

LIT Connections
February 15, 2023

I define connection as the energy that exists between people when they feel seen, heard, and valued; when they can give and receive without judgement; and when they derive sustenance and strength from the relationship. ~ Brene Brown



Present: Cheryle Wilcox (DMH) and Beth Sausville (Family Services)-SIT Co-Chairs, Donna Sherlaw (parent rep), Marlene Wein (parent rep), Matt Schibley (HCRS), Deb Forrett (CSHN), Kerri Duquette-Hoffman (AHS), Olivia Gaudreau (Family Services), Maria White (Children's Integrated Services), Chris Mitchell (AHS), Kheya Ganguly (AHS-DMH), Renee Weeks (AHS), Diane Bugbee (Vermont Family Network), Jessica Coleman (NFI), Alice Maynard (Act 264 Board), Cinn Smith (parent rep/VFFCMH/Act 264 Board), Suzanne Smith (VFN), Bill Sugarman (DAIL-Voc Rehab), Kristin Prior (AHS)

Reviewed System of Care Report that was released last week: You can find it [here](#)

Themes/Discussion:

- It is very important that we support peers in training, sustainable pay and offer childcare for parents if they are interested and want to do training
- Need housing and childcare if we are going to recruit folks from out of state
- In June, Vermont Family Network with Kheya Ganguly as presenter--will be doing a webinar for families on trauma and resilience

- How do we ensure when a youth/child goes away for support that when they return we have the community supports in place to help them and their family? Supports after school are needed.
- We need to start gathering equity data and reporting that in our system of care report.
- Would also love to see AOE/DMH commissioner's put out joint statements/policies that support SB6, too many school's districts are trying to create their own mental health services and cutting out DAs entirely. Discussed what schools get with a DA school-based mental health professional, access to the system of care, should a youth need residential the DA also is the entity that determines medical necessity for a referral to residential.
- While reviewing the Act 264 Board recommendation we wanted to make sure folks know that the Rutland training created is already posted on the IFS website at: <https://ifs.vermont.gov/docs/sit>
- Comment from Donna Sherlaw: *I would love to see the LIT PR role become more of a pt/ft position with benefits as there is a need and it would provide more time for us to be at meetings and become/be seen as a valued member of the teams. This may prevent as much turnover. Finally, we need to keep the lived experience as a priority in the job script.*
- How do we ensure finding information on Act 264, coordination of services, easily accessible to families—websites are good but not every family will search websites.
- Documents also need to be in plain language. Audio files. Need more than just written form. Different languages.
- And ensure competency with this information with all school/DA/DCF staff. Families get this information primarily from us, unfortunately it's us that give incorrect information.
- Instagram, Facebook, Tik Tok—putting information out in other medias. Direct mailing.
- As the last agenda item today, we went over the SOC accomplishments that have occurred this year!