

## State Rehabilitation Council Board Members, October 2024

Name	Board Role	Affiliations
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<b>Angela Allard</b>	<b>Business, Industry, Labor Representative</b>	<b>Gifford Health Care</b>
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Angela Allard has been working in the Human Resources field for the past 12 years. She currently serves as the Talent Manager at Gifford Health Care. Her career has provided her with years of experience working with management to select candidates and because of her tenor at the same organization she has observed what attributes lead individuals to be successful in their positions.

<b>Andrea Bacchi</b>	<b>Current or Former VR Applicant or Recipient</b>	<b>Think Dynamic Digital</b>
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Andrea E. Bacchi is the Founder and CEO of Think Dynamic Digital, LLC, specializing in Digital Marketing and Business Solutions with a focus on social media and email marketing for small to medium-sized businesses across Vermont, New York, New England and beyond. She also serves as a Marketing Consultant with the Vermont Small Business Development Center (VTSBDC) and as Marketing & Business Development Manager for her mother's specialty cookie company, Vermont Moonlight Cookies. Outside of work, Andrea is an active volunteer with a few organizations, one being the Vermont State Rehabilitation Council and a passionate disability advocate. Living with hearing disability, hyperacusis and pain from acoustic trauma, she mentors others with disabilities through HireAbility Vermont, helping them build a strong digital presence to secure remote jobs or become self-employed.

<b>Courtney Blasius</b>	<b>Current or Former VR Applicant or Recipient</b>	
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Courtney is a Winooski resident and serves on the community services commission there. As a UVM graduate, she strongly identifies with Chittenden County and appreciates the opportunities and connections which have prevailed since she acquired a disability. She has committed herself to consistently finding answers, and/or new paths to projects goals.

<b>Sherrie Brunelle</b>	<b>Client Assistance Program Representative</b>	<b>Vermont Legal Aid</b>
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Sherrie has been an advocate for individuals with disabilities, including children with disabilities, for more than 40 years. Her advocacy started with her children and the children of other families in need of special education services. This advocacy led to a career change. After 15 years in nursing, she became a paralegal with the Disability Law Project at VT Legal Aid. In her 39 years there, she has provided advocacy in education, health, public benefits domains. Since 2016, she has supported individuals with disabilities navigating the vocational rehabilitation system through the Client Assistance Program (CAP).

<b>Nick Caputo</b>	<b>Business, Industry, Labor Representative</b>	<b>Vermont State Parks</b>
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Dominick (Nick) Caputo is a Regional Manager for Vermont State Parks, where he oversees the operations and management of 20 northeastern Vermont State Parks. After spending more than two decades immersed in the field of Parks and Recreation, he has taken a lead role in working with internal and external organizations to provide greater employment opportunities to people with disabilities, as well as to identify and address various other obstacles to employment.

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**Diane Dalmasse**

**Designated State Unit Director**

**HireAbility**

Diane has been committed for most of her adult life to leveling the playing field for Vermonters with disabilities so they can work and participate in their communities.

**Gina D'Ambrosio**

**Community Rehabilitation Program Service Provider**

**Howard Center**

Gina began her work in 1996 in the Chittenden County J.O.B.S Program through Spectrum Youth and Family Services, transitioning as the Program Coordinator as a Howard Center employee in 2005. The program works in collaboration with HireAbility and serves 16-22 year olds with mental health challenges in retaining employment and building independent living skills. She oversees a staff of 7 and supervises UVM MSW interns in their field placement with the J.O.B.S. Program. Prior to her work at Howard Center, Gina worked in the Los Angeles area with at-risk youth as well as being employed as a third-grade teacher. Gina holds a Bachelor's Degree in Psychology, and has been trained in various trauma-informed care frameworks, co-occurring disorders, and adolescent brain development. Over the past 25 years, Gina has served on the Board of Directors for a School-to-Work non-profit organization, facilitates a monthly case consultation team for transition age youth, and is part of a first-episode psychosis consultation team.

**Laura Flint**

**Disability Group Representative**

**Agency of Human  
Services**

Laura is an experienced evidence-based supported employment evaluator/trainer with over 30 years of experience working with Vermont's community mental health system. She enjoys partnering with diverse stakeholder groups to improve statewide employment outcomes and ensuring services meet the needs of people with lived experience. She is currently the Senior Evidence-Based Practices Evaluator and the Project Director on the Certified Community-Based Integrated Health Center (CCBHC) grant for the Department of Mental Health in collaboration with the Department of Health. (CCBHCs are required to offer supported employment to be certified.) Her experience utilizing quality improvement and assurance strategies that capitalize on existing strengths to improve capacity and customer-centered outcomes makes her a good fit for the Performance Review Committee on the SRC. Most importantly, she is passionate about ensuring effective person-centered vocational services lead to careers and thrives on continuous learning. She lives in Waterbury Center with her family and enjoys everything about Vermont – including mud season!

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<b>Helena Kehne</b>	<b>Statewide Independent Living Council Representative</b>	<b>Vermont Center for Independent Living</b>
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Helena has a passion for helping others explore opportunities and lead their best lives. I am an advocate to the core and work in human services, disability, human and civil rights, workforce development, vocational services, human resources and advocacy. In addition, I have a strong interest in health and wellness. I am an entrepreneurial, curious motivated spirit. Who cares deeply about my well-being as well as others and the world live in. My curiosity drives me to explore unique ways in which, I can help improve and promote positive change, wherever I go. Another strength I have is in building connections, expanding my networks and broadening my horizons to go above and beyond in life. Independence is very valuable to me, as is balancing that with team based and social skills. I am a jack of all trades who keeps an open mind, clear vision, sound judgement while maintaining deep curiosity and love for continuing learning in life.

<b>Cari Kelley</b>	<b>Business, Industry, Labor Representative</b>	<b>United Way</b>
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Cari Kelley is the Workplace Donor Relations Manager at the United Way of Northwest Vermont. She works with businesses directly and helps them with their Workplace Campaigns, as well as Community Engagement efforts. Part of those efforts is the ability to offer Mental Health First Aid as a Certified Trainer, and help businesses offer this important educational opportunity to their employees. She is also Certified to teach Mental Health First Aid for Older Adults, which gives strategies for those supporting older adults in their lives. She is also Certified in teaching QPR (Question, Persuade, Refer) which is a suicide prevention program. With all this training, she has been able to work with local trainers to design a broader presentation on Mental Health Literacy. Cari has been with the United Way of Northwest Vermont for seven years. Prior to joining the team, Cari was the Executive Director of Leadership Champlain and the Leadership Development and Workforce Education Manager at the Lake Champlain Chamber for ten years. Cari became a Mental Health First Aid Trainer through her life experience of being the sole support for her son who lives with severe anxiety and depression and has direct ties to her passion for the community. She is the current Board Chair for the Franklin County Chamber of Commerce and the State Rehabilitation Council, where her daughter, Jacquie, joins her to do this important work. She is also a Board Member of Sail Beyond Cancer. She holds a B.A. in Business Administration and a Certificate in Human Relations and Organization Development from Champlain College. She lives in Grand Isle with her partner, Greg, and has two grown children and three stepchildren, and let's not forget Tank, her 130-pound rescue Black Lab, and menagerie of kitties. She loves to travel (and owns her own Travel Agency), plays guitar, has a love of cooking, and knits when she has time.

<b>Jacqueline Kelley</b>	<b>Disability Group Representative</b>	<b>Dept of Health</b>
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Jacquie is a wheelchair user who holds a master's degree in Disability Studies with a focus on emergency management from the University of Leeds in the UK. She has been a disability advocate since she was a child. She works at the Vermont Department of Health in the St. Albans local office and coordinates the Northwest Vermont Medical Reserve Corps (MRC). She has brought her education and lived experience to her role at the Health Department and MRC to introduce Vermont to access and functional needs (AFN). She offers educational opportunities to staff and volunteers on the ways disabled people and others with AFN are disproportionately impacted by emergencies and disasters, and ways to incorporate AFN and CMIST resources into training, planning and response.

## **State Rehabilitation Council Board Members, October 2024**

**Bill Meirs**

**Business, Industry, Labor Representative**

**SOV Human Resources**

Bill Meirs has led recruitment process and strategy initiatives at global consulting and high-tech companies. He joined Keurig Green Mountain Coffee in 2011 and relocated to Vermont in 2012 working as a Talent Acquisition Partner for Keurig's Corporate Functions Group. He came to work at the State of Vermont Department of Human Resources in May 2016 to implement a state strategy on how they attract, hire, and retain top talent as well as partnering with various internal and external organizations to attract a more diverse population of candidates and remove barriers to employment. In 2019, Bill was promoted to Talent Acquisition Manager. Bill holds degrees in Business Administration and Web Development.

**Brandy Reynolds**

**VR Counselor**

**HireAbility**

Brandy is a Vocational Rehabilitation professional who currently holds a BA in Health and Human Services and certificate in Youth Development. She is pursuing her Masters in Rehabilitation Counseling at this time. She enjoys working with youth, specifically, and hopes to continue to do this impactful work for as long as she is able.

**Nancy Richards**

**Parent Training and Information Center  
Representative**

**Vermont Family Network**

Nancy has been a Family Support Consultant (Education) for over 16 years with Vermont Family Network. She provides support to families of children and youth with special needs, professionals, and others regarding the education system, community resources and related topics.

**Ana Russo**

**State Educational Agency**

**Agency of Education**

Ana Russo comes with a background in teaching Elementary, Literacy and English Language Learners in the inclusive classroom. Ana recently worked as a Youth Employment Specialist with VABIR supporting students attain competitive integrated employment and gain vocational skills. Ana is the Inclusion and Accessibility Coordinator for the Agency of Education.

**Tara Shatney**

**VR Counselor**

**HireAbility**

Tara is honored to serve as a member of the State Rehabilitation Council, working toward advancing the rights and opportunities of individuals living with disabilities in Vermont. As an associate VR counselor with a background in various human services roles, including non-profit community action and child protection social work, she has gained a deep awareness of the challenges faced by individuals with disabilities in our society. She is passionate about advocating for inclusivity, accessibility, and equal opportunities for all.

## **State Rehabilitation Council Board Members, October 2024**

**Laura Siegel**

**Disability Group Representative**

**Deaf, Hard of Hearing,  
DeafBlind Services**

Laura has been working for DAIL for over 3 years as their Director of DHHDB Services. She does a lot of advocacy work on various topics ranging from assistive technology to consultation to ensure the population she serves maintain exceptional quality of life in our state. Her passion is fueled by her own firsthand experiences.

**Emily Wagner**

**Community Rehabilitation Program Service Provider**

**Community College of VT**

Emily Wagner (she/her) is the Program Manager for the Vermont Career Advancement Project at the Community College of Vermont. She has a background in public health, prevention education, and advocacy and believes strongly in building systems that provide students with opportunities for personal and professional growth. Emily holds a BA in Biology from Colby College and MPH from Tufts University and spends as much time outside as possible.

**Amanda Wheeler**

**State Workforce Development Board**

**Office of the Governor**

Amanda Wheeler is a lifelong Vermonter and currently works as a Special Assistant to the Governor in Governor Scott's Office. In addition to this role, she also serves as the Interim Director of the State Workforce Development Board.