State Interagency Team Meeting- Minutes

Thursday, February 23, 2023 2:00-3:30 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: Beth Sausville, Olivia Gaudreau, Alicia Hanrahan, Danielle, Bragg, Debra Forrett, Kheya Ganguly, Karen Price, Janelle Germaine, Laurel Omland, Dana Robson, Kerri Duquette-Hoffman, Melanie D'Amico

Regrets: Maria White, Amy Lincoln Moore, Melanie Feddersen, Cheryle Wilcox

Agenda Item	Discussion Notes	Next Steps
Reviewing updates from last month any major updates we all need to know about related to our System of Care (staffing changes, new programming, policy changes, fiscal, workforce challenges and planning, legislative outcomes)	 Kheya - DMH: Just finished Abenaki historical trauma trainings. Really well attended. Beginning again in May in different parts of the state. It was clear how needed this is to understand impact of historical trauma on youth. Karen – VFN: shared VFN has annual conference on 4/11. Joelle Van Lent is keynote. Noticing large volume of calls nationwide from parents struggling with schools. Lack of service providers, bullying/harassment. Plethora of issues. Laurel – DMH: shared VT awarded 5 year suicide prevention grant targeting 4 regions (Chittenden, Rutland, Bennington, Wyndham) to infuse zero suicide training and concepts. Targeting schools/MH providers/juvenile justice, those connected with youth or services in those regions. VT Youth Zero Suicide Academy – 2 day training plus nine month practice following that, more than training clinicians, also about organizational change. Looking to have DCF-servings entities included. AOE will be targeted. Also, another training offered on DBT for adolescents. There has been more media on VT child psychiatry access program. Has seen a lot more calls for consultation/support for youth needing support, has been quite helpful for those who have called. 	Kheya will ask Joanne if training was recorded/can be shared. Laurel will send out the monthly newsletter which includes helpful FAQs

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	Also shared that AOE had funds for COVID relief – legislature directed use funds to increase MH supports for students through grant process. Award notices are just going out. Second arm of funds were to go to support educator MH – went out as RFP for contract. Closed recently, being scored/determining how it will be awarded. Vision for support to caregivers was to not replicate what educator can get through insurance/supports/EAP. Hope to provide more immediate support during times of stress in the school/classroom. Safe group opportunities/reflective supervision/wellness focus. • Dana – DMH: shared that kids are not sitting for lengthy stays in ED. Brattleboro Retreat just opened second adolescent floor to increase capacity for crisis stabilization/tx. Along the same lines, DMH put out RFP for programs to create alternatives for ED for children and adults. 3 award notices have been given for psychiatric urgent care. Insurance parity report came out to address kids with private insurance and highly acute MH treatment needs. • Kerri – AHS: discussed complex care initiative. Camden Commission – looking at how we can move forward with complex care work. Complex care resource teams are still up and going, 3 phases – releases, screening, shared care plans, ending March 31 st . Legislature is looking at ways we can continue interdepartmental teaming work. Close to announcing new Field Services Director. • Melanie – DCF: PNMI update – had a run through today about proposed changes to VCORP. Next step will be to meet with programs individually/discuss specific concerns. • Beth – DCF: shared DCF is about to get a new commissioner – sad about Dr. Chen leaving as he was a good advocate for us. Chris Winters starting second week in March. Issues within FSD's system of care continue. Exploring special response team at agency level – utilizing DOC model but tweaking to meet FSD's needs. Will be communicated out in the near future. FFPSA – have recognized in regards to congregate care programs, PNMI piece is rather	

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	 crippling and could have big impact on work we do. Great conversations on workgroup level. Would love to leverage the SIT team in those conversations. Dana – DMH: Conflict-free case management. CMS passed new guidelines requiring that the person who creates the assessment/plan of care for home and community-based services should not be the same person who provides services. CMS sees inherent conflict in that. DVHA has hired outside consultant group to assist DAIL/DMH implement new rules on how this will occur. 	
System of Care Report	 Kheya: opened up system of care and building bright futures to cross reference the overlaps. Finding that to be helpful. Appreciate contributions from this group in report. David Goodman helped to take data and content and make it visually appealing/digestible. Discussed 3 goals for the year. Workforce - there has been a slight shift around acknowledgement/perspective around workforce challenges. Beth seeing some positive energy/hopefulness/creative thinking about workforce. DMH/AOE not seeing same optimism from DAs/schools. Shift in pools of candidates Concrete action steps? Goals feel overwhelming. As SIT – should we focus on smaller steps throughout the year? Need to find a way to make SOC Report an ongoing document/work plan. As entities, we are very good at identifying the problem without creating action steps to move forward. Can parcel out the report to work on pieces with the team and determine what we want to accomplish in the year ahead. 	
Planning for LIT Extravaganza Timing? Location? Agenda?	 In person, preferably free but there is potential for a small amount of money to secure a venue. Suggestions to use a church or the Waterbury office complex. Concerns about equity/varying comfort levels with use of church. New people to LIT in the fall. Will have new educators. 	

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	 Discussion of MOU between AOE and AHS – timing may not work but could be a good agenda item. Opportunities for growth/conversation. Where do we need to clarify language within interagency agreement? With requirement to shift over to conflict-free case 	
	management. How will that interact with planning?	
	Does it clash or compliment?	