

Meeting Minutes—ACT 264/SPSC Joint Meeting

1-27-2017

ATTENDING: Jessica Bernard, Betsy Cain, Kristin Holsman-Francoeur, Alice Maynard, Doug Norford, and Matt Wolf, John Pierce, Cinn Smith, and Ron Bos-Lun. Joanne Wells from Franklin Central Supervisory Union attended as a guest. Laurie Mulhern joined via phone.

<u>Agenda Items</u>	<u>Discussion Points</u>	<u>Decisions/Actions</u>
Joint ACT264 & SPSC Meeting (10:05-12:30)		
❖ Review/Approve Minutes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Alice made a recommendation to adjust the minutes from the Act 264 portion of December’s meeting. Kris made the adjustment and the December minutes for Act 264, the joint meeting, and SPSC were approved. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Linda will send January minutes.
❖ Charlie Biss—DMH Update	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Discussion around the Governor’s budget address on 1/24/17. Level funding to schools would be a big change, as it presents logistical issues and isn’t typical policy. Members expressed a lot of concern as to how schools would be able to continue to serve students under level funding. Secretary Al Gobeille and Deputy Secretary Martha Maksym are new to AHS. Melissa Bailey is the new DMH Commissioner, while still awaiting Deputy appointment. DMH is very happy about Melissa’s appointment. Areas that Children’s Mental Health (CMH) will focus on: voluntary hospitalization rate is increasing, but the rate remains the same for involuntary admissions. The need for services is greater in the southern part of state. We’re getting closer to having hospital-diversion beds in the south, run by NCSS and NFI. Efforts in CMH have not progressed as much as we’d hope, so looking to reinvigorate initiatives to further progress. How do we focus on the mental health needs of the young children going into DCF custody, as well as the entire family? In 1999, we were serving 1,700 kids (ages 0-8), and now it’s about 3,500. We’d like to have more DA participation in the early-childhood system. DMH thinks the DAs should supervise and oversee the system and use a funding model that doesn’t stress out the school budgets for consultation. We are all needing to step out into different roles to support kids; it’s a big challenge right now. There is also a huge issue in workforce for both schools and DAs (the DAs have a 27% vacancy rate) because of salaries, benefits, demographics, etc. More kids are going into residential care and DMH is worried it is because we can’t offer enough home and community services to provide wrap-around support to the child/family and they are not able to stay in the home/community. We need a position to take on this challenge, and, while there is an open position designated for this work, we don’t know if we’ll be able to fill it under the new Administration. DAIL Director Roy Gerstenberger wants to develop a joint focus on kids. First step will be to identify locations where they are already doing innovative collaborative work and then identify barriers and challenges. New leadership can bring a lot of opportunities. Act 46-AHS and AOE need to come together to have a joint plan to identify how to work together better. The commissioners have gotten together and looked at a few districts that have high needs to discuss collaboration. DMH hopes to have more progress as the new Administration and staff get settled in. Regarding DMH testimony at the Legislature, we’ve come up with a pictorial representation of the children’s system of 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Jess will send pictorial to group once updates are made.

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	<p>care (handout given to group). The southern tier—HCRS, CMC, and UCS—will benefit from the new diversion beds the most. Members voiced concerned about Youth in Transition (YIT) programs in FY18, due to funding cuts at the federal level. 70% of children served through YIT, who are not in school and are being served, have been employed more than 90 days. Kids in school are employed at about 60%, CMH feels this is an important piece of the puzzle and DMH will continue to advocate for this group. Members’ feedback about the pictograph:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Does the old pyramid, public health model represent proportion better? • A few acronyms need defining. • Add “School Social Work” under promotion and prevention. • Add coordinated service plans to prevention and promotion. • Workforce issues are systemic, in addition to being a resource issue. Rural areas struggle more than urban with workforce issues, but the problems are bigger than that. Staff turnover causes so much instability in the lives of the children/families who need it most. <p>Members asked about future AHS budget cuts. It’s unclear where all the cuts may come from. We’ll need to see how things unfold. We haven’t seen any changes yet.</p>	
❖ Cheryle Bilodeau—IFS Update	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review of the State Interagency Team’s (SIT) System of Care (SOC) Plan: Act 264 and the SPSC are so happy that SIT has drafted and released the SOC Plan. The SOC Plan from SIT has been requested for almost 20 years and Cheryl deserves more kudos than this group can give! SIT is looking for feedback from the group, because it needs to get feedback from commissioners and deputies (not all are in place yet) before it can be finalized. IFS had to cut Susan Bartlett’s position and is feeling the loss. IFS is working hard to educate the new Administration about IFS and they’d appreciate the Board’s support. The Board is going to try to invite as many leaders as possible to meetings. Alice asked the group if we would be willing to try to meet with the governor on a Monday on his turf. Many in the group agreed. The group liked that board recommendations were included, the VT specific data, appendices, and strong SIT recommendations in the SOC. Question posed by group: Are families not accessing respite due to funding or no identified providers? Answer: Often, there are not enough providers with the necessary skill-level. Cinn shared her family’s experience. IFS is hoping that the new Administration will be able to prioritize funding for kids and move away from silos between DMH, DCF, and DAIL when they have needs that cross over. Kathy added that VFFCMH applied for a grant last fall that they didn’t get, but it attempted to connect DS and MH more and engage families. The Federation will continue to apply for grants that support this initiative. The group wanted to know if there was talk of more board support to reinvigorate Act 264, etc. DMH is the only agency that financially 	

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	<p>supports the Board, so will other agencies/departments be able to step in? DMH needs to make this a part of meetings with AI, Martha, etc.</p> <p>Questions/Suggestions about SOC Plan:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Appendix D- Goal 2—Clarify language that it is the amount of money that is being suggested to be increased. • Goal 3—Figure out action steps, still pending discussion in SIT. Concern that providing more social workers isn't going to be enough to address the reason so many kids are going into DCF custody due to opiate use. • Is money being prioritized correctly in all regions? Big concerns were discussed about some areas that don't know how to identify and then prioritize and address needs. Alice offered a strategic suggestion for helping kids avoid tobacco, very effective. Cinn shared her family's experience. <p>SIT is already planning the next LIT Extravaganza, for October 20, 2017. A save-the-date will come out soon. It will be a full day with built-in time for the LITs to connect with each other. SIT is talking about how to provide support to the LITs. SIT members will go to the LITs and talk about how things are going, what they need support on, and how to handle difficult situations. SIT would welcome board members who want to join any of these meetings. How do we get more education reps to the extravaganza? Answer—better communication. Build up better relationships and make sure we're contacting the right people who will pass the information to the key players. Joanne questioned the Picus Report, referenced in the SOC Plan as not accurately reflecting the supports that students need to return to the general-education population, not just tutoring. Cheryle will review that section and edit if necessary.</p>	
❖ Kathy Holsopple—VFFCMH Update	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Track parent rep data, how many CSPs parent reps attend. We would love to improve the tracking of CSP meetings that reps are invited to. Kathy has written a plea for members in her newsletter for these groups. Will add members of Act 264 and SPSC to the newsletter distribution list. Could SIT help support this group and communication with LITs? Applying for more grants for peer navigation; will keep us updated. New handouts were distributed. 	
❖ Other	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussed invite letter to Sec. Al Gobeille: What do we want to offer, learn, and educate him on? • Ask for meetings with Gov., Lt. Gov., AHS Sec., DMH Comm., AOE Sec., and DCF Sec. • Sherry Schoenberg (CDCI) at the next meeting. • Matt and Kris will talk about resiliency in future meetings. • Mental Health Advocacy Day coming up 1/31/17. • Autism Planning meeting taking place March 13th. Laurie Mulhern will be speaking. Event is being held at WSOC. 	

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❖ Public Comment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None. 	
	Break	
	SPSC Meeting	
❖	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No agenda items for this meeting. • Suggested items for future meetings: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Survey results ○ How often we should meet ○ Membership/recruitment ○ Whether LPSCs use survey monkey ○ Agency review and designation schedules ○ New DMH agency review template 	