

LIT Connections

April 18, 2022

1:00-2:00



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: Laurel Omland, Kheya Ganguly, Krista Barbagallo, Donna Sherlaw, Beth Sausville, Alicia Hanrahan, Cinn Smith, Vickie Crocker, Debra Forrett, Donna Sherlaw, Belinda Bessette, Amy Lincoln-Moore

Thank you for joining us at LIT Connections today.

Our discussion today included the following:

- **LIT visits from SIT** – helpful to discuss some challenges with SIT, think through what is happening on the ground.
 - Residential mostly out-of-state
 - Access to care in communities is difficult b/c staffing challenges; difficult to move children through levels of care that match their acuity phases.
 - Little resource for respite, foster homes, other options in community so don't have to go to residential level of care. Explored how to be creative
 - Visit allowed LIT team to report out individually, to hear what each partner is doing in trying to address the needs of more acute situations. Feels like first time in 20 years when all aspects of system are struggling at the same time. Resource strain, high caseloads & acuity, lack of staffing.
 - Also discussed fiscal silos.
 - Is there schedule of visits? Next ones: Mon 4/25 @ Lamoille; May 9 @ St J; May 17 @ Newport
- **Vermont Mobile Crisis Services Survey** is available [HERE](#) and will close Friday, 4/29/22. Brief update about the mobile crisis initiative.
- **CSP meetings** – one parent rep has experienced meetings where parent didn't show up; or was not fully understanding what meeting was for. School went ahead with the meeting. Important to remind all at table the values & expectations of CSPs about who needs to be present. CSPs are being required before truancy pursued – LIT coordinators have expressed concern about how it's being used; can have value, but only if used fully with all values and best practices (family has voice). Some regions seeing increase in # CSP meetings and requests for facilitation. Are community trainings happening to help others learn about Act 264, CSP meetings and facilitation? Some are occurring; staff turnover has impacted.
 - **LITs** could discuss whether entities are expecting their staff to complete training on Act 264, CSPs, and deeper-level option for training on facilitation? Could link to IFS page for prior recordings & PPTs of trainings.
 - **If key entity doesn't show for CSP?** Stressful on all, especially families who likely take time off work. Follow-up with entity who was scheduled but didn't attend.

- **Parent reps need time to meet w/ family before CSP.** Often urgency for meeting, need to balance urgency with adequate time for parent rep to meet with family and do the pre-CSP meeting work. Consider what need to address urgent issue, then longer-term focus when team has ability to come together for longer meeting.
- **CSP form** – get stuck in weeds of behavioral checklist. What is a “marked degree”? What may be high for one parent may be okay for another. One region asks if it’s occasional, regularly, only when escalated. Some regions complete the checklist in advance with family – can help in supported discussion w/ parent rep. Others may add notes to further explain rating/selection. Strengths: what makes them light up, time to brag. Can help with youth’s buy-in.
- **General comments about the value that Act 264 & CSPs have brought to Vermonters.** It’s a difficult period with limited resources, so wanted to celebrate that CSPs can really work for kids and their families when people come together.