

**Sunset Advisory Commission
Board and Commission Review**

LOCAL INTERAGENCY TEAM

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.**

There are 12 LITs throughout the state which meet monthly for two hours. Some meet more frequently where there is a need for family consultation.

- 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.**

The following are required members based on Act 264:

- The person from the designated community mental health agency for that district responsible for coordinating children's services;
- The person managing the DCF-Family Services District Office;
- A special education administrator from a school district in that district;
- A parent of a child with special needs (Parent Representative)*;
- AHS Field Director

Others, as determined locally, may include additional representatives from:

- Agency providers (Mental Health, Substance use, Developmental Disabilities and other Disability service providers)
- Department of Labor
- Department of Corrections
- Child Development Division and/or local Children's Integrated Services team member
- Adoption Consortium

*Parent Representatives receive the following per diem stipend:

- reimbursement for mileage to and from meetings as well as a \$50 stipend per meeting.

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

From Act 264 Statute:

A referral may be made by a local agency, service provider, or parent concerning a child or adolescent with a severe emotional disturbance when agreement cannot be reached with respect to the provision of appropriate services for the child or adolescent. When a referral is made, the local interagency team shall:

- (1) make recommendations concerning the following matters upon which agreement cannot be reached: assessment of the child, coordinated service planning and the provision of services for the child or adolescent;
- (2) review the coordinated services plan for the child or adolescent and amend the plan if necessary.

The local interagency team annually shall inform all local agencies and service providers for children and adolescents with severe emotional disturbances of the provisions of this chapter and any implementing rules or procedures.

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

LITs have the following purposes which continue to be needed:

- Coordinate and implement Coordinated Services Plans
- Create a forum for identifying, assessing, and addressing service system needs at the local level
- Dispute resolution for families (e.g. if a coordinated services plan is not satisfactory)
- Identify and report information and data for the annual priorities for the System of Care to the ACT 264 Board

- Assure the partners in the community, and core agency staff are trained and supported in creating coordinated services plans
- Complete annual survey of LIT functioning from Act 264 Board

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 provide consultation to families who request assistance.
- Address system of care issues that get in the way of effective service delivery to families.

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?

If Local Interagency Teams no longer existed there would be no formal group to fulfill the purposes as outlined in Act 264.

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

The most up to date purpose of this team is 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?

The only members of LIT who are paid are the parent representatives who are paid by the Vermont Federation of Families for Children's Mental Health. All other members of LIT attend as part of their general job duties and are paid by their respective agencies.

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?

- Submission of annual survey regarding strengths and needs of the LIT teams to the Act 264 Board.
- Attendance of annual statewide learning opportunity presented by the State Interagency Team (SIT).
- Successfully supporting families who come to LIT so services are coordinated.