

State Interagency Team Meeting Minutes

Thursday, June 22, 2023

2:00-2:45

Location: Microsoft Teams

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: Deb Forrett, Danielle Bragg, Cheryle Wilcox, Alicia Hanrahan, Sandi Yandow, Renee Weeks, Laurel Omland, Chris Case, Janelle Germaine, Amy Lincoln Moore, Maria White, Olivia Gaudreau, Kheya Ganguly, Karen Price, Beth Sausville, Melanie D'Amico

Regrets: Dana Robson, Kerri Duquette-Hoffman, Melanie Fedderson, Tony Folland

Agenda Item	Discussion Notes	Next Steps
<p>Reviewing updates from last month any major updates we all need to know about related to our System of Care <i>(staffing changes, new programming, policy changes, fiscal, workforce challenges and planning, legislative outcomes)</i></p>	<p>Alicia Hanrahan, AOE:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Last week the Gov. signed H. 461 education bill---home study component to it. In the bill it creates a lot of changes so the state will have less oversight of children who are home-schooled; no longer need to submit end of year assessments, curriculum. This makes VT more similar to what neighboring states and decreases for schools and families. Families will provide a notice of intent and attest if they provide adaptations due to learning needs. This will be a big change for DCF since they often become involved with educational neglect and truancy. This goes into effect July 1st. • Alicia is putting together an FAQ about the bill and what it means for families and others. <p>Laurel Omland, DMH:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Howard Center shared with partners yesterday that they are ending several programs this summer-detox for adults in St. Albans, ABA for children under 5, IFBS, ending involvement with partnership with Centerpoint. • Yesterday was a celebration of Cheryl Huntley, CSAC Children's Director who is retiring at the end of this month. • NFI hoping to get their southern Hospital diversion • NFI has closed Shelburne House <p>Cheryle Wilcox, Interagency Collaborations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Workforce at DA/SSAs: 	

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Latest vacancies are: 956; better than October 2022 when it was 1,077. • Another round of funds to support tuition reimbursement and loan repayment for staff (there have been 2 previous rounds, this is the 3rd—allocations have come through the legislature). Continuing to focus on recruitment and retention. <p>Kheya Ganguly, Trauma Prevention and Resilience Development:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rutland held first PRIDE event this weekend-roughly 4,000 people attended. 70 youth attended prom Saturday night. Rain didn't keep anyone away! No protesters, just happy, joyful day! <p>Renee Weeks, AHS Field Services:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tuesday legislation extended hotel program. All details and updates can be found here: https://dcf.vermont.gov/benefits/crisis-housing <p>Karen Price, Vermont Family Network:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • July 1st new Special Education Rules take effect. https://education.vermont.gov/special-education-recent-guidance-news-and-events <p>Chris Case and Maria White, CDD:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Child Care Bill, H. 217, was passed through veto session this week. This bill impacts: amount of subsidy, stabilizing child care workers, pay for early care and learning staff, updates can be found at: https://dcf.vermont.gov/cdd/laws-rules/h.217 • Two webinars are being held by CDD staff on July 11th—you can register on the webpage. • May have impacts to CIS case rate as well. <p>Beth Sausville, FSD:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staffing changes-Shannon Morton, Staff Safety manager, is leaving. In recruitment for a new person to fill this role. • Continue to have a high rate of youth needing to be staffed by Family Services workers in placements that are not permanent. 2 infants in hospitals and 3 youth with safety challenges. • Hoping to get an RFP out quickly for the IFBS work that Howard Center will no longer be providing. <p>Deb Forrett, CSHN:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Two new hires: Jen Taylor, Addison area, consultant hired and Regina-Anne Cooper, CSHN Health Systems Team. 	

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	<p>Sandi Yandow, VFFCMH:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • VFFCMH is moving from their space to Shelburne Road for July 1st. • Vergennes had an event in response to the anti-trans speaker who used space their last week. The counter protest was well-organized and provided education to many community members. It was a joyful event. 	
<p>Discuss translation of CSP into other languages</p>	<p>Translating the CSP into other languages: Cheryle solicited feedback from SIT and LIT Coordinators to get the CSP translated into some other languages. We can use the enhanced Medicaid funds through Home and Community Based Services. Cheryle is finalizing languages most needed and will fill out forms to get this work moving.</p>	
<p>Act 264 Advisory Board duties and application—shared responsibility at SIT</p>	<p>For reference:</p> <p>ADVISORY BOARD https://mentalhealth.vermont.gov/sites/mentalhealth/files/doc_library/DMH-Act_264_Advisory_Creation_1988.pdf</p> <p>(a) An advisory board is created to advise the commissioners of mental health, social and rehabilitation services and education on children and adolescents with a severe emotional disturbance and their families.</p> <p>(b) The advisory board shall also advise such commissioners on the development of the system of care plan described in section 35 (c) of this chapter.</p> <p>(c) The state interagency team shall recommend to the governor a list of potential board members. The governor shall appoint from said list three parents of children or adolescents with a severe emotional disturbance, three advocates from organizations working on behalf of children and adolescents with a severe emotional disturbance, and three professionals in related fields or service providing agencies.</p> <p>(d) All members of the board shall serve for a term of three years, beginning from April 1 of the year of appointment or until their successors are appointed. For the purpose of implementing this section, the governor shall initially appoint one-third of the members to one-year terms, one-third to two-year terms, and one-third to three-year terms. As the initial terms expire, the new appointees shall be appointed to fill three-year terms.</p> <p>(e) The board shall elect its own chair from among its membership. The board shall meet annually at the call of the chair, and other meetings may be called by the chair at such times and places as he or she may determine to be necessary.</p> <p>(f) The members of the board who are employees of the state shall receive no additional compensation for their services, but actual and necessary expenses shall be allowed state employees and shall be charged to their departments. The members of the board who are not employees of the state shall receive</p>	

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	<p>compensation in accordance with the provisions of section 1010 of Title 32, and such compensation shall be paid for by the agency of human services.</p> <p>Discussion at SIT:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Act 264 Board needs to shift to being a shared responsibility of SIT rather than just supported by DMH which is how it has been for many years. • Want to tie it more closely to SIT—maybe some joint meetings? • Clarity operating agreements to write out more clearly to expand on what is in statute. • Need to plan for which depts will share which components of the requirements for support of the Act 264 Board. This needs to start in September. • Act 264 started for coordination of services for children and youth with Severe Emotional Disturbance and in 2005 through the Interagency Agreement that got expanded to all disabilities. • Stipends for the Act 264 Board have been paid for by DMH. • Beth and Cheryle will convene a smaller group of AHS/AOE reps to discuss concrete next steps about shared admin support for the board and fiscal support for the parent rep work. • A flyer was created for recruitment by Laurie Mulhern which Cheryle will send to this group. 	