

Date: October 1, 2026
Release: Immediate
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Washington County Mental Health Services Receives CCBHC Designation, Expanding Access and Adding 40 More Positions

Barre, Vermont, October 1, 2026- Washington County Mental Health Services (WCMHS) has been designated as a Certified Community Based Integrated Health Center (CCBHC) by the Vermont Department of Mental Health, marking a significant step forward in the organization's ability to expand access to comprehensive mental health and substance use services throughout Washington County.

The CCBHC model provides a sustainable funding structure that supports the full cost of delivering comprehensive support. It allows WCMHS to expand access, strengthen care coordination, and invest in new workforce roles that will increase capacity and connect more people with timely services.

"Becoming a CCBHC gives WCMHS the resources and structure to reach more people, strengthen the services we provide, and invest in the workforce that makes this care possible," said Beth Sightler, Executive Director of WCMHS. "This is about more than adding positions. It is about making it easier for people to access the right care, at the right time, in their own community."

According to the 2026 CCBHC Impact Report from the National Council for Mental Wellbeing, CCBHCs across the country served an estimated 3.4 million people in 2025, a nearly 13% increase since January 2024. Among organizations responding to the survey, the number of people served increased by 42.4% after becoming a CCBHC.

CCBHC certification strengthens WCMHS's ability to integrate mental health and substance use services with other essential health and community services, while emphasizing coordination, warm handoffs, information sharing and collaboration among providers.

The model also places an emphasis on serving populations with significant unmet needs, including veterans and active members of the armed forces, people experiencing homelessness, individuals involved with the criminal justice system, children and youth, and people with co-occurring needs.

"CCBHC certification gives us an opportunity to build on the work WCMHS has done for decades," said Sightler. "When people can access care earlier, and providers work together, we can create better experiences and outcomes for individuals, families and communities. Expanding services means meeting the needs of our community."

WCMHS will begin rolling out expanded CCBHC services and hours. Information about services, hours, frequently asked questions and employment opportunities are available through the WCMHS website www.wcmhs.org.

Washington County Mental Health Services (WCMHS) is a nonprofit organization dedicated to providing comprehensive mental health, substance use, and developmental services to individuals and families in Washington County, Vermont since 1967. WCMHS offers a wide range of support and treatment opportunities for children, adolescents, families, and adults. Call 802-229-0591 for immediate assistance with mental health or substance use crises.