

**MEETING MINUTES**  
**Children’s Act 264 Advisory Board/SPSC Joint Meeting**  
**June 25, 2021**

Act 264 Advisory Board Meeting (9:30 – 10:40)		
<b>Members Attending:</b> Alice Maynard, Cinn Smith, Matt Wolf, Teresa Sunderland, Doug Norford, Heather Freeman, <b>Guests:</b> Christina Thompson – DMH, Joanne Crawford – DMH, Sandi Yandow – VFFCMH, Pam McCarthy – VT Family Network, Nicole DiStasio – DMH, Diane Bugbee – DAIL, Cheryle Wilcox - DMH, Gabriel Lipper - VT Coalition of Runaway and Homeless Youth, Amy Lincoln-Moore – VFFCMH, Ron Bos-Lun, Laurie Mulhern		
Agenda Items	Discussion Points	Decisions/Actions
Vote to Allow Public Comments	The group voted to allow public comment throughout the meeting.	
DMH Incoming Deputy Commissioner meeting prep	The group prepared for their meeting with the incoming Deputy Commissioner Alison Krompf.	
CSP/Parent Rep. Data – Sandi Yandow	Sandi Yandow provided data to the group about the work being done by the state and local Parent Representatives. She also provided an update on funds allocated to reimburse Parent Representatives.	
Discuss Parent Rep Recommendation Reports with SIT members	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Department of Mental Health (DMH) informed the Vermont Federation of Families for Children’s Mental Health (VFFCMH) that the payment model they have been using to reimburse Parent Representatives has not been in alignment with the Agency of Human Services (AHS) reimbursement policy.</li> <li>• Starting 7/1/21, VFFCMH will implement the pay model changes to reimburse Parent Representatives.</li> <li>• Cheryle will send out the meeting minutes from the State Interagency Team (SIT) meeting to the group, as there was more discussion about funding for Parent Representatives.</li> <li>• Are there grants that can provide the needed funds for Parent Representative positions?</li> <li>• The group discussed the current grant for Parent Representatives regarding how much Parent Reps. are paid for their work. The language in the grant currently states they are paid through stipends and there is a max of \$50 per day. The group is working to improve the pay and provide an alternative to stipends.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cheryle will share the SIT minutes with the group.</li> <li>• Sandi will prepare a report of VFFCMH recommendations for the Parent Representative role and send it to the Act 264 Advisory Board one week before the July 23<sup>rd</sup> meeting.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• VFFCMH will put together a report of their recommendations regarding the Parent Representative role. Sandi will send the report to the group at least a week before the next Act 264 Advisory Board meeting on July 23<sup>rd</sup>.</li> <li>• VFFCMH would like to see the Agency of Education (AOE) participate in funding efforts for Parent Representatives.</li> </ul>	
<b>Joint Act 264 Advisory Board and State Program Standing Committee Meeting (10:40 – 12:45)</b>		
<b>Members Attending: Alice Maynard, Cinn Smith, Matt Wolf, Laurie Mulhern, Teresa Sunderland, Ward Nial,</b> <b>Guests: Christina Thompson – DMH, Joanne Crawford – DMH, Cheryle Wilcox – DMH, Diane Bugbee – DAIL, Alison Krompf – DMH, Sandi Yandow, VFFCMH</b>		
<b>Agenda Items</b>	<b>Discussion Points</b>	<b>Decisions/Actions</b>
IFS Update – Cheryle Wilcox and Diane Bugbee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Emily Hawes has been appointed as the new Commissioner of the Department of Mental Health (DMH) and Alison Krompf appointed as the Deputy Commissioner.</li> <li>• DMH is in the process of recruiting for the Director of Mental Health Services (Frank’s Reed’s former role).</li> <li>• DAIL is currently recruiting for Developmental Services Division Director (Selena Hickman’s former position).</li> <li>• The Agency of Education is currently revising their 504 manual.</li> <li>• The Department for Children and Families, Family Services Division is working on the Family First Prevention Services Act.</li> <li>• As of July, some Vermonters living in hotels will need to move out and the food service provided in the hotels will also end.</li> <li>• Respite for families from VDH-Children with Special Health Needs is going to move to Vermont Family Network.</li> <li>• At the June State Interagency Team meeting, they discussed the report prepared by the Act 264 Advisory Board and Children’s State Program Standing Committee regarding revising the pay and position for state and local Parent Reps.</li> <li>• Cinn asked to see the proposal to CMS, so she could provide feedback. Cheryle shared a link to the proposal.</li> <li>• Children’s personal care services will continue at this time.</li> </ul>	<a href="https://humanservices.vermont.gov/about-us/medicaid-administration/global-commitment-health-1115-waiver/1115-waiver-documents/2018">https://humanservices.vermont.gov/about-us/medicaid-administration/global-commitment-health-1115-waiver/1115-waiver-documents/2018</a>
	<b>Break</b>	
DMH Incoming Deputy Commissioner Alison Krompf	<p>Question 1: Coming out of the other side of the pandemic, what are your top three focus areas?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Work force development and staffing in the mental health care system</li> </ul>	

and health care system. Sustain the staff we have and recruit. Offer loan repayment to encourage people into the career.

- Address the number of individuals waiting in the Emergency Department. This is an issue for health and mental health. Not enough beds in the system.
- Post pandemic transition for Vermonters – people are exhausted, anxious, and have a lot of need. Figure out access to care for a spectrum of need. Working on crisis line and text line. Peer support.

Question 2: What are the innovations that have come out of the pandemic that you would like to maintain going forward?

- Telehealth should continue. There are benefits and draw backs, but it is helpful in many circumstances.
- We should continue to allow cross state licensing in order to boost our staffing within our state.
- During the past year there has been an amazing amount of collaborative creativity by individuals and organizations.

Question 3: What can DMH do to encourage and foster the use of Coordinated Service Plans (CSPs) by Designated Agency staff and by other AHS/department/AOE leadership?

- Alison asked the group about the status of CSP use in the state.

Question 4: Is there any organized effort at any level in Vermont’s mental health field to improve cultural competence for staff regarding BIPOC cultures?

a. If so, what and where? Results to date?

- Yes. DMH and AHS have made a real push. DMH formed an antiracism group with several subgroups. One subgroup is collecting data on race and health equity that has not previously been collected. Designated Agencies (DA) are also forming antiracism groups to support this work. Also, the Agency of Human Services (AHS) asked all departments to come together to discuss current work and goals. Xusana Davis is the

	<p>Executive Director of Racial Equity for the State of Vermont. Xusana created a racism risk assessment tool that departments are required to use when forming a new policy.</p> <p>Question 5: What types of mental health services are provided to incarcerated Vermonters?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>b. Who provides them?</li> <li>c. How are they paid for?</li> <li>d. How is quality assured?</li> </ul> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Department of Corrections (DOC) is providing health and mental health services to incarcerated individuals. The company that they were working with had some challenges but there is a new contractor now. There are licensed social workers, psychiatric, drug and alcohol therapists. DMH provides training to the providers. This is paid for by the DOC for now. Bill S.3 looks at whether the DOC or DMH should be managing mental health services and setting standards of care for incarcerated individuals. Incoming Commissioner Emily Hawes will be working on this issue.</li> </ul> <p>Alison asked the group to let her know what their major concern is currently.</p>	
Finalize questions for VDH Leadership	The group began preparing their questions for July’s meeting when VDH Commissioner Dr. Mark Levine and Deputy Commissioner Tracy Dolan will be attending the meeting. Because the group ran out of time, Christina will send out a draft of the questions to the group and they will edit via email.	Christina will send the draft questions out to the group to work on for next month.
Review May Meeting Minutes	Alice made a motion to approve the May meeting minutes. Cinn seconded. The vote to approve the minutes was unanimous.	