

**AGENCY ANNEX F4  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH**

**I. MISSION**

To protect and promote optimal health for all Vermonters.

**II. AUTHORITY**

The Department of Health shall have power to supervise and direct the execution of all laws relating to public health. 18 V.S.A. §§ 1, et seq. In an all-hazards event the department is directed to plan, develop, and implement a comprehensive emergency management program. 20 V.S.A. § 28.

- 3 V.S.A. §844 – Adopt Emergency Rules
  - Emergency Rules can be adopted by an Agency when there exists an imminent peril to public health.
- 18 V.S.A. §1 – General powers of the department of health
  - The Department of Health shall have power to supervise and direct the execution of all laws relating to public health and substance abuse.
- 18 V.S.A. §31 – New England Compact on Radiological Health Protection
- 18 V.S.A. §126 – Health Orders
  - The Commissioner or the selectmen may issue a health order.
- 18 V.S.A. §127 – Emergency Health Orders
  - Emergency health orders are used to prevent, remove, or destroy an imminent and substantial public health hazard, or to mitigate an imminent and substantial significant public health risk. Actions may include those listed in 18 V.S.A. §126.
- 18 V.S.A. §901-909 – Emergency Medical Services
  - All persons who suffer sudden and unexpected illness or injury should have access to the emergency medical services system in order to prevent loss of life or the aggravation of the illness or injury, and to alleviate suffering. The system should include competent emergency medical care provided by adequately trained, licensed, credentialed, and equipped personnel acting under appropriate medical control.
- 20 V.S.A. §28 – Emergency Management Medical Program
  - In coordination with local, state, and federal emergency management officials, the department of health plans, develops, and implements a comprehensive emergency management medical program to protect and assist the people of the state in an all-hazard event.
- Emergency Medical Services Rule 8.7
  - When the Commissioner of Health has identified a public health event or emergency, the Commissioner may on a temporary basis authorize licensed ambulance services, first responder service and/or certified EMS personnel to provide interventions or perform procedures not otherwise authorized in the EMS training programs and protocols provided for in these rules.

**III. SITUATION AND ASSUMPTIONS**

State agency and department heads and their staffs develop, plan and train to internal policies and procedures to meet preparedness, mitigation, response and recovery needs as identified in this plan including annexes, appendices, tabs and other supporting documents

# STATE OF VERMONT EMERGENCY OPERATIONS PLAN 2013

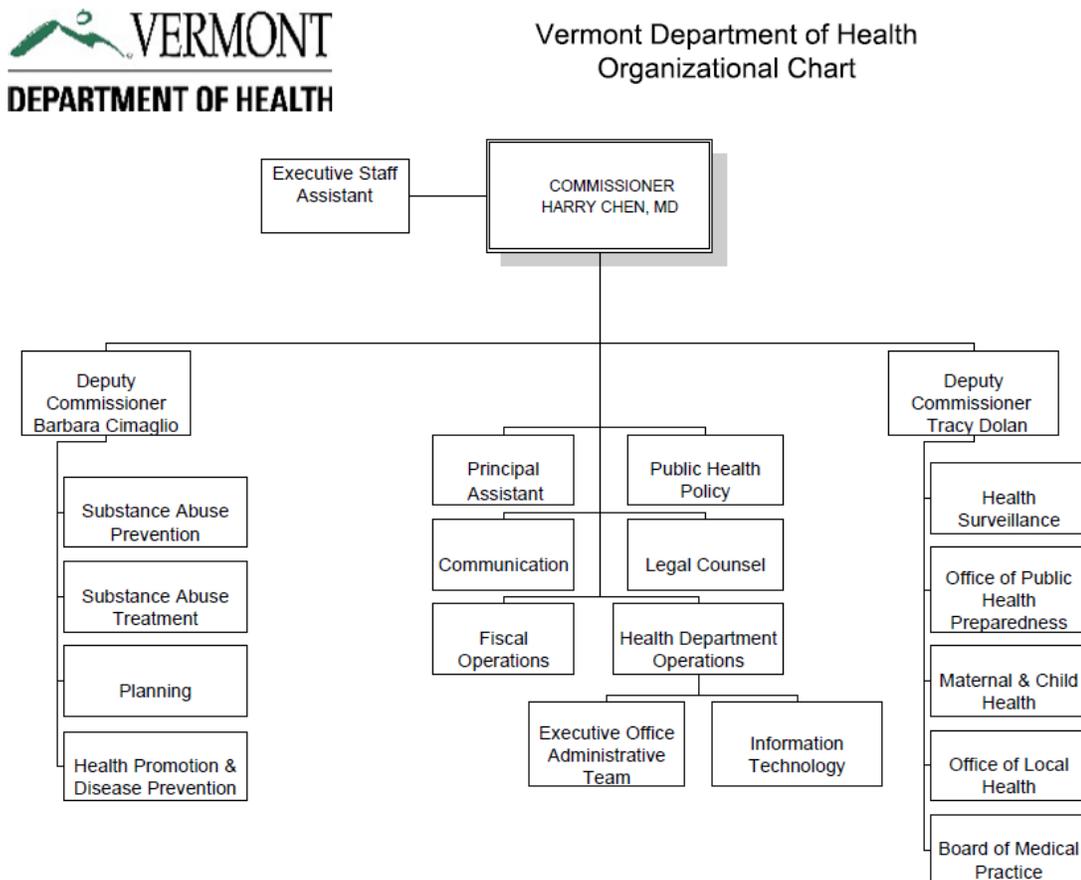
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including the State Hazard Mitigation Plan. Training includes not only what may be accomplished within the agency but multi-level, interagency training and exercises to develop and maintain necessary capabilities.

The situation and assumptions in section ii of the Base Plan also apply.

## IV. ORGANIZATION AND RESPONSIBILITIES

The following chart outlines the emergency response organization of the Department:



The Department is the lead agency for State Support Function #8 (Health and Medical Services) and is a support agency for State Support Function #3 (Public Works and Engineering), #5 (Emergency Management, Recovery & Mitigation), #6 (Mass Care, Emergency Assistance, Housing & Human Services), #7 (Resource Support), #10 (Hazardous Materials), #11 (Agriculture and Natural Resources), and #14 (Public Information) and assumes the responsibilities as outlined in those annexes. The Department is also a participating agency in the Recovery and Restoration Multi-Agency Coordination Group as designated in the Disaster Recovery and Restoration Annex.

## V. IMPLEMENTATION

This Annex will be implemented with the assigned responsibilities by means of direct coordination from the Commissioner, Department of Public Safety or Director, VEM with the Commissioner and/or upon the order of the Governor within the framework of the State Emergency Operations Plan (SEOP).

## **VI. ADMINISTRATION**

The Commissioner is responsible for the overall emergency response of the Department.

## **VII. CONTINUITY OF GOVERNMENT**

In accordance with the provisions of title 20, “agency heads will in addition to any deputy authorized pursuant to law, designate by title three emergency interim successors and specify their order of succession. These designations shall, each year, be reviewed and revised, as necessary, to ensure their current status.”

Line of succession for the Department is as follows:

Harry Chen, MD, Commissioner

Tracy Dolan, Deputy Commissioner

Barbara Cimaglio, Deputy Commissioner

Vacant, Senior Policy Advisor