



Springfield

390 River Street
Springfield, VT 05156
886-4500

Hartford

49 School Street
Hartford, VT 05047
295-3031

Windsor

P.O. Box 45
Windsor, VT 05089
674-2539

Bellows Falls

One Hospital Court
Bellows Falls, VT 05101
463-3947

Brattleboro

51 Fairview Street
Brattleboro, VT 05301
254-6028

Brattleboro DS

29 Elm Street
Brattleboro, VT 05301
257-5537

HCRS Connection

1-888-888-5144

Emergency

1-800-622-4235

www.hcrs.org



*A member of the
Vermont Council of
Developmental and
Mental Health Services*

May 6, 2015

To whom it may concern,

This letter is written in support of the Windham County Sheriff's Office's proposed concept of constructing and operating a multi-disciplinary criminal justice support center. Health Care and Rehabilitation Services (HCRS) is a non-profit, state designated agency serving over 4,000 individuals in Windsor and Windham counties each year. HCRS offers five major programs for individuals and families with mental health, developmental disabilities, and substance abuse needs.

HCRS recognizes there is a need in Vermont to address the number of people incarcerated in the state's correctional system. Furthermore there is a need to address the increasing number of individuals with mental illness in jail. We also recognize there is an obligation to properly prepare and support those who are transitioning from jail or prison back to the community in a safe and comprehensive manner. Sheriff Clark's concept of an integrated support center will address these issues as well as support the community, courts, state and federal partners and social service agencies in the region.

The Windham County Sheriff's Office and Sheriff Keith Clark have a proven track record of innovations to address criminal justice and mental health systems needs in Vermont. Sheriff Clark was instrumental in the development of the police social worker program in southern Vermont. The Windham County Sheriff's Office was the first sheriff's office in Vermont to transport persons in need of mental health treatment without using restraints. Sheriff Clark is currently spearheading an electronic monitoring pilot program to reduce the detained population in Vermont's correctional system.

We look forward to working with Sheriff Clark on this exciting and innovative approach to addressing the critical needs in Windham County and the State.

Sincerely,

George Karabakakis, Ph.D.
Chief Executive Officer