



Legislative and Policy Training Overview

VT LEND 2014-2015

It is the belief of VT LEND that policy, advocacy and legislative work are critical aspects of leadership. Clinicians and families are often the first to recognize that a 'policy' or practice is interfering in their work to serve families and/or raise children impacted by disability. Many clinicians are daunted by the policy arena and struggle to understand how to effect systems change. It is the aim of VT LEND to demystify the policy, advocacy and legislative world and for everyone to see themselves as systems change agents.

We provide a variety of experiences in the policy, advocacy and legislative arena that span the year and build upon each other. Each component is embedded in the program (seminar, leadership discussions, State Legislative Day, and Congressional Delegation visits) and Trainees and Fellows are guided in the experience.

Didactic: Includes 2 classes in the Fall (Introduction to Policy and Healthcare Financing), a 2 hour Topics in Leadership discussion focused on Policy and Legislative planning, an advocacy workshop, and a policy assignment culminating in teams writing a policy fact sheet on some emerging policy issue in the disability community in Vermont. In the spring, Trainees and Fellows will develop a policy brief based on the fact sheets that will be presented to the appropriate administrative and legislative leaders.

Experiential: a full day at the Statehouse, visits to local congressional offices, and Disability Policy Seminar in DC (optional). Trainees and Fellows are guided to research and follow a policy issue and are prepared to discuss it with state and national legislators.