OCTOBER 2024

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Jill Graham, M.S.
Executive Director

- Hired to begin August 1, 2024

- Former Director of Collaborative Services & Compliance at CREST Collaborative in MA for 11 years and 8 years previous experience at the leadership level with another MA collaborative.

- Developed and strengthened high quality, cost effective programs to serve the specific needs of students diagnosed with Autism, Social and Emotional Needs, and medically complex disabilities.

- Developed and oversaw District Services, providing cost effective and high quality evaluations, services, and consultation across academic social-emotional and related service provider areas.

- Supported the increase of the agency's fiscal stability and enrollment over 10 years.

- Rebuilt relationships with districts, resulting in an increase of referrals to programs by over 100% in 10 years.

- Led transition of programs to new facilities in 2015 and 2020.

- Experience in rural and regional settings in both Vermont and MA.

- Former Speech - Language Pathologist, Evaluation Team Chair, Principal, Program Director, and Central Cabinet Leader.

Agenda

- **Vermont Learning Collaborative History**

- **Vision**

- **The Challenges**

- **Board of Cooperative Educational Services (BOCES)**

- **Steps Towards BOCES**

- **What is Needed**

- **Q & A**

VTLC

Vermont Learning Collaborative History

- *VTLC was in existence as a non-profit, providing districts with professional development and fiscal agent services since 2014.*

- *Approximately 7 years ago, two area Superintendents were invited to be on the VTLC Board with intention to shift the agency to become a regional services organization.*

- *Regional Superintendent group discussed regional programming for specialized programs to be run by the Collaborative, housing programs within districts to provide Least Restrictive Environment solutions.*

- *Exploration of regional collaboration opportunities, including services and programming was initiated.*

- *Regional SUs/SDs provided seed money & additional members joined from 8 SUs/SDs.*

- *VTLC Contracted with New Solutions K12 to hire an Executive Director with regional collaboration experience.*

- *VTLC currently has 8 Board members, an Executive Director, part-time Administrative Assistant, and other contracted employees.*

VTLC

Vision

The Vermont Learning Collaborative has been revamped with the aim to provide regional, effective, and efficient support around solutions to challenges including, but not limited to:

- Addressing hard to fill positions;
- Coordinating placement into existing, district-run, substantially separate programs that have capacity;
- Providing cost effective and timely evaluations and services;
- Developing and managing school-based, collaborative-run, programs for high needs, low incidence disabilities;
- High quality professional development; and more.

The Challenges

- Private non-profit limitations to provide specialized programming
- Requires flexibility in thinking and commitment to utilizing agency services
- Geography - vast area to service
- Lack of facility space options - need to identify classroom space opportunities within existing district buildings
- Limited funding sources
- Recruitment of highly qualified specialty staff
- Competing with well-established specialty agencies

Despite having access to multiple established resources, supervisory unions and districts still struggle with capacity to meet ever-changing needs.

VTLC

Why consider BOCES?

Boards of Cooperative Education Services (BOCES) / Service Agencies
provide shared resources and responsive solutions
to meet a variety of short- and long-term regional challenges
in a cost-effective manner.

VTLC

BOCES Solution

- Create regional efficiency with shared staffing resources, professional development initiatives, BOCES programs, and services;
- Meet the growing need for high quality, substantially separate special education programs that are geographically more accessible;
- Fill short-term gaps in staffing;
- Offer consultation services to build capacity or manage projects for supervisory unions;
- Pool resources for cooperative purchasing, transportation, and other needs.

One agency with the ability to provide

regional, efficient district solutions for all needs.

VTLC

Steps Towards BOCES

Fall/Winter 2023 - 2024

- **VTLC Business Set Up**
- **Professional Development**
- **Job Alike Groups**
- **Staffing Resources**
- **Assessment Team creation**
- **Collaborative Outreach**
- **Marketing**

Spring 2024

- **Assessment Team underway**
- **Staffing Coordination**
- **Professional Development Programs in place**

Summer 2024

- **New Executive Director Search completed**
- **VTLC tour of CREST Collaborative**
- **Program exploration & space assessment**

Fall 2024

- **Draft Articles of Agreement**
- **Mission/Vision and Goals established**
- **Supervisory Union projects & consultation underway**
- **VTLC additional MA collaborative tours.**

VTLC

What is Needed

- State Agency readiness and support for BOCES to establish themselves as a service agency.

- Established guidelines for development of urgently needed specialized regional programming.

- Access to H.630 allocated funding for BOCES start up to write and finalize Articles of Agreement.

- Consideration of additional funding to support agency start up, including personnel, legal requirements, programming, physical space, etc.

VTLC

Questions?

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