

Act 264 Advisory Board Meeting Minutes

Friday, June 28, 2024

9:30-12:00

Board Members Present: Cinn Smith, Matt Wolf, Alice Maynard, Doug Norford (left at 11:45), Laurie Mulhern, Cheryl Huntley, Diane Bugbee (arrived 10:45)

Regrets:, Kris Francoeur-Holsman, Meagan Martin, Heather Freeman

State Staff: Beth Sausville

Members of the Public: Nancy Richards, Amy Lincoln-Moore, Sandi Yandow

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

Agenda	Discussion Notes	Next Steps
<p>1. Approve May meeting minutes.</p> <p>2. Determine questions for Dr. Levine and</p> <p>3. Heather Willis-Doxie for July meeting.</p>	<p>1. May meeting minutes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Minutes were accepted with Alice’s edits accepted. b. Alice moved to pass. c. Doug seconded. d. No discussion. e. All others unanimously approved. <p>2. Questions for Dr. Levine: <i>Because we have only 30 minutes of face to face meeting time, we invite you to submit written answers to questions 1-4 by July 19.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What do you see as your top three focus areas for 2025? 2. What do you believe is the top accomplishment of VDH during this past year? 3. The media have been reporting an uptick in Covid cases, hospitalizations, and deaths, especially in congregate settings. Do you have any comments about this or news about potential new vaccines? 4. Are we making any progress in the substance abuse arena, especially with children and adolescents in (a) prevention and (b) treatment? <p><i>We would prefer to discuss at least questions 5-7 in person. However, as you are always prepared and succinct in your discussions with us, feel free to move any of questions 1-4 into the face to face section if you believe we can still cover all the information requested.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 5. What do you see as the major pros and cons of your department’s move from Burlington to Waterbury? 6. The new design of the VDH website is quite attractive. However, we are extremely disappointed not to find information about the fact that a child with a disability and multi-agency needs has a legal right to a Coordinated Services Plan. We have specifically asked you and your department for years to help inform families about this right, and you personally have left at least one of these meetings promising to make it happen. However, even if one already knows the magic words of “Coordinated Services Plan” and searches for it on your website, there 	<p>Cheryle will send questions to Dr. Levine & Heather Willis-Doxie for July meeting.</p>

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	<p>is no information. Why is this so difficult for your department to do more than 30 years since the passage of Act 264?</p> <p>7. The concept of the <i>Blueprint for Health</i> is commendable. We are wondering what is being done to coordinate with mental health in 3 specific areas.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Is there an attempt to create a parallel system of care to mental health's system of care (as opposed to a joint system of care) by hiring mental health clinicians in health clinics? b. What efforts at coordination are being made with school health clinics? c. What efforts at coordination are being made around prevention of mental health problems as a public health issue versus treatment? The issue is much broader than suicide prevention. <p>3. Questions for Heather Willis-Doxie: Would like to begin with a brief description of who we are as a Board. Ask for a brief description of her background experience.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What do you see as the top three areas of needed focus for AOE in 2025? 2. What do you see as the top accomplishment of AOE in this past year? 3. Re the Special Education Hotline: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. What are staffing numbers? b. How is AOE promoting the use of this resource? 4. Re family support: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. How does AOE promote the use of Coordinated Services Plans (CSPs)? b. Does AOE have any data to track the use of this legal entitlement for eligible students? 5. Does a family have a right to move their child to a different school? If so, what are the guidelines around this issue? 6. Re meeting the high end needs of students: There has been a shift away from 1:1 supports. What has the shift been to in its place? <p>4. SOC 2025 Recommendations</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. A potential 2025 recommendation from the board to SIT is: Who and/or what team is responsible for the care and feeding, and reporting, of the local system of care for children and families? b. Do we ask the DMH's State Program Standing Committee for Children and Families to tell us what they see as the three biggest issues facing our interagency system of care? c. Is there a DCF related family group we can ask? 	

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	<p>d. We are interested in getting more diverse perspectives (not just MH) on how the interagency system of care is doing.</p> <p>5. Plan for the July meeting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Matt will facilitate. b. Need to determine who will take notes. <p>6. Notetaking at future meetings</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Share among folks at the meetings. b. One hour at a time for notetaker. c. Determine what is important to capture. d. A bit more than just decisions for notes made for referencing afterwards. 	
<p>LIT Extravaganza Planning from SIT Discussion</p>	<p>Thoughts on LIT Extravaganza:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A quick flash survey question about what teams would like to see at the LIT Extravaganza! 2. Going back to basics about CSPs and Act 264 due to a lot of staff turnover. 3. Discussion of how meeting facilitation impacts effectiveness of the CSP meetings and planning. 4. Training video – VFF overview of CSPs and SIT video of meeting facilitation. 5. Lead off the day with a summary of CSPs and Act 264 to level the playing field for everyone – whether it is one of the videos or a speaker. 6. Working toward consistency across regions. Currently there are many differences across regions depending on size and how long staff have been in their positions. 7. The vision and the hope of the law is (a) coming together in family/student centered collaboration, as well as (b) looking at improving the system of care. All the different roles of various participants tend to lend to one focus or the other. How do we help them balance the two and clarify the two functions? 	
<p>Annual LIT Survey Planning and Discussion</p>	<p>Discussed questions from last month. Timeline:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Send out to LIT Coordinators. 2. Return surveys by September 6, 2024 (so it can be included in the LIT Extravaganza). 	<p>Cheryle to send the week of July 8th</p>

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Discussion around Parent Representative work	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Concern was expressed around Parent Representative role historically being able to be chosen by LIT, and now is being decided, and changed, by an outside (of the LIT) organization. Some LITs have had the same person for many years. ➤ Concern expressed about how notification was communicated to those in the role, in the LITs, and in the system of care. ➤ Talked about both the personal and technical aspects of this process. ➤ We need to be a part of the ongoing process of renewal and keeping the work going. The Board is concerned with making sure the Parent Representative role continues and continues to be funded going forward. So we want to make sure we are helping to spur the grant/role on past the one-year grant term currently awarded. 	
Wrap Up and Next Steps	<p>Agenda Items to discuss for July meeting:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Future recommendation from the Board that: Funding for the Parent Representative role should not be the sole responsibility of the Department of Mental Health. It should be funded jointly by all the entities legally responsible. 2. Continue discussion on Parent Representative, addressing current concerns in the notes above. 3. Laurie Mulhern, Board member, will present on Child Protection Registry work undertaken by DCF over the past year. <i>15 minutes</i> 4. Ways to increase a consistent, efficient, and accurate method of tracking Coordinated Services Plan data. 5. Development and support of Vermont's <i>Strategic Plan for Suicide Prevention</i>. Support of this plan may be considered as part of our recommendations. 	
Public Comment	<p>Amy Lincoln Moore: Appreciates getting back to the basics, and hopes the departments involved know the basics about CSPs by now, but the facilitating guide maybe should be highlighted at the LIT Extravaganza and would be helpful in moving the work forward.</p>	

