

# State Interagency Team Meeting Minutes

Thursday, April 27, 2023

2:00-3:30

1. **Design and allocate sustainable funding to implement a unified parent representative system** that includes family support, training, and pay that shows the value of this essential element in our system of care.
2. **Invest in retention and recruitment efforts to address workforce challenges** to bring in individuals who provide mental health supports, developmental disability services, and peer supports.
3. **Leverage state and federal funds by investing in community-based supports and services and to strengthen our system of care** to respond to stress and trauma experienced by children and families in a manner that best meets their needs.

**Present:** Cheryle Wilcox, Diane Bugbee, Danielle Bragg, Debra Forrett, Olivia Gaudreau, Kheya Ganguly, Anthony Folland, Maria White, Karri Duquette Hoffman, Janelle Germaine, Laurel Omland, Amy Lincoln Moore, Renee Weeks, Alicia Hanrahan, Melanie D’Amico

**Regrets:** Beth Sausville, Dana Robson, Karen Price.

Agenda Item	Discussion Notes	Next Steps
<p><b>Reviewing updates from last month any major updates we all need to know about related to our System of Care</b> (<i>staffing changes, new programming, policy changes, fiscal, workforce challenges and planning, legislative outcomes</i>)</p>	<p><b>Deb:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In the Health Dept. what has been division of maternal child health is now family and child health. Move towards recognizing and being inclusive of all families. MCH to FCH.</li> <li>• CHSN has been partnering with VCIP in collaboration with early intervention and pediatric offices to address waitlist for ASD diagnosis; still work in progress but making nice headway.</li> <li>• Children with Special Health needs interviewing for 2 positions for care coordination and system health team, interviews are happening.</li> </ul> <p><b>Diane:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• VFN partnered with the Center for Disability and Community Inclusion at UVM and held our annual conference on April 11<sup>th</sup>. Presentations by VFN Executive Director Jacqui Kelleher and psychologist Joelle van Lent were very well received. Dr. Kelleher spoke about <i>Building Inclusive Systems</i> and Dr. van Lent presented on <i>Well-being and Resilience for Caregivers</i>.</li> <li>• Go to <a href="https://www.vermontfamilynetwork.org/">https://www.vermontfamilynetwork.org/</a> to register for: <b>INTRODUCTION TO VERMONT</b></li> </ul>	

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	<p><b>DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES SERVICES, MAY 3, 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Go to <a href="https://www.vermontfamilynetwork.org/">https://www.vermontfamilynetwork.org/</a> to register for: <b>SPECIAL EDUCATION RULE CHANGES SERIES, MAY 17 (Rule Implementation), May 24 (Special Education Evaluation/Eligibility Changes), May 31 (Specific Learning Disability Eligibility Changes).</b> All on Wednesdays, from 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM.</li> <li>• Go to <a href="https://www.vermontfamilynetwork.org/">https://www.vermontfamilynetwork.org/</a> to register for <b>TRANSITION MAPPING, JUNE 22, 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM.</b></li> <li>• Reminder when you are talking with families that because VFN’s goal is to empower families to advocate on their own behalf, VFN does not generally accompany parents to One Plan/Individualized Education Program (IEP) meetings or mediation conferences, except in extraordinary circumstances. Based on staff availability and with enough advance notice to allow for proper meeting preparation we can, when appropriate, provide IEP meeting support by phone or video conferencing. This is not a change, just a reminder.</li> <li>• VFN keeps data on 100+ areas where families seek support. The top six are Parent/Professional Communication (School), IEP concerns, Information about VFN, Parents Rights in the Special Education Process, and Mental Health</li> <li>• Helpline: Call us at (802) 876-5315 email: <a href="mailto:info@vtn.org">info@vtn.org</a> website: <a href="http://vermontfamilynetwork.org">vermontfamilynetwork.org</a></li> </ul> <p><b>Kerri/Renee:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Complex care housing resource teams still going on in hotels to provide support. They were charged with reaching out to everyone in transitional living and now reaching out to everyone in hotels in general. Have focused on the work that they are looking to do which is connecting to resources. Hotel program is ramping down and will see a lot of folks exit as time goes on. About 500 of these households are families with children.</li> </ul>	

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	<p><b>Cheryle:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Winding through legislative process. Legislature has in the budget a proposed 4% increase for designated/specialized service agencies.</li> <li>• \$3 million for tuition reimbursement and loan for all staff at DAs to include folks who work in developmental disabilities units who were left out in language in the past.</li> <li>• Funding to allocate for inpatient facility for children and youth diversified beyond the BR.</li> <li>• Looking to add mobile outreach, additional support that isn't screening for hospital level of care.</li> <li>• Different alternative to emergency departments such as psychiatric urgent care for kids.</li> <li>• Cheryle and others from DMH have been involved in situations in which children have complex needs that have required cross department meetings to leverage all resources together.</li> <li>• Early May released an RFP for psychiatric treatment residential facility.</li> </ul> <p><b>Olivia:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Challenges with high end system of care and high-end staffing.</li> <li>• RFP posted in fall with no bids and has been reposted and there are 2 organizations moving forward for contract negotiations.</li> <li>• Staffing challenges, some districts stabilizing but continue to be an overall issue.</li> </ul> <p><b>Maria:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Chris Case director of Policy and Planning has started.</li> <li>• An RFGA for CIS providers was released last week. This is over \$500K in ARPA funding to support CIS teams through additional recruitment and hiring, additional compensation, personnel development, and improving teleintervention capacity.</li> <li>• Strengthening Families RFGA is out. This is an opportunity for childcare programs who are implementing the Strengthening Families protective factors, new this year are criteria that</li> </ul>	

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	<p>prioritize new programs (established in the last two years) plus communities identified as food deserts CACFP Participation in Vermont (<a href="http://arcgis.com">arcgis.com</a>) (click on Food Deserts tab)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Proposed budget for CIS -\$950,830 additional for CIS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ This is the first time a programmatic budget increase was proposed to CIS without legislative action</li> <li>○ It isn't final and likely won't be until the end of the session in ~May</li> </ul> </li> <li>• HV manual is still being revamped with CDD/CIS and VDH and will go out to the HVA members sometime soon for a HVA meeting around June.</li> </ul> <p><b>Alicia:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Secretary French has stepped down and moved on to new position. Heather Bouchey is now interim Secretary. Will not be permanent appointment until later in the summer.</li> <li>• Still looking for state director of special education.</li> <li>• One of the independent schools (Mosaic) is closing at the end of the school year (Chittenden County campus and Morrisville campus). Some panic from parents/caregivers about where their children will attend school. This may drive an increase in requests for residential placements.</li> </ul> <p><b>Danielle:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The DVHA will continue the ED per diem rate for fiscal year 2024. There have been questions from hospitals as to if this will continue; please confirm that it will.</li> <li>• As Cheryle mentioned, DVHA has been involved in situations in which children have complex needs that have required cross department meetings to leverage all resources together.</li> </ul>	

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<p><b>Goal 1: Design and allocate sustainable funding to implement a unified parent representative system</b> that includes family support, training, and pay that shows the value of this essential element in our system of care.</p>	<p>Discussion Prompt: If we started a statewide parent representation system from scratch, what would that look like given what we know about the families being served, how many parent representatives would we have, roles and responsibilities, training and support?</p> <p>1 or 2 things that we should be doing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The ability to be part of an organization where there is support and training.</li> <li>• Having colleagues who are doing the same type of work is important.</li> <li>• Time off if you are sick or need a vacation.</li> <li>• Consistency of pay rate or reimbursement and benefits.</li> <li>• Equity, if a meeting is canceled currently don't get paid for it.</li> <li>• Great if we could get family support in all 12 regions. Equity of how families feel held by those roles; is there a parent rep available in every area. The forgotten pockets of the State.</li> <li>• Educate providers in those regions how to speak about parent reps and what resources are available and how to access them.</li> <li>• Training especially with increased complexity with children/adolescents.</li> <li>• VFN has a grant for parent support with DMH and has finalized a survey to distribute; how the role is implemented and how it impacts the families can inform our practice to include training needs. Evaluation and feedback loop are important.</li> <li>• Sometimes is a "last minute" referral for a meeting the next day. These reps need to prepare with the family and hear the story. Need to best understand what the hopes of the family are and how they can support. Consideration of when the referrals happen.</li> <li>• The more preparation they have the better support they can provide.</li> <li>• If the parent rep could be from the community, they represent this may be helpful; better understand needs to specific communities. Understand the school systems, the DAs, and the community resources.</li> </ul>	

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<b>Next Month's meeting</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• From 2-2:45 all of SIT will meet to do updates</li><li>• 2:45-3:30 AHS members of SIT will meet to discuss funding for parent supports for FY24 and beyond</li></ul>	