

LIT Connections

September 20, 2022

10:00-11:00



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

Thank you for joining us at LIT Connections today.

Present: Jessica Coleman, Krista Barbagallo, Alice Maynard, Alicia Hanrahan, Cinn Smith, Diane Bugbee, Amy Lincoln Moore, Marlene Wein, Rachel Wassel, Donna Sherlaw, Vickie Crocker, Beth Sausville

1. Questions/Updates from LIT: none
2. Recommendations for the SOC report
 - a. Workforce challenges
 - i. really do not see any improvement in the last year
 - ii. many providers are moving to other agencies including UVM, community health centers and private practice
 - iii. most likely moving due to salary
 - iv. not a problem of advertising...
 - v. lack of people applying for the positions
 - vi. lack of housing is a big factor in recruitment
 - b. Suggestions
 - i. Initiating more short term group therapy to help with the backlog
 - ii. More episodic treatment may be needed...but it's difficult for more complex cases
 - iii. Incentivizing recruitment to get staff from out of state including:
 1. Loan forgiveness
 2. Housing stipends
 - c. Peer Navigator Proposal
 - i. VT Certified Public Managers Program has been contacted
 - ii. Timing is good for this project...winter timeline
 - iii. Families to be invited to discuss how they are able to take care of their kids...need stakeholder engagement
 - iv. Currently at the info gathering stage
 - d. Additional Stress for families
 - i. Is there any money available for family respite to de-stress family?
 1. There is family managed respite
 2. VFN has a pot of money for respite
 3. It's more staffing issues and not as much of a money issue

- ii. While there isn't enough staffing, some agencies are sharing staff
- iii. There needs to be additional collaboration
- iv. Need to search out low cost/no cost activities for families to access
- v. Can we leverage any federal funds
- vi. Could we create an applicant pool for respite/care providers
 - 1. If so...what could we do for training?
- e. Other Issues
 - i. Students with high needs continue to go without paraeducator support as there are not any applicants/available staff
 - 1. Students may be out of school due to lack of staffing