

Youth Services Advisory Council Meeting Minutes

Date: November 9, 2021

Time: 2:00-3:00

Location: Zoom Meeting

Present: Cheryle Wilcox, Sara Chesbrough, Holly Morehouse, Kheya Ganguly, Brianne Smith, Matt Wolf, Lindsey Halman, Martha Frank, Amanda Churchill, Lindy Boudreau, Tom Delaney, Richard Tulikangas, Tara Howe, Kate Luscomb, Tyler Allen, Mitch Barron

Agenda Item	Discussion Notes	Next Steps
<p>Welcome back!!! Updates from this past year</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DMH: New leadership as of July 1st-new Commissioner and Deputy Commissioner. Standing up mobile response in Rutland as of Oct. 1, severe workforce shortages across mental health and developmental • Kate Luscomb, Behavioral Health Care Manager, DVHA: does inpatient psychiatric admissions for her role and there have been significant challenges with youth/children • Matt Wolf, transitioned from the Vermont Federation to Vermont Afterschool as the Youth Voice Coordinator. • Lindy Boudreau, Family Services, Juvenile Justice Director: system of care is limited-feeling the impact of residential programs, closure of Woodside, youth with significant acuity and needs. • Tom Delaney, Vermont Child Health Improvement Program: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ program evaluator for the CDC comprehensive suicide grant and sees potential for intersection with YSAC ○ Evaluator for CHILD grant-DAs working with primary care provider offices to strengthen the integration of pediatric care and mental health care. • Tara Howe and Rich Tulikangas, Voc Rehab: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ VR made a huge shift and now has 26 VR counselors serving youth 14-24 (used to be only youth in school). ○ Started a summer career exploration program. 144 HS students statewide on IEPs and 504s completed the summer program, 110 employers, 34 students offered employment during or after the Summer Career Exploration Program (SCEP). 	<p>Sara sent out our group overview and information to reorient all of us to our mission, goals and membership</p>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Have a new 5-year grant to advance work on developing career pathways for youth and adults with disabilities. ● Martha Frank, Vermont Family Network: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Have heard from many families that this has been a trying time for families for mental health issues and access to schools. One of the upsides of this past 1 ½ is the ability to connect through virtual means. ○ VFN has been very involved in the interagency core team and the youth summit. 	
<p>Youth Voice and Health Equity! Presentation by VISTA, Brienne Smith, who worked with youth this summer on recommendations on how to improve to access to primary health care, mental health supports, and third space activities, particularly for youth who identify as BIPOC, LGBTQ, and/or with special needs.</p>	<p>Brienne Smith: Substance Use prevention VISTA.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Partnered with Vermont Raise. Reached out to as many young people as possible to discuss health equity. 41 youth participated with about 30 in each meeting-almost every county in VT was represented. ● They had one meeting a week for 6 weeks ● Common barriers-lack of diversity, language barriers, lack of quality relationships, lack of knowledge about services ● Recommendations included mentoring programs, offering trainings, open more small clinics and urgent care, support third spaces, have more quality online counselors, offer counselors in schools, peer groups should be created, transportation highlighted as a need. ● There is an application for the State Advisory Group which can be found here 	
<p>Update from Kheya Ganguly, Director of Trauma Prevention and Resilience Development, DMH</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Kheya was previously the Asst. Director of Youth and Family Services at United Counseling Services. She began in her new role on June 1st. ● Her focus is currently on getting training opportunities out to staff and partners on trauma, resilience, equity. ● Training community action agencies, presenting at VT Afterschool later this week, creating equitable trauma-responsive agencies. ● Castleton is starting a trauma program 	

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kheya is a resource for trauma, resilience, racial equity-please reach out! Kheya.ganguly@vermont.gov 	
<p>Where do we go from here? What do we want to focus on given what we've experienced over the past year and a half?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We've been meeting every other month and the steering committee met on the other months to plan the agenda. How do we want to proceed? • We might want to ask what do we feel we have the bandwidth to take on? • Do we want to use this meeting for updates to connect and share what is going on? Consider all that everyone is managing and balancing still—updates could be a good way to rebuild and assess over the next few months where we want to head. • Question about relooking at our data and outcomes—data helps us understand the realm of youth services, where we have the need, is helpful for future grants. 	<p>Decision: Meet every other month</p> <p>Sara, Cheryle and Holly will meet on the off months to determine agendas.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Next meeting: Sara C. to discuss CDC Health Disparities grant that VDH has gotten • Overview of policies the legislature is looking at that may effect youth. • Kheya and Lindsey— Act 35 Task Force