caller on commercial insurance with a pain management issue. Thus, this continues to be primarily a state program problem.

## E. Mental Health and Substance Abuse Treatment

Seven calls were coded as having a primary issue of mental health treatment access and four as mental health billing. Of these, four of the access cases were from OVHA beneficiaries, as were two of the billing cases. These primary issue figures do not include substance abuse.

We received six calls that we coded with substance abuse treatment as a primary issue. Three of these were from OVHA beneficiaries. When we look at primary and secondary issues, seven of the eleven “all insurance” status substance abuse calls involved OVHA beneficiaries. Only one substance abuse call involved someone on commercial insurance.

## II. Break down of callers by type of insurance:

- **OVHA programs** (Medicaid, VHAP, VHAP Pharmacy, a Premium Assistance program, VScript, VPharm, or both Medicaid and Medicare) insured **36%** (251 callers), compared to 35% (190) last quarter;
- **Medicare** (Medicare only, Medicare and Medicaid, Medicare and a Medicare Savings Program (MSP) aka Buy-In program, or Medicare and VPharm) insured **18%** (126), compared to 22% (122) last quarter;
  - 11% (76) had Medicare only, compared to 14% (79) last quarter;
  - 7% (50) had both Medicare coverage and coverage through a state program such as Medicaid, an MSP aka a Buy-In program, or VPharm, as compared to 8% (50) last quarter;
- **Commercial carriers** (employer sponsored insurance, individual or small group plans, but not including Catamount Health plans) insured **18%** (122), compared to 19% (106) last quarter;
- **10%** (73) identified themselves as **uninsured**, compared to 11% (59) last quarter;
- **5%** (34) had a **Catamount Health** plan, compared to 5% (30) last quarter; and
- The remainder of callers’ insurance status was either unknown or not relevant.

## III. Disposition of OVHA cases

We closed 236 OVHA cases this quarter, compared to 197 last quarter:

- About 3% (7 calls) from OVHA beneficiaries were resolved in the initial call, compared to 2% (3 calls) last quarter;
- 55% (130 calls) were resolved by advice or referral, after an analysis of the problem. Last quarter 59% (117 calls) were resolved in this manner;
- 27% (63 calls) were resolved by direct intervention on the caller’s behalf, including advocacy with OVHA and providers, writing letters, gathering medical information, and representation at fair hearings. Last quarter 20% (39 calls) were resolved in this manner;
- About 7% (16 calls) were considered complex intervention, which involves complex analysis and more than two hours of an advocate’s time, compared to 5% (9 calls) last quarter.

#### **IV. Issues raised by OVHA beneficiaries**

We opened 251 cases from OVHA beneficiaries, compared to 190 last quarter. Of these:

- 33.47% (84 calls) involved Access to Care, compared to 36.84% (70 calls) last quarter;
- 13.55% (34 calls) involved Billing/Coverage, compared to 21.58% (41 calls) last quarter;
- 3.19% (8 calls) were coded as Consumer Education, compared to 5.79% (11 calls) last quarter;
- 34.26% (86 calls) involved Eligibility, compared to 26.84% (51 calls) last quarter; and
- 15.54% (39 calls) involved Other issues, compared to 7.37% (14 calls) last quarter, which includes Medicare Part D calls.

##### **A. Access to Care**

We received 84 OVHA Access to Care calls, compared to 70 last quarter. The top call volume primary issues within this category were:

- 19 involved access to Prescription Drugs (with none about VPharm Therapeutic Substitution), down from 12 last quarter;
- 10 involved Pain Management, compared to 6 last quarter; and
- 9 involved Specialty Care, compared to 12 last quarter;
- 9 involved Dental or Orthodontics, compared to 7 and
- 3 involved Transportation, compared to 8.

The top access issues when secondary issues are considered as well were:

- 46, Prescription Drugs, with 3 related to VPharm Therapeutic Substitution;
- 15, Pain Management;
- 14, Specialty Care;
- 11, Dental and Orthodontia;
- 10 Delay in Obtaining Care;
- 9, Primary Care Doctor;
- 9, Clinical Denial of Care;
- 8, Mental Health;
- 7, Substance Abuse;
- 7, Affordability;
- 6, Transportation; and
- 6, PA/UR Taking Too Long.

##### **B. Billing/Coverage**

We received 34 OVHA primary issue calls in this category, compared to 41 last quarter:

- 12 involved Medicaid/VHAP Managed Care, compared to 17 last quarter; and
- 9 involved Hospital Billing, compared to 9 last quarter.

##### **C. Eligibility**

We received 86 OVHA primary issue calls in this category from current OVHA beneficiaries, compared to 51 last quarter:

- 30 involved Medicaid eligibility, compared to 16 last quarter;
- 27 involved VHAP, compared to 16;
- 12 involved the Buy In Programs, aka Medicare Savings Programs, compared to 5; and
- 6 involved Catamount Health and Premium Assistance, compared to 2. This count only includes callers who were already on OVHA plans when they called us. Many callers who call about Catamount are either uninsured or on commercial plans.

## V. Tables

**Table A: Number of All Calls, by Month**

<b>All Cases</b>	<b>2003</b>	<b>2004</b>	<b>2005</b>	<b>2006</b>	<b>2007</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>2009</b>	<b>2010</b>
<b>January</b>	241	252	178	313	280	309	240	218
<b>February</b>	187	188	160	209	172	232	255	228
<b>March</b>	177	257	188	192	219	229	256	250
<b>April</b>	161	203	173	192	190	235	213	
<b>May</b>	234	210	200	235	195	207	213	
<b>June</b>	252	176	191	236	254	245	276	
<b>July</b>	221	208	190	183	211	205	225	
<b>August</b>	189	236	214	216	250	152	173	
<b>September</b>	222	191	172	181	167	147	218	
<b>October</b>	241	172	191	225	229	237	216	
<b>November</b>	227	146	168	216	195	192	170	
<b>December</b>	226	170	175	185	198	214	161	
<b>Total</b>	2578	2409	2200	2583	2560	2604	2616	696

**Table B: All Calls about Hybrid Programs, by Month**

<b>Medicare Modernization Act--Part D, Part C (added 6/08) &amp; VPharm</b>	<b>2006</b>	<b>2007</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>2009</b>	<b>2010</b>
<b>January</b>	118	64	32	21	21
<b>February</b>	28	20	35	16	13
<b>March</b>	29	27	18	23	15
<b>April</b>	43	28	19	9	
<b>May</b>	83	25	15	18	
<b>June</b>	80	26	18	22	
<b>July</b>	43	19	15	16	
<b>August</b>	39	28	7	4	
<b>September</b>	25	17	9	30	
<b>October</b>	32	14	13	7	
<b>November</b>	37	25	15	9	
<b>December</b>	35	21	16	5	
<b>Total</b>	592	314	212	180	49

**Catamount Health & Premium Assistance**

	<b>2007</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>2009</b>	<b>2010</b>
<b>January</b>		39	24	23
<b>February</b>		21	19	20
<b>March</b>		29	21	33
<b>April</b>		22	11	
<b>May</b>		17	19	
<b>June</b>		29	21	
<b>July</b>		20	20	
<b>August</b>		14	17	
<b>September</b>		17	20	
<b>October</b>	27	25	20	
<b>November</b>	30	12	11	
<b>December</b>	23	23	11	
<b>Total</b>	80	268	214	76

**Table C: OVHA Beneficiary Calls about Eligibility, by County**

	<b>Eligibility by County</b>	<b>Lost PW by County</b>	<b>DCF Mistakes by County</b>
<b>(none)</b>	53	2	6
<b>ADDISON</b>	12		1
<b>BENNINGTON</b>	3		
<b>CALEDONIA</b>	17		2
<b>CHITTENDEN</b>	50	5	5
<b>ESSEX</b>	3		
<b>FRANKLIN</b>	9	1	1
<b>LAMOILLE</b>	11	2	3
<b>ORANGE</b>	5		1
<b>ORLEANS</b>	5	1	
<b>RUTLAND</b>	27	5	4
<b>WASHINGTON</b>	19	1	5
<b>WINDHAM</b>	8		3
<b>WINDSOR</b>	13		1
<b>Totals</b>	235	17	32

Investment Criteria #	Rationale	ATTACHMENT 6
1	Reduce the rate of uninsured and/or underinsured in Vermont	
2	Increase the access of quality health care to uninsured, underinsured, and Medicaid beneficiaries	
3	Provide public health approaches to improve the health outcomes and the quality of life for Medicaid-eligible individuals in Vermont	
4	Encourage the formation and maintenance of public-private partnerships in health care.	

## SFY09 Final Managed Care Entity Investments

1/26/10

Investment Criteria #	Department	Investment Description
2	DOE	School Health Services
4	AOA	Blueprint Director
2	BISHCA	Health Care Administration
4	DII	Vermont Information Technology Leaders
2	VVH	Vermont Veterans Home
2	VSC	Health Professional Training
2	UVM	Vermont Physician Training
4	AHSCO	Vermont 2-1-1 Service
2	VDH	Emergency Medical Services
2	VDH	TB Medical Services
3	VDH	Epidemiology
3	VDH	Health Research and Statistics
2	VDH	Health Laboratory
4	VDH	Tobacco Cessation: Community Coalitions
3	VDH	Statewide Tobacco Cessation
2	VDH	Family Planning
4	VDH	Physician/Dentist Loan Repayment Program
2	VDH	Renal Disease
3	VDH	WIC Coverage
4	VDH	Vermont Blueprint for Health
4	VDH	Area Health Education Centers (AHEC)
4	VDH	Community Clinics
4	VDH	FQHC Lookalike
4	VDH	Patient Safety - Adverse Events
4	VDH	Coordinated Health Activity, Motivation & Prevention Programs (CHAMPPS)
2	VDH	Substance Abuse Treatment
4	VDH	Recovery Centers
2	VDH	Immunization
2	VDH	DMH Investment Cost in CAP
2	DMH	Special Payments for Treatment Plan Services
2	DMH	MH Outpatient Services for Adults
4	DMH	Mental Health Consumer Support Programs
2	DMH	Mental Health CRT Community Support Services
2	DMH	Mental Health Children's Community Services
2	DMH	Emergency Mental Health for Children and Adults
2	DMH	Respite Services for Youth with SED and their Families
1	OVHA	Buy-In
1	OVHA	HIV Drug Coverage
1	OVHA	Civil Union
1	OVHA	Vpharm
2	DCF	Family Infant Toddler Program
2	DCF	Medical Services
2	DCF	Residential Care for Youth/Substitute Care
2	DCF	Aid to the Aged, Blind and Disabled CCL Level III
2	DCF	Aid to the Aged, Blind and Disabled Res Care Level III
2	DCF	Aid to the Aged, Blind and Disabled Res Care Level IV
2	DCF	Essential Person Program
2	DCF	GA Medical Expenses
2	DCF	CUPS/Early Childhood Family Mental Health
2	DCF	HBKF/Healthy Babies, Kids & Families
1	DCF	Catamount Administrative Services
2	DCF	Therapeutic Child Care
2	DCF	Lund Home
2	DAIL	Mobility Training/Other Svcs.-Elderly Visually Impaired
2	DAIL	DS Special Payments for Medical Services
2	DAIL	Flexible Family/Respite Funding
4	DAIL	Quality Review of Home Health Agencies
2	DOC	Intensive Substance Abuse Program (ISAP)
2	DOC	Intensive Sexual Abuse Program
2	DOC	Intensive Domestic Violence Program
2	DOC	Women's Health Program (Tapestry)
2	DOC	Community Rehabilitative Care
2	DOC	Return House