

Nomination for Excellence in Leadership

Mary Moulton, Washington County Mental Health Services Executive Director (ret.)

Mary Moulton retired in June, 2024 from Washington County Mental Health Services after a 35 year career serving not just Washington County but all of Vermont. Mary is a champion for pushing recognition for the needs of vulnerable Vermonters. She testified at the Legislature countless times, made late night calls to Legislative leaders, met with Vermont's Congressional delegation on a moment's notice and listened to what clients wanted and needed, continuously evolving with the current crisis or situation. Mary empowered those around her – her senior staff and her Designated Agency peers – to speak up for what they believed in, to forge ahead when faced with seemingly insurmountable obstacles and to never stop believing in the ability to effectuate change.

During her tenure with WCMHS, Mary was an outstanding mental health leader, highly respected by her peers, legislative leaders, human services providers and the WCMHS community. She has been chosen yearly by her peers to represent the Vermont Designated and Special Services agencies in testifying before the Vermont Legislature. She has served on multiple health care system planning boards and committees. Mary also brought forth the notion of first responder cross training (over a decade ago) on responding to mental health crises, an idea that is now the well-established Team Two training for crisis counselors, police, EMTs and dispatchers. With Mary as Executive Director, WCMHS continued to be regularly spotlighted as an example of best practices; WCMHS is the first Vermont Designated Agency to twice earn status as a Center of Excellence.