

From: Holcombe, Rebecca [Rebecca.Holcombe@vermont.gov]
Sent: Monday, June 13, 2016 10:37 AM
To: Pepper, James
Subject: Fwd: Re: Planning and achieving more efficiency in PK implementation

Fyi
I will initiate today.

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----- Forwarded message -----

From: "**Cohen, Hal**" <Hal.Cohen@vermont.gov>
Date: Mon, Jun 13, 2016 at 10:24 AM -0400
Subject: Re: Planning and achieving more efficiency in PK implementation
To: "Holcombe, Rebecca" <Rebecca.Holcombe@vermont.gov>
Cc: "Schatz, Ken" <Ken.Schatz@vermont.gov>, "Dragon, Paul" <Paul.Dragon@vermont.gov>

Hi Rebecca,
That makes a lot of sense. Our respective teams should do some homework and then come together.
Thanks, Hal

Sent from my iPhone

On Jun 12, 2016, at 10:29 PM, Holcombe, Rebecca <Rebecca.Holcombe@vermont.gov> wrote:

Hal and Ken,

I hope this finds you well.

We are now a year deep in implementation of Act 166. In this first year, our two agencies have worked closely on all aspects of implementation, built understanding of each other's role and specific responsibilities, and developed numerous joint processes and procedures. We have even revised some procedures jointly!

I am writing to ask if this one-year anniversary is a good time to take stock of the progress, and perhaps rethink not so much what we do, but how we do it, in the interest of efficiency. For example, we are required to collaborate on several aspects of the law. However, I do not think this means we have to do everything together, all the time. In fact, that would be inefficient. For example, the STARS program is really a DCF program, and review of programs against those standards is best done by the entity that administers the STARS work: DCF. We trust DCF to review programs against relevant standards, and to approve programs to operate, and to assign a STARS rating. Once DCF verifies that a program has met standards for prequalification, AOE has a role in that we need to review and make sure that programs are eligible for public dollars. For example, religious programs are not. I am sure I have oversimplified a bit, but you get the idea.

Inversely, licensing of teachers is primarily done by the AOE.

My thinking is that if we can map out the work to be done, then designate who will be the lead on each critical piece, we can work together in a way that reduces time demands on both Agencies.

If you agree, I recommend we task our teams with identifying what we currently "co-do" (do together) that we could have taken over by one team, then signed off on by the other agency if needed/warranted. That would free time for each of our teams, by reducing redundancy.

Let me know what you recommend.

Best,

Rebecca

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