



Year in Review 2025-2026

I am happy to share this summary of our work from July 1, 2025 to June 30, 2026. This was the 3rd year of our 5-year workplan from 2023 to 2028.

There were many transitions this year.

- [CDCI's Vermont Assistive Technology Project](#) ended September 30, 2025.
- Tracy Roux and Ben Wimett positions ended as AT tryout specialists.
- Darren McIntyre resigned as directors of AT Project and Vermont I-Team.
- Valerie Richardson is retiring this month.
- Cassandra Townshend hired as next [Vermont I-Team](#) director.
- Our Center coordinated a [HCBS Quality Measures Stakeholder Engagement](#) project from September 2025 to January 2026.

Please read the next few pages about our goals this year, progress, and what we plan to do next. We look forward to your questions and feedback!

- Jesse





COMMUNICATION

CDCI shares information between university and community to educate and increase awareness about disability in Vermont.

GOAL	PROGRESS	WHAT'S NEXT?
1. Maintain the CDCI and CDCI project websites.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Hired undergraduate to support newsletter and websites.• Minor updates to websites are regularly made.	See below
2. Plan for next steps with communications	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Plan to reduce responsibilities of position to focus on communication.• Worked with our college to hire communications manager for both of us, but not interested.• Working with graduate college on shared hire.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Continue working with Audrey in Office of Accessibility Services.• Create plan for podcast.• Hire coordinator.

COMMUNITY SERVICE

CDCI provides services to people with disabilities, their families, and professionals who support them.

GOAL	PROGRESS	WHAT'S NEXT?
<p>1. Support Vermont Leadership Series</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Financially supported leadership series. Issue: Funding is an ongoing challenge. 	<p>Plan with Vermont Developmental Disabilities Council.</p>
<p>2. Provide trainings, consultation, and resources to improve access to services.</p>	<p>Accessibility </p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Launched Basic Digital Accessibility course. Helping create new plan for college. <p>Assistive Technology </p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Due to loss of state funding, CDCI 15-year work ended 9/30/25. <p>Education: Early Childhood </p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Early Intervention Project trainings focused on play & everyday routines for young autistic children. <p>Education: K-12 </p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Vermont I-Team created 2 new trainings to make schools more inclusive. BEST 30 year summer institute. 	<p>Want to train people with disabilities to have skills in digital accessibility.</p> <p>No plans to continue this work at this time.</p> <p>Continue to create and offer resources matched to need.</p> <p>Want to have bigger impact on school inclusion than 1 team at a time.</p>

GOAL	PROGRESS	WHAT'S NEXT?
<p>2. Provide trainings, consultation, and resources to improve access to services. (Continued)</p>	<p>Employment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • VT Pathways to Partnerships completed 3rd year in 30 schools. <p>Health</p> <p>Lots of new resources to increase access!</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HCBS Quality Improvement • Continance project & 24-Hour Postural Care are main sources of information in Vermont. 	<p>CCV ended its supported employment training series. Want to create new one at UVM.</p> <p>Want to find better ways to share our trainings and resources to reach more people.</p>
<p>3. Find new ways to support mental health and housing.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I-Team Family Resource Consultants providing more supports related to mental health. • Cassandra taught <i>Behavior Management</i> course. • Jesse taught course on students with emotional and behavioral challenges. 	



TEACHING

Provide college education focused on disability community inclusion for future professionals.

GOAL	PROGRESS	WHAT'S NEXT?
1. Support Think College Vermont as a college option.	Great 14th year at UVM! <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2nd Special Olympics Penguin Plunge team. • 3rd year of intramural basketball. • 5 Think College graduates this year. • 1st year students part of official college ceremony. 	Trying to increase number of students and hire more staff.
2. Help people take Disability Studies courses	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Created a 3 course micro-certificate, but no new graduate students enrolled. • Decided to focus on reaching undergraduates. • Jesse taught graduate course on supporting students with mental health challenges. 	Fall will bring together all faculty teaching courses on disability. Working to create disability studies minor.
3. Increase access to our teaching.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Designed and launched summer course on Basic Digital Accessibility. Around 40 enrolled! 	Plan to offer again in Fall.
4. Support students with disabilities at UVM.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jesse supports Disabled Student Union. • They want disability identity center at UVM. • Jesse helping college with strategic plan. • Jesse is coordinator with university effort on digital accessibility. 	Finishing college strategic plan Fall 2026. Spring 2027 UVM set goal for full digital accessibility.

RESEARCH



CDCI supports disability research to increase understanding and spark change.

GOAL	PROGRESS	WHAT'S NEXT?
1. Collect and share data on needs in Vermont.	Collected new data with DD network partners: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vermonter attitudes toward disability. • Experiences with HCBS services and quality. • High school students with disabilities with Vermont Pathways to Partnerships. 	Community needs assessment has been designed. Need to release survey and find more accessible ways to get feedback.
2. Write accessible reports on disability in Vermont.	Several reports created for HCBS Stakeholder Engagement project: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • VT HCBS Quality Measures Guide for people receiving HCBS and families • CAHPS® Survey Guide for people receiving HCBS and families • Vermont HCBS Quality Measures Guide 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need to make guides more accessible. • Need to create reports for Vermont attitudes toward disability and Community Needs Assessment.
3. Partner with people with disabilities and others to do more research.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HCBS Stakeholder Engagement project was partnership with DD Network organizations focused on listening sessions of people receiving HCBS. Ben Wimett was project coordinator and HCBS recipient. • Have first 2 CDCI Faculty Fellows to support more disability-focused research. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expand CDCI Faculty Fellows. • Create network of faculty focused on disability at UVM. • Support more student research.

GOAL	PROGRESS	WHAT'S NEXT?
<p>4. Secure new funding through university and community partnerships.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HCBS project only new project. • Supporting two new grants for special education faculty at UVM. 	<p>Planning grant focused on Think College programs around U.S.</p>