

MEETING MINUTES

Act 264 Advisory Board & Children’s SPSC Joint Meeting via Microsoft Teams September 25th, 2020

MINUTES SUBMITTED BY: Joanne Crawford

Agenda Items	Discussion Points	Decisions/Actions
Joint Act 264 Advisory Board & State Program Standing Committee Meeting (10:20-12:40)		
Attending: Kris Holsman-Francoeur, Cinn Smith, Alice Maynard, Doug Norford, Heather Freeman, Matt Wolf, Ward Nial, Laurie Mulhern		
Guests: Christina Thompson, Joanne Crawford, Cheryl Wilcox, Cheryle Huntley (CSAC), Mary Moulton (WCMHS), Nicole Grenier (WCMHS)		
IFS Update- Cheryle Wilcox	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Cheryle will be sending the State Interagency Team (SIT) meeting minutes from the 9/24/20 meeting and an updated Coordinated Service Plan (CSP) form to the group. 2. Today is Morgan Cole’s last day as the Director of Children’s Integrated Services (CIS). 3. Woodside is closed. There is currently no youth there and there is no plan to have youth return. 4. The Coordinated Service Plan has had a few updates: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Due to the work around race and health equity at Agency of Human Services (AHS), a question was added to collect racial data. We worked with Xusana Davis, Executive Director of Racial Equity for the State of Vermont to review if wording is appropriate. b. Updated question regarding custody and legal decision-making power. c. Added a Developmental Services line to capture data. d. Added a parent signature box at the end of the form to allow the parent sign if they approve. 5. The residential analysis report will be out in the next few weeks. Given the uniqueness of this year and COVID, the System of Care plan will be very focused this year to ensure results. SIT will be working with the report and creating recommendations for the System of Care Plan. System of Care report will look different because of this focus. 	Cheryle will send the 9/24/20 SIT meeting minutes to the group. Cheryle will also send the updated CSP form to the group.
Review July Joint Mtg Minutes	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Alice moved to accept the July meeting minutes; Doug seconded. Kris and Heather abstained. Vote to approve unanimous and the motion passed. 	The motion passed.
CSAC on Priorities for Interagency SOC – Cheryle Huntley	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. CSAC checked in with every family enrolled in services at the agency at the beginning of the pandemic. Cheryl shared that because they are a system of care, they know each other and know how to work together. As a provider system, we are experiencing the same things as the clients. People are tired. We need everyone to understand and respect that fact. Cheryl expressed her worries about the system of care because of staff and leadership changes. System of Care should reflect how a family lives and the provider system needs to reflect that interconnectedness. The crisis of COVID has forced us to change how we do things. We need to have a system of more local and meaningful action and plan more meaningfully to reflect. Would like to see a plan or group look at a process to reconnect and share experiences. As a system, this crisis has exposed strengths and weaknesses. 2. Foster care is struggling – need to think about other models of care. 3. Telehealth works for many things but also has gaps. Many children do not do well in a virtual setting. 	

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	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4. Impact on funding: school contracts faltering and because of that agencies are struggling. 5. Anti-racism – need to give time and attention to racial equity, but difficult with COVID at the forefront. 6. Need to redefine some of our values. We have learned how connection has sustained us through this crisis. Need to pay focused attention to this in VT. 7. We all need to take a look at our systemic structure and make sure there is a place for people to begin to heal. 	
<p>WCMHS on Priorities for Interagency SOC – Mary Moulton and Nicole Grenier</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Concerns: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Capacity is concerning. Everyone’s workload has increased but there has been no increase in staff. Work has increased in need and intensity level. It is difficult to fill vacancies in children’s division. b. We are seeing an increase in need in families across the community regarding food, housing, health, etc. c. Schools are concerned about students’ access to services. Concern for youth who do not qualify for school-based mental health referral and so are put on a long waiting list for help. d. High number of homelessness. Shortage of options for housing for homeless families. e. Increase in anxiety in children trying to access their education. f. Funding for contracts is an ongoing discussion and is detrimental to efforts to provide services. 2. Innovations: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Recipient of two-year grant focused on wellness. These funds have allowed us to have a clinician in pediatric offices and assist youth in participating in all kinds of wellness activities. b. Installed a second location for Parent Child Interaction Therapy (PCIT). c. A gun safety project has started as part of suicide prevention action. d. An adolescent DBT program will be launched in Montpelier. e. Opened a small residential facility for two youth with acute mental health issues. f. Doula program for moms. Helps moms during pregnancy, during birth, and postpartum. This includes finding housing and employment. g. Working on racial diversity and equity. 	
<p>Public Comment</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. No public comment. 	
<p>Break (12:40-12:50)</p>		
<p>State Program Standing Committee (SPSC) Meeting (12:50-3:00 pm)</p>		
<p>Attending: Cinn Smith, Ward Nial, Laurie Mulhern</p>		
<p>Guests: Jessica Bernard, Christina Thompson, Joanne Crawford</p>		
<p>Review CSAC Designation documents and form questions</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The group used the CSAC Designation Report, Site Visit Report, and Agency Review Report to develop several questions for their redesignation meeting with CSAC in October. 	
<p>Grievance and Appeal Aggregate Data – Jessica Bernard</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Jessica attended the meeting to provide information to the group on the grievance and appeal aggregate data and the Grievance and Appeal process. The Department of Mental Health (DMH) is working with designated agencies (DA) to help them understand the process and understand the 	

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	<p>difference between a complaint and a grievance. Complaints are tracked separately. It is up to the family whether or not something is a complaint or a grievance. The person or family can request a grievance or appeal review at any time.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. DMH is working with DAs to help understand the process so they can see it as a tool for communication. Want agencies to feel free to come to us to try to resolve a situation. 3. A grievance can be made verbally or can put in writing. A parent/guardian can call the G&A Coordinator or the program director at the DA. There are people at each agency that can help people through the process. 	
General Questions regarding designation	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Add to the list of general questions for DAs regarding designation. This will inform DMH and the DAs. Take time in another meeting to build on these questions. 	Christina to make a future agenda item.