

**AHS Integration Efforts**  
**Autism Planning for the Future**

Meeting Minutes

**Date:** Thursday, March 17, 2022

1:00-2:00

**Location:** Teams Link

**Overall Goal of our work group:** How do we use our collective resources to move autism services forward for children and their families in Vermont?

**Present:** Kelsey Nero, Melanie Hall, Jamie Rainville, Lyn Ujlaky, Matt Habedank, Danielle Howes, Philip Eller, Danielle Brier, Erin Russell, Mel Houser, Valerie Wood, Steve Wack

**Regrets:** Molly Bumpas, Dr. Elizabeth Forbes, Cammie Naylor, Julie Smith

Agenda Item	Discussion Notes	Next Steps
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Updates as a large group</li> </ul>	<p><b>Erin Russell-Green Mountain Behavior Consulting</b>—trickiest part of trying to serve is trying to hire staff. Doing some services in the Rutland area, but capacity is pretty small at the moment.</p> <p><b>Matt Habedank, NCSS:</b> have been able to hire a BCBA-first time in over a year they have had luck with recruiting.</p> <p><b>Melanie Hall, Children with Special Health Needs:</b> Have a new Personal Care Administrator starting next week, Christina Thompson.</p> <p><b>Jamie Rainville, Vermont Family Network:</b> Hiring for president/CEO position-recruiting in April.            Confident Care for Kids-statewide initiative to make vaccines more manageable for children. Have about 50 participating primary health care practices. Have grant funding available.            Advocacy H. 716-special education rules-advocating they go into effect as scheduled, not delayed.</p> <p>Our VFN Annual Conference, April 14<sup>th</sup>, Wrightslaw  <a href="https://www.vermontfamilynetwork.org/what-we-do/resources/annual-conference/">https://www.vermontfamilynetwork.org/what-we-do/resources/annual-conference/</a></p> <p>Confident Care for Kids:  <a href="https://www.vermontfamilynetwork.org/ccfk/">https://www.vermontfamilynetwork.org/ccfk/</a></p> <p>Transition Toolkit:  <a href="https://www.vermontfamilynetwork.org/what-we-do/family-support/transition-to-adulthood-toolkit/">https://www.vermontfamilynetwork.org/what-we-do/family-support/transition-to-adulthood-toolkit/</a></p> <p>We also have a bunch of youtube videos on a variety of topics, most recently:</p>	

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	<p>Restraints and Seclusion in VT:  <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=amsyex8hJuU">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=amsyex8hJuU</a>  Advocacy 101:  <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vCDzMUUNauk">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vCDzMUUNauk</a></p> <p><b>Mel Houser, All Brains Belong:</b> on Sundays, free webinar on how we support all brains—and how everyone thinks differently. Families are feeling very upset about the lifting of the mask mandate given the high risk of harm from covid. These were the couple of specific items that came up at today's meeting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• "<a href="#">Brain Club</a>" - free virtual weekly community education lecture-discussion series about everyday topics in mental health, family relationships, co-regulation, etc. I've also attached an infographic with this month's schedule.</li> <li>• <a href="#">Trainings</a> on neurodiversity &amp; neuro-inclusion</li> </ul> <p><b>Valerie Wood, UVM Researcher at CDCI/Parent:</b> CDCI supports all Vermonters who intersect with disability and disability issues so individuals can live their best lives. A lot of changes are happening in the early childhood sector-for example, an email went out to a community saying the Universal PreK is full and anyone else who signs up will be chosen by lottery. CDCI often gets questions from college students and faculty about what supports are available to support neurodivergent young adults.</p> <p><b>Lynn Ujlaky, Parent:</b> serves on the state program standing committee at DAIL. There is not a lot out there still for youth transitioning out to the community.</p> <p><b>Danielle Howes,</b> former Part C Administrator, now is a payment specialist with <b>DVHA</b> and she will remain in this workgroup.</p> <p><b>Danielle Brier, DVHA:</b> virtual site visits for ABA providers are happening again.</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• As a large group review the strategic plan to add details about what is happening, so we are all on the same page about our goals.</li> <li>• THEN, select one area as a group we can focus</li> </ul>	<p>What does success look like and how are we measuring progress towards success?</p> <p>This group is unique in that this structure is reducing silos, bringing multiple organizations and agencies together (which is rare)</p> <p>Observations—biggest challenge you are seeing?</p>	<p>Check with AOE about a rep to replace Alex Langevin</p>

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<p>our energy on for the next few months.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Staffing levels</li> <li>• How are we building a stronger, better system of care to prevent tragic outcomes?</li> <li>• All Brains Belong VT (Guest) ABB is going to be doing a free Brain Club in April on "The Joy of Neurodiversity-Affirming Professional Practice" specifically to address this workforce issue</li> <li>• I would like to tackle kids reporting emotional trauma at school to me.</li> <li>• Autistic adults are at 3-9x higher risk of completed suicide <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Higher in those with LOWER support needs.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• There are systems issues</li> <li>• Where are the places we can take this information and advocate for change?</li> <li>• Is the DAIL System of Care Plan is being focused on in House Human Services. How do members of this group provide feedback?</li> <li>• Private insurers have boundaries in place that get in the way of services being able to be provided. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Matt, they fall under qualitative and quantitative treatment limits and have different standards of care for medical services than they do for mental health (which violates the Mental Health Parity Act) - Matt, the CASP organization is interested in helping with this as well.</li> <li>○ How do we advocate as a group with private insurers to address coverage?</li> <li>○ They fall under qualitative and quantitative treatment limits and have different standards of care for medical services than they do for mental health (which violates the Mental Health Parity Act) - the CASP organization is interested in helping with this as well.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	
<p><b>Next Steps</b></p>	<p>Cheryle and Molly will organize our thoughts so that next month we can did into prioritizing ways to move items from the strategic plan forward.</p>	