



Dannel P. Malloy
Governor

State of Connecticut Department of Developmental Services

DDS

Morna A. Murray, J.D.
Commissioner

Jordan A. Scheff
Deputy Commissioner

July 2015

The Department of Developmental Services (DDS) Voluntary Services Program (VSP) is being renamed the DDS Behavioral Services Program (BSP).

For historical context, the Department of Children and Families (DCF) VSP Program used to be called the "Non-Committed Treatment Program" to differentiate from children who were "committed" to that Department. The name was changed by DCF to the Voluntary Services Program about 20 years ago. When DDS first began taking children into the DDS VSP program, they were children who were eligible for DCF's VSP who had intellectual disability. In time, DDS began accepting children directly into DDS's VSP and for those children and their families; the issue of "non-committed" or "voluntary" was no longer relevant.

During the 2015 legislative session, DDS was approached by legislators who were concerned that the name "Voluntary" Services was confusing and didn't truly reflect the program's intent. The DDS Voluntary Services Program (VSP) supports children and adolescents who are eligible for DDS and have emotional, behavioral, or mental health needs that substantially interfere with or limit the child's functioning in the family or community activities. DDS VSP has been primarily designed as an in-home support program that assists families to receive the support they need to raise their children at home. With a key emphasis on behavioral strategies or other behavioral supports, the name "Behavioral Services Program" (BSP) was chosen as better reflecting its current services. The name change to BSP was reflected in the recent budget passed by the legislature and signed by Governor Dannel P. Malloy.

Although the name has officially already been changed to BSP in the few statutory references that exist, DDS is undertaking an analysis of documents and related processes where the name change also needs to be reflected. This analysis will take some time and the roll out of the new name will not be immediate. It is important to note that the new name of the program is not intended to reflect a change in the way the program operates. Any references to DDS's VSP will continue to mean the same thing as is meant by DDS's BSP program. For the time being the program names may be used interchangeably.

We hope that this information is helpful and will share additional information regarding the timeline for changing the name in DDS-related documents as it becomes available.

Phone: 860 418-6000 ♦ TDD 860 418-6079 ♦ Fax: 860 418-6001
460 Capitol Avenue ♦ Hartford, Connecticut 06106
www.ct.gov/dds ♦ e-mail: ddsct.co@ct.gov
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