

MEETING MINUTES
Children’s Act 264 Advisory Board/SPSC Joint Meeting
May 28, 2021

Act 264 Advisory Board Meeting (9:30 – 10:00)		
<p>Attending: Alice Maynard, Matt Wolf, Heather Freeman, Cinn Smith, Teresa Sunderland Guests: Christina Thompson - DMH, Joanne Crawford - DMH, Nicole DiStasio - DMH, Amy Brady - Voices for VT’s Children, Gabriel Lipper – VT Coalition of Runaway and Homeless Youth Program, Sandi Yandow – VFFCMH, Laurie Mulhern - Children’s SPSC</p>		
Agenda Items	Discussion Points	Decisions/Actions
Preparation for visit from Deputy Secretary Bouchey	The group prepared for their meeting with Deputy Secretary Bouchey.	
Review Parent Rep. Survey Results Recommendations	The Board began their discussion of the Parent Rep. Recommendation Reports. The group paused to meet with AOE Deputy Secretary Heather Bouchey and will continue their discussion later in the meeting.	
Joint Act 264 Advisory Board and State Program Standing Committee Meeting (10:00 – 12:05)		
<p>Attending: Alice Maynard, Matt Wolf, Heather Freeman, Cinn Smith, Laurie Mulhern, Teresa Sunderland Guests: Christina Thompson - DMH, Joanne Crawford - DMH, Cheryle Wilcox – DMH, Diane Bugbee – DAIL, Heather Bouchey – AOE, Ward Nial - AMH SPSC, Amy Brady - Voices for VT’s Children, Gabriel Lipper – VT Coalition of Runaway and Homeless Youth Program, Nicole DiStasio - DMH</p>		
Agenda Items	Discussion Points	Decisions/Actions
Agency of Education, Deputy Secretary Heather Bouchey	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Agency of Education (AOE) will continue to work closely with the Department of Mental Health (DMH). Equity in services across the state is important. All students should have the same quality and level of services. It is challenging for districts to know about all of the resources available throughout state and AOE would like to help to keep everyone in the loop with what is available. AOE is working to keep children the center of their focus despite funding restrictions. 2. There were student engagement issues for students during COVID. AOE is looking at data to explore what is behind the engagement issues for students. There were varying levels of attendance based on the district. Some districts had better attendance than others, and some districts had students and families fall off the radar. 	

	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. Currently, there is a task force framed around the issue of bias and racism focused on the AOE internal staff, including required implicit bias training. The agency is using an equity lens tool for all policy in the field. The Act 1 task force workgroup is tasked with improving state curriculum. There is an Abenaki representative on the workgroup. 4. The Act 1 task force is working on cultural competence within schools. A major challenge is that we have not moved the needle on literacy for over a decade. The task force chairperson would be a good person to bring into this meeting to discuss this issue. 5. What are the strengths and challenges that have come out of COVID? There is now some extra funding. Reduction of seclusion and restraint in school. The Act 264 Advisory Board and Children’s State Program Standing Committee Group would like to see race and ethnicity data when a seclusion and restraint report is done. Deputy Secretary Bouchey said she would look into it. 	<p>Heather Bouchey will send a link to the Act 1 Task Force to Christina and Joanne.</p> <p>Heather Bouchey will send a link to bill S.12 to Christina and Joanne.</p>
<p>Interagency Update</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DMH has launched a workforce task force that is being attended by DA, SSA, peer organizations, DAIL, DOC and ADAP. They are working together to address the significant vacancies in our mental health and developmental service care system. There were 500 vacancies, but now there are 780. The legislature approved a 3% increase for designated agency (DA) and Specialized Service Agency (SSA) salaries. There are extra grant funds now but need to consider what happens when these grant funds are gone. • Alexander Raeburn, the new Data and Outreach Coordinator has started at DMH. • Kheya Ganguly, the new Director of Trauma Prevention and Resilience Development starts next week. • The Department for Children and Families (DCF) is looking to set up 12 specialized foster care homes around the state. These foster home providers will have a higher level of training and support services. • The Vermont Department of Health (VDH) Children with Special Health Needs workers will be transitioning back to their regular duties following their redeployment to pandemic related responsibilities. • Jane Helmstetter, the AHS Field Director for Chittenden County is retiring in June. • The legislature has approved mobile response for one year for Rutland. 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cheryle will keep this group up to date on the transition of leadership at DMH. 	
Review Parent Rep. Survey Results Recommendations (continued)	The Act 264 Advisory Board and Children’s State Program Standing Committee created three reports from the Parent Representative Survey results. Alice will pull together all this information and create a draft report. Christina will send the report out to the group. Some members of the Act 264/SPSC will attend the June SIT meeting between 3:00 – 4:00 and present their report.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Alice will pull together all the survey information to create a draft report. Christina will send the report out to the group. Sandi Yandow will be presenting Coordinated Service Plan data and Parent Representative data at the July meeting.
Finalized questions for DMH Leadership	The group worked on the questions for DMH leadership. The questions will be finalized over email.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Christina will send a draft of the questions. Members will finalize questions over email.
Review April Meeting Minutes	The group voted to approve the April minutes.	
Adjournment	The joint meeting was adjourned at 12:26.	
Break (12:05 – 12:20)		
State Program Standing Committee (12:20 – 12:45)		
Attending: Cinn Smith, Laurie Mulhern		
Guests: Christina Thompson - DMH, Joanne Crawford – DMH, Ward Nial – Adult SPSC, Nicole DiStasio - DMH, Sandi Yandow – VFFCMH, Amy Brady - Voices for VT’s Children, Gabriel Lipper – VT Coalition of Runaway and Homeless Youth Program		
Agenda Items	Discussion Points	Decision/Actions
Review Children’s Aggregate Grievance and Appeal Data	The group reviewed aggregate grievance and appeal data for children’s services. There was a discussion about the possible reasons why the numbers of grievance and appeals are so low.	
Adjournment	The SPSC meeting was adjourned at 1:00.	
Public Comment:	There was no public comment.	