

MEETING MINUTES
Act 264 Advisory Board/Children’s SPSC Joint Meeting
November 19, 2021

Act 264 Advisory Board Meeting (9:30 – 10:00)		
Members present: Cinn Smith, Alice Maynard, Heather Freeman Guests: Nicole DiStasio (DMH), Cheryle Wilcox (DMH), Joanne Crawford (DMH), Christina Thompson (DMH), Ron Bos-Lun (SPSC), Karen Barber (DMH), Ward Nial (SPSC), Laurie Mulhern (SPSC)		
Agenda Items	Discussion Points	Decisions/Actions
Prep for DAIL meeting	The group prepared for the meeting with Department of Disabilities, Aging, and Independent Living (DAIL) Commissioner White and Deputy Commissioner Tierney-Ward.	
Begin reviewing LIT Survey Results	The group began reviewing Local Interagency Team (LIT) survey results.	
Review September and October Meeting Minutes	Alice moved to accept the September and October meeting minutes as submitted; Heather seconded. All in favor and the motion passed.	
Joint Act 264 Advisory Board and State Program Standing Committee Meeting (10:00 – 12:25)		
Members present: Ron Bos-Lun, Cinn Smith, Alice Maynard, Ward Nial, Laurie Mulhern, Heather Freeman Guests: Nicole DiStasio (DMH), Cheryle Wilcox (DMH), Diane Bugbee (DAIL), Monica White (DAIL), Megan Tierney-Ward (DAIL), Joanne Crawford (DMH)		
Agenda Items	Discussion Points	Decisions/Actions
DAIL Commissioner Monica White and Dep. Comm. Megan Tierney-Ward	1. Coming out of the other side of the pandemic, what are your top three focus areas? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Making sure kids have access to services, increase collaboration with education partners, ensure providers can address the needs of children and families. • Working to procure external clinical expertise – putting out a Request for Proposals (RFP). 2. What are the innovations that have come out of the pandemic that you would like to maintain going forward? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Remote service provision. • Virtual team meetings. 	

- Town halls and listening sessions to gain feedback.

3. In order to respond to this question, please read pages 23-36 of the *Native American Communities Focus Groups – Abenaki Community in Vermont* report created for the Division of Alcohol and Drug Abuse Programs.

- a. Given the levels of ignorance encountered and discrimination experienced by Native Americans in Vermont which can lead to poor educational, health, and mental health outcomes, how could VDH increase the level of cultural competence within their staff and encourage it for the broader field of health care providers in Vermont?
- b. Acknowledging the special outreach done to BIPOC communities during the pandemic, which elements of this approach were effective? How will this new knowledge affect and/or change VDH’s approach to health promotion and treatment strategies going forward?

- A main area of priority is creating health equity. Dr. Leslie Johnson is the DAIL representative on the Health Equity Advisory Commission.
- Created and convened a diversity and equity taskforce to focus on how DAIL is following through on values of equity and inclusion to address what they can do better.
- Alzheimer’s Dementia and Related Disorders (ADRD) Commission page. <https://asd.vermont.gov/governors-commission-adrd>
- A guest at the meeting let the Commissioners know that the Vermont Department of Health (VDH) is in the process of purchasing an Abenaki Equity and Cultural Competency training from the Vermont Indigenous Heritage Center for all of employees of the Agency of Human Services (AHS).

4. When might we expect to see a searchable item for Act 264 and Coordinated Service Plans (CSP) on DAIL’s website? What kind of training are DAIL workers receiving around CSPs?

- Surprised that it was not readily available, so they are now looking to move it to a more accessible area on the website.
- DAIL workers are receiving training. Commissioner White reached out to divisions to see what training they all might have around CSPs. There is no

	<p>specific CSP training, but they do receive some training as part of other existing trainings.</p> <p>5. What happened in 2017 to cause the absence of data regarding children with intellectual disabilities and developmental disorders in the emergency department?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Needed to know the source of this data and couldn't tell from the data provided why that might have happened. Thinking maybe the diagnosis may have fallen into one of the other categories. Maybe in the Emergency Department it is not clear that someone has a developmental disability when being admitted. <p>6. How many staff vacancies are you experiencing in your statewide network of developmental service workers? How are you addressing this issue?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Across the division there are a number of vacancies. For statewide partners, designated and specialized service agencies, there is a 22% vacancy rate. • There are programs out there to help increase pay and encourage people into these positions. 	
<p>IFS Update: Cheryle Wilcox</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The new Data and Outreach Coordinator for the Department of Mental Health (DMH), Alexander Raeburn, joined to introduce himself. alexander.raeburn@vermont.gov • There was a conversation about the challenges of using state websites. Alex Raeburn will be working on the DMH website to make it more user friendly. • Cheryle shared a draft of the VT System of Care Plan 2022. There is smaller subgroup working on this plan. It is still in draft form, but she went through the plan and discussed what will be in each section with the group. She asked for feedback. A couple of people asked questions and provided suggestions which Cheryle made note of to incorporate. • Interviews for Diane Bugbee's position (Children's Services Specialist) will be happening soon. Diane will be able to stay on to train the new hire. 	
<p>2022 Interagency SOC Recommendations</p>	<p>The group used the LIT survey results to continue working on the 2022 System of Care Recommendations. The Recommendations will be finalized at the December meeting.</p>	

	The brochure that DMH created for families with a child admitted to the Emergency Department has been updated.	Christina will email the updated brochure.
Public Comment:	There were no public comments made.	