

# Act 264 Advisory Board Meeting Minutes

Friday, April 26, 2024

9:30-12:00

**Board Members Present:** Cinn Smith, Megean Martin (left at 11:40), Heather Freeman, Matt Wolf, Alice Maynard, Doug Norford (left at 11:45), Laurie Mulhern (joined at 9:50)

**Regrets:** Cheryl Huntley, Kris Francoeur-Holsman

**State Staff:** Cheryl Wilcox, Beth Sausville (9:30-11:00)

**Members of the Public:** Amy Lincoln-Moore, Sandi Yandow (9:45-10:34)

Looking for information about Act 264? Please go here: <https://ifs.vermont.gov/docs/sit>

Agenda	Discussion Notes	Next Steps
<p>1. Approve March meeting minutes.</p> <p>2. Plan for May meeting.</p> <p>3. Overview of meetings for this year—and plan joint SIT and Act 264 Board in addition to October meeting</p>	<p>1. March meeting minutes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Minutes were accepted with Alice’s edits accepted.</li> <li>b. Cinn moved to pass.</li> <li>c. Heather seconded.</li> <li>d. No discussion.</li> <li>e. Matt abstained because he wasn’t present at the March meeting.</li> <li>f. All others unanimously approved.</li> </ul> <p>2. May Meeting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Mourning Fox is confirmed for May from 10:00-10:45. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Questions for Cheryl to send to Fox. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. How is the embedded social work program with Vermont State police going?</li> <li>2. What are the regional differences in how embedded social workers are utilized?</li> <li>3. For folks experiencing mental health challenges, what training and support are police getting and how are the embedded social workers helping to shift responses?</li> <li>4. What kind of training do the embedded social workers receive before working with law enforcement?</li> <li>5. How has the policy academy been updated in recent years? How many hours of training do they get and what is included in the training specific to working with children and adults with mental illness? (is there any handout about what is in the training?)</li> <li>6. What is the best way for community members to connect with local PDs on how</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p>Cheryl will send questions to Mourning Fox for May meeting and see if he has any written responses to submit ahead of time.</p>

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	<p style="text-align: center;">best to support individuals that may have special needs?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">7. Do you have recommendations of who to talk to at Corrections or Police?</p> <p>Discussion about crisis plans:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Megean shared that it would be helpful at CSP trainings to teach counselors etc. when developing crisis plans get releases for PD/Emerg response and provide them with info on the kiddo and crisis concerns, best way to supports to help prevent a more concerning situation.</li> <li>• Cinn encourages having multiple copies of the crisis plans from a CSP for families to share with law enforcement or first responders.</li> <li>• Note that the board may want to consider some of this to be a recommendation for next year’s System of Care report. Flag within the CSP to note this.</li> </ul> <p style="margin-left: 40px;">b. Cheryle won’t be at the May meeting—plan for the meeting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li style="margin-left: 80px;">i. Matt will facilitate.</li> <li style="margin-left: 80px;">ii. Megean Martin will take notes.</li> <li style="margin-left: 80px;">iii. Regrets for the May meeting from Heather Freeman.</li> </ul> <p><b>3. Notetaking at future meetings</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Share among folks at the meetings.</li> <li>b. One hour at a time for notetaker.</li> <li>c. Determine what is important to capture.</li> <li>d. A bit more than just decisions for notes made for referencing afterwards.</li> </ul>	
<b>Operating Guidelines Review</b>	<p>Heather Freeman, Laurie Mulhern and Alice Maynard met to review and make edits to the Operating Guidelines.</p> <p>Today they shared with the full Board and made additional edits.</p>	<p>Review updated version attached to meeting minutes</p>
<b>Annual LIT Survey Planning and Discussion</b>	<p>Discuss more next month. Timeline:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Finalize survey at May meeting</li> <li>• Send out to LIT Coordinators after May meeting</li> <li>• Return surveys by September</li> </ul>	<p>Cheryle will send what was sent last year to review and</p>

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		discuss more next month.
Discussion and planning around recommendations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ DCF Data system: not having heard back from DCF does the board want our support or want to leave matters as they stand.</li> <li>➤ Start lining up department people with whom to discuss what is being done on some of the Board’s recommendations. For example, what is happening re the underlined portions of our recommendations?               <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. VDH: Dr. Levine and Deputy Commissioner Kelly Dougherty to discuss #6. —schedule June or July</li> <li>2. Agency of Education State Special Education Director, Heather Willis-Doxie—schedule for July</li> <li>3. Agency of Education Secretary—schedule for fall</li> <li>4. Department Of Mental Health—schedule for Dec.</li> <li>5. Corrections—TBD</li> <li>6. Chief of Police Association—TBD</li> <li>7. DAIL Commissioner—November</li> </ol> <p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>System of Care Recommendations</u></b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Increase workforce retention and recruitment efforts across schools, mental health, developmental disabilities, and healthcare.</li> <li>2. <u>Create more community-based programs and high-level care in Vermont for children regardless of custody status or what department they are working with at the Agency of Human Services.</u></li> <li>4. Improve Data and Information Systems.               <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Invest in the child welfare data system.</li> <li>b. <i>During 2024, the Act 264 Board will investigate ways to increase a consistent, efficient, and accurate method of tracking Coordinated Services Plan data.</i></li> <li>c. Aim to streamline applications across the Agency of Human Services departments with access to information in the system so families and staff aren’t repeating information and overwhelmed by repetitive paperwork.</li> </ol> </li> <li>5. Focus on affordable housing for children, youth and families and staff.</li> </ol> </li> </ul>	Beth left at 11:00 and the DCF data system did not get discussed. Cheryle sent an email to Beth for updates.

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	<p>6. Continue prevention efforts to address <u>substance use and increase treatment options for youth in Vermont</u>.</p> <p>7. <u>Continue to focus on social and emotional learning, awareness, and inclusion across agencies and in schools</u> to reduce anxiety, increase emotional wellness, and promote connectedness in children and youth.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Increase childcare and community opportunities for young children birth to 8 years old and their families to support play for social and emotional learning.</li> <li>b. Have more community spaces for children and youth to practice and live these concepts by ensuring their access to youth centers, sports, various group and team activities, afterschool programming, arts, interest-based experiences.</li> <li>c. Increase a sense of connection and belonging for historically marginalized children, youth, and families.</li> <li>d. <u>Agency coordination to promote staff training through The Collaborative for Advancing Social and Emotional Learning: <a href="https://casel.org/">https://casel.org/</a> and trauma-responsive practices</u></li> </ul>	
Wrap Up and Next Steps	<p>Agenda Items to discuss for May meeting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Laurie Mulhern, Board member, will present on Child Protection Registry work undertaken by DCF over the past year. <i>15 minutes</i></li> <li>• Ways to increase a consistent, efficient, and accurate method of tracking Coordinated Services Plan data.</li> <li>• Development and support of Vermont’s Strategic Plan for Suicide Prevention. Support of this plan may be considered as part of our recommendations.</li> <li>• Annual LIT Survey Planning and Discussion</li> </ul>	
Public Comment	<p>Amy Lincoln Moore: hears from family members around the state that after hours they are told to call screeners and when mental health is contacted, they say to meet at the ED or call police. Every region now has Mobile Response through their Designated Agency. Link to information can be found here: <a href="https://gethelpvt.org/">https://gethelpvt.org/</a></p> <p>DMH has a Director, Jeremy Therrien. He is hiring for a Coordinator to do outreach and communication with DAs and the community.</p>	