**State Interagency Team Meeting Minutes**

Thursday, July 23, 2020

2:00-3:00

**Location:** Only Skype

**Facilitator:** Diane Bugbee

**Note Taker:** Laurel Omland

**Present:** Laurel Omland, Diane Bugbee, Alicia Hanrahan, Karen Bielawski-Branch, Adam Poulin, Karen Price, Sandi Yandow, Auburn Watersong, Amy Lincoln Moore

**Regrets:** Cheryle Wilcox, Barb Joyal, Amy Roth, Dana Robson, Sandi Hoffman, Monica Ogelby, Danielle Bragg

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| **Updates: What do we need to know right now about what is happening in each of our depts?** | **CDD:**  **Karen Bielawski-Branch*** Working with VDH and CDD Child Care working on guidance for service providers going into childcare settings (EI, ECFMH)
* Guidance to childcare providers has been released.
* AHS workgroup on guidance to restarting home-based services; from that came development of an infographic for providers to talk with families about the return to in-home services
* CRF – waiting to learn more about what might be available for childcare settings.

**DMH: Laurel Omland*** Care management working with families & programs re: changes related to COVID-19
* A lot of work with addressing School MH Success Beyond Six (SB6) Medicaid and impacts of remote and hybrid learning; working closely with AOE, DAs, LEAs. Also partnering with AOE’s development of guidance for schools to address the social-emotional and mental health needs of faculty, staff, students, and families as planning for the next school year is underway.
* Seeing some increase again in ED use – mostly adults, but also some youth. Dr. Rettew & Sam Sweet working with DA emergency services teams to look at other options so youth do not have to wait at EDs when seeking MH crisis supports. Relatedly and unfortunately, the mobile response (MRSS) proposal with legislature is not likely to go anywhere this year, given economic impacts of COVID.
* Suicide prevention – concerns about secondary MH crisis related to isolation & economic impacts of COVID – DMH wasn’t awarded federal grant; went to those states with highest impacts of COVID; legislature aware of federal application and without those funds, looking at how to leverage COVID relief funds for additional suicide prevention work.
* in absence of DCF updates: VT Assessment Center in Newbury informed DCF would be closing due to concerns of sustainability due to PNMI rate setting. VACN served adolescent boys, primarily in DCF custody; another VT program closure has system-wide impacts. Also, Brattleboro Retreat Linden adolescent residential program is moving from small houses across street and will be relocated back onto main campus into Osgood building. Laurel was unsure of date but was pending soon.

**DAIL: Diane Bugbee*** The Division will be continuing flexibilities regarding payment for unpaid family caregivers, and to shared living providers for at least the first quarter of FY 21. This is to help primary caregivers when the person who lives with them cannot access typical outside supports due to health risk factors. We are working on the details and communication will go out to agencies and families very soon.
* We are returning to some pre-COVID state of emergency practices regarding billing and claims for our DA/SSA system. Discussions are happening right now with all our providers.
* Some people in our services are returning to employment settings and to some community activities with considerable precautions in place. We have worked hard with the agencies on plans to assess risk and create protocols that protect health and safety to the greatest extent possible. We have had few cases of the virus in the population we serve.
* DDSD received approval to extend our System of Care Plan through FY 2021. Creating an updated SOCP was impacted by the COVID crisis and by the temporary halt in work on payment reform. That work is slowly resuming.
* Guardianship evaluations and eligibility determination assessments are starting up again slowly with strict precautions.

**AHS Central Office: Auburn Watersong*** Submitted YRBS proposals to VDH: resilience, sexual & labor exploitation (for HS only), anxiety; supported by Child & Family Trauma Workgroup
* VT Resilience Messaging Project – roll out of toolkit 8/4, invited key stakeholders who were involved in designing messaging. Tech Assist to integrate messaging frameworks into messaging community partners already using.
* Resources on preventing & addressing burnout & vicarious trauma – Auburn has been training VDH on these docs for staff & leaders. Auburn can send copies of PDFs; will eventually be on AHS website.
* Suicide Prevention Symposium Aug 18th – theme is Resiliency with focus on racial trauma & disparities.

**VDH-CSHN: Adam Poulin*** Maternal Child Health involved in COVID-19 response and adapting services
* Home-visiting guidance
* Developing guidance for Children’s Personal Care Services assessments during COVID-19, recognize families having to make challenging decisions about who to have contact within their home.
* MCH Director, Breena Holmes, is transitioning out of role in Sept. and will be working at VCHIP and consultation with VDH. Ilisa Stahlberg, currently Deputy Director is interim MCH Director.

**AOE: Alicia Hanrahan*** Inundated with home study applications
* Sending kids back to school. Schools making local decisions. Some remote; some in-person. Taking VDH recommended precautions. Cohorts; PE if can be outside. Meals sent to classrooms. A lot of guidance in development.

**VFN: Karen Price*** Upcoming on-line workshops as part of Youth Summit, focused on Special Education, hosted by Jacqui Kelleher and her twin sons 8/14; another by self-advocate “finding your story”
* VFN new family resources:

This 22-minute presentation reviews school options for families who have children with disabilities or special health needs. Topics covered are attendance and truancy; home schooling/home study; considerations for students with an Individualized Education Program (IEP); and services for home bound or hospitalized students. Presenters: Marilyn Mahusky, Staff Attorney, Disability Law Project, Vermont Legal Aid and Karen Price, Co-Director of Family Support – Education, Vermont Family Network[**Zoom recording (YouTube video)**](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pUUJCnYaajk&feature=youtu.be) A publication for families:[**Covid-19 Questions to Consider Before Schools Reopen**](https://www.vermontfamilynetwork.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/Covid-19-Questions-to-Consider-Before-Schools-Reopen.pdf)The recording and new publication is on our [Covid-19 Resources page](https://www.vermontfamilynetwork.org/what-we-do/resources/topics/covid-19-resources/); the recording is on our [special education webinar page](https://www.vermontfamilynetwork.org/what-we-do/resources/webinars/special-education-webinars/) and the publication on our [VFN publications page](https://www.vermontfamilynetwork.org/what-we-do/resources/publications/)**VFFCMH: Sandi Yandow & Amy Lincoln Moore*** Sandi is interim exec director
* VFFCMH in transition: Cindy’s departure; loss of board member
* Looking for ways to operate leaner, focus on highest priorities: those families who have had LIT or CSP involvement and may be headed to IEP meetings.
* Guidance that SOV puts out can be shared by VFFCMH with families
* Doing family support differently; rather than waiting for families to come to VFFCMH, VFFCMH is reaching out to families in sensitive manner.
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| **Wrap and any next steps** | No Aug SIT meeting.Public Consulting Group (PCG) will reach out to SIT to schedule a meeting during the week of Aug 23rd to share recommendations for the residential analysis.Sept 24th had been LIT Annual meeting, that was canceled; will get SIT meeting back onto schedule |