

# LIT Connections

October 30, 2024

3:00-4:00



**Present:** Alicia Hanrahan, Diane Bugbee, Krista Barbagallo, Vicky Whitehill, Amy Lincoln-Moore, Alice Maynard, Jessica Coleman, Cinn Smith, Sandi Yandow, Kheya Ganguly, Laurel Omland, Maria White, Cheryle Wilcox, Nora Sabo, Laurie Mulhern, Olivia Gaudrreau, Kerri Duquette-Hoffman, Debra Forrett, Melanie Fedderson, Donna Sherlaw

**Thank you for joining us at LIT Connections today.**

**Our discussion today included the following UPDATES:**

## **Adult Basic Education:**

- Students going to Adult Basic Education (ABE) need to drop out of school
  - If there is a need for a residential placement, then the student will need to be re-enrolled in the public school system so there is an education rep at the CSP. There will eventually need to be an LEA assigned to the student if there is a residential placement which can't be accessed if the student isn't enrolled.
  - This would be the same process for a student who is home schooled
- Do families know what they give up when they withdraw from school? Perhaps. They do lose the LEA rep pieces and lose special education services (I can't remember if I mentioned this at the meeting...Alicia)
- Continuous concerns about the lack of therapeutic day schools and other alternative placements...including tutoring. ABE is another educational option.

## **Family Shelters:**

- Three are in the works. Williston will open on Friday, one more in Waterbury and a third hopefully further south
  - Williston will have 7 families placed there, Waterbury will have more.
  - Williston is wheelchair accessible. Not sure about Waterbury
  - Kerri is the contact for Williston, Ken Hammond for Waterbury
  - AHS Central Office staff will be on-site; Reps from WIC, Hireability, ESD etc...also connections with McKinney Vento (homeless liaisons) have been made
  - Williston is close to the busline and Hannaford. Not sure of the Waterbury details. Transportation is critical
  - Plan is for families with the most critical need...ie families living in cars
  - NEEDS: food, cleaning products a few portable cribs, silverware, children's books. Renee in Waterbury can be the conduit

## **Psychiatric Residential Treatment Facility (PRTF):**

- There were delays over the summer while the Green Mountain Care Board worked to determine if there needed to be a Certificate of Need--determination made this month that it's not a requirement. Next steps are negotiating the contract with the Retreat, posting the rate publicly, updating the state plan.
- Expectation of 15 beds
- Will take a while to get the independent school established.
  - Alicia explained the moratorium established by the legislature.

**AOE:**

- Cassie Santo is the new Interim State Director of Special Education as of Monday
- Listen and Learn Tour with Interim Secretary Saunders
  - Enosburg tonight
  - 2 online with ASL interpreters
  - 2 meetings each night, one with educators, the other with the public
    - Data is shared...enrollment by public, independent, home study and Early Ed placements, info Free and Reduced Lunch, English Learner, Special Education, test scores
    - Recommendation to look at race and YRBS data

**VFN:**

- Updated list on the websites of various trainings/webinars that are available to families.  
<https://www.vermontfamilynetwork.org/events/>

**LIT Extravaganza:**

- Feedback includes concerns regarding hybrid in the communication/technology issues. Preference is for hybrid as it's safer and more convenient to many to access the day virtually
- Alicia and Cheryle will work on ways to improve the virtual options

**ACT 264 Board/SIT Feedback**

- Recent meeting with 264 Board and SIT regarding the System of Care and the recommendations for the coming year.
- Appreciation to the LITs for providing responses to the annual survey as it helps to inform their decisions