

Act 264 Advisory Board Meeting Minutes

Friday, January 26, 2024

9:30-12:00

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

Board Members Present: Alice Maynard, Cinn Smith (9:30-11:00), Heather Freeman, Cheryl Huntley, Doug Norford, Laurie Mulhern

Regrets: Kris Francoeur-Holsman

State Staff: Cheryle Wilcox, Beth Sausville (9:30-10:00)

Members of the Public: Diane Bugbee, Sandi Yandow, Amy Lincoln Moore (joined at 11:00)

Agenda Item	Discussion Notes	Next Steps
Approve December meeting minutes.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Alice moved to adopt December meeting minutes.• Doug seconded.• All in favor except Matt who abstained because he wasn't at the Dec. meeting.• Meeting minutes approved.	
Review and Finalize Operating Guidelines	<p>Heather sent a longer set of guidelines that were created in 2020. Alice, Laurie and Heather will update this in combination with</p> <p>Made edits to shorter document that will be sent with meeting minutes.</p>	<p>See attached guidelines</p> <p>Alice, Laurie and Heather will update the longer guidelines the guidelines we created today which will be the shorter version.</p> <p>These documents will then be placed on the Act 264 website.</p>

Agenda Item	Discussion Notes	Next Steps
Review System of Care Report draft	<p>Updated and finalized Board Recommendations to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Increase workforce retention and recruitment efforts across schools, mental health, developmental disabilities, and healthcare. 2. 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. 3. Improve Data and Information Systems <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Invest in the child welfare data system. b. During 2024, the Act 264 Board will investigate ways to increase a consistent, efficient, and accurate method of tracking Coordinated Services Plan data. 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. 4. Focus on affordable housing for children, youth and families and staff. 5. Continue prevention efforts to address substance use and increase treatment options for youth in Vermont. 6. Continue to focus on social and emotional learning, awareness, and inclusion across agencies and in schools to reduce anxiety, increase emotional wellness, and promote connectedness in children and youth. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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. 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. 	<p>Additional edits were made to the report. The report will be coming out in Feb.</p>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> c. Increase a sense of connection and belonging for historically marginalized children, youth, and families. d. Agency coordination to promote staff training through The Collaborative for Advancing Social and Emotional Learning: https://casel.org/ and trauma-responsive practices. 	
<p>Discuss agenda items for Calendar Year 2024</p>	<p>Topics to discuss and schedule this year:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • March-school mental health with Laurel Omland, Marianna Donnally, and Dr. Haley McGowan-- Confirmed • Follow up with DCF-FSD about substantiation process and registry. • DAIL Follow up about residential question. • Interview Sec. and Commissioners <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ ask if progress has been made on the System of Care report recommendations, ○ their greatest accomplishment over the past year, ○ biggest and most significant challenges going forward, ○ how are they supporting staff who are exhausted and often at risk of violence and safety issues. • Schedule fall meetings with: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ AOE and AHS Secretaries ○ DMH, DCF, DAIL, VDH—Commissioners ○ Mourning Fox-DPS regarding mental health training with police and embedded social workers at the state police. • Rebuild systemic thinking, wanting to build connections between others—how does the Board create questions that ask about interagency collaboration. • Revisit this Board maybe having an in person meeting to help with our own connections. • We have a traumatized system of care right now and we need to be intentional about building our connections. • Focus on data for CSPs—start brainstorming in February. Could there be a code in the HER systems at DAs. 	

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li data-bbox="496 226 1263 415">• Talk to DA Children’s Directors and/or CEOs, supervisory unions about how they are supporting staff and focusing on their wellness. How do we get at how organizations function to support their staff rather than saying it is an employee issue.<li data-bbox="496 422 1263 487">• LIT Survey questions to update for this year—and when to send it out.	
Public Comment	No public comment.	