

**Sunset Advisory Commission
Board and Commission Review**

ACT 264 ADVISORY BOARD

Act 264, passed in 1988, requires that human services and public education work together, involve parents and coordinate services for better outcomes for children and families. The act developed a coordinated system of care so that children and adolescents with a severe emotional disturbance and their families receive appropriate educational, mental health, child welfare, juvenile justice, residential, and other treatment services in accordance with an individual plan.

Act 264 legislation can be found here:

https://mentalhealth.vermont.gov/sites/dmh/files/documents/CAFU/Act264/DMH-Act_264_Advisory_Creation_1988.pdf

The Commission reviews every State board and commission and takes testimony regarding whether each board or commission should continue to operate or be eliminated and whether the powers and duties of any board or commission should be revised. Each board and commission has the burden of justifying its continued operation.

The Commission also reviews whether members of a board or commission should be entitled to a per diem and, if so, the amount of that per diem.

In testifying before the Commission, you should be able to provide the following information:

- 1. In general, how often does the board and commission meet? Provide specific information on how often the board or commission has met in the past two fiscal years. Provide information on where agendas and minutes of meetings can be found.**

The Act 264 Advisory Board meets the 4th Friday of every month, from 9:30 am – 12:00 pm. Meetings happen at the Waterbury State Office Complex and always offer a call-in option. Meeting agendas and minutes can be found on the DMH website:

<https://mentalhealth.vermont.gov/about-us/boards-and-committees/act-264-advisory-board-and-childrens-state-program-standing-committee>

- 2. Provide the names of members of the board or commission, their term length and expiration, their appointing authority, and the amount of any per diem they receive.**

Per Diem/Stipends: eligible members receive reimbursement for mileage to and from meetings as well as a stipend per meeting. The stipend rate for attending is \$15 per hour, with a maximum of \$50 per hour. Travel time is included in the stipend calculation of hourly participation. These are Governor appointed positions. In FY 18, the Act 264 Advisory Board

members were allotted a total of \$1,500.94 in mileage and stipends. Terms are for three-year periods.

Members receiving stipends:

Cinn Smith, term expires 3/31/21

Alice Maynard, term expires 3/31/22

Teresa Sunderland, term expires 3/31/21

Kristin Holsman-Francoeur, term expires 3/31/20

Members who are not eligible for stipends because they are reimbursed by their employer:

Heather Freeman, term expires 3/31/22

Tiffany Moore, term expires 3/31/21

Cindy Tabor, term expires 3/31/21

Matt Wolf, term expires 3/31/20

Doug Norford, currently awaiting reappointment, has been submitted to the Governor's office.

3. Provide an overview of the board or commission's purpose.

Act 264 is intended to develop and implement a coordinated system of care so that children and adolescents with a severe emotional disturbance and their families will receive appropriate educational, residential, mental health and other treatment services in accordance with an individual plan. The advisory board was created to advise the commissioners of mental health, children and families, and education on children and adolescents with a severe emotional disturbance and their families.

4. Is that purpose still needed? What would happen if the board or commission no longer fulfilled that purpose?

Yes, the purpose is still needed and required under Act 264. If the Board no longer fulfilled that purpose, there would be no formal group to advise the commissioners of the populations covered under Act 264.

5. How well is the board or commission performing in executing that purpose? What evidence can you provide to substantiate that performance?

This team fulfills the full purpose of the statutory mandate. This is accomplished by the following:

- Monthly meetings to discuss pertinent initiatives related to coordination of care
- Review of system of care issues
- Draft annual recommendations for improvements in the system of care
- Discussions with the AHS commissioners and Secretary of Education
- Coordination with the State Program Standing Committee for Children's Mental Health

6. If the purpose is still needed, can State government be more effective and efficient if the purpose was executed in a different manner?

Yes, the purpose is still needed and there are no other suggestions for how this could be more effective or efficient.

7. If the purpose is still needed, do any of your board or commission's functions overlap or duplicate those of another State board or commission or federal or State agency? If so, is your board or commission still the best entity to fulfill the purpose?

There is no other committee or group that fulfills the functions of the Act 264 Advisory Board.

8. Does the board or commission's enabling law continue to correctly reflect the purpose and activities of the board or commission?

The purpose of this advisory board is mandated under Act 264 and reflected in the 2005 Interagency Agreement which expanded eligibility to include all children/youth with a disability who receive services from the Agency of Education and the Agency of Human Services.

9. Provide a list of the board and commission's last fiscal year expenditures including staffing costs. How are these funded?

In FY 18, the Act 264 Advisory Board members were allotted a total of \$1,500.94 in mileage and stipends.

10. Is the board or commission required by law to prepare any reports or studies for the Legislature, the Governor, or any State agency or officer? If so, have those reports or studies been produced? Does the board or commission have ongoing reporting obligations?

The Advisory Board is not required to submit reports or studies, but they coordinate with SIT leadership to review and make recommendations for the System of Care Plan. The Board also drafts their own system of care recommendations annually and shares them with the Commissioners at AHS, Secretary of Education, as well as State Senators, the Lt. Governor, and Governor.

11. How would you measure the performance of the board or commission?

- Drafting of annual System of Care Recommendations
- Annual survey of Local Interagency Team Coordinators (LIT) regarding strengths and needs of the LIT teams
- Annual meetings with AHS Commissioners and AOE Secretary
- Attendance of annual statewide learning opportunity presented by the State Interagency Team (SIT)