

**AHS Integration Efforts  
Autism Planning for the Future  
Meeting Minutes  
Virtual or Weeks Building, Waterbury**

**Date:** Thursday, September 12, 2024  
9:30-11:00

**Facilitator:** Molly Bumpas

**Notetaker:** Cheryle Wilcox

**Overall Goal of our work group:** This workgroup convenes to use our collective resources to move autism services forward for children and their families in Vermont.

**Strategic Plan Goals:**

- A. To challenge and advise the current system to identify creative, collaborative, and flexible strategies to deliver family-centered care throughout a child’s journey from early identification and diagnosis through adult services.
- B. Increase access to assessments, supports and services up and through transition to adulthood.
- C. Educate community about inclusion and neurodiversity.

**In person:** Cheryle Wilcox, Molly Bumpas, Rya Hardee-Fauth, Cammie Naylor, Courtney Fitzpatrick

**Virtual:** Laurie Mulhern, Wendy Scott, Margaret Fix, Carmen Lachle, Danielle Cohen, Jen LaGro, Kara Hurwitch, Danielle Brier, Jenn Johnson, Hannah Markos, Regie-Cooper, Alyssa Heilbrunn, Hannah Bloom, Meghann Howrigan, Stacie Curtis, Laura Weaver, Cortney Keene, Emmy Hilliard

**Regrets:** Beth Forbes, Hanna Wagner, Amy Murphy

Agenda Item	Discussion Notes
<b>Updates</b>	<p>Regie, Children with Special Health Needs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Helping with updating webpages for resources on the Children with Special Health Needs.</li> <li>○ One of the updates is for parents waiting for an autism evaluation. Once the links are working and it is ready for review she’d like to bring it back here for feedback.</li> <li>○ <a href="#">What You Can Do While Your Child is Waiting for and Autism Evaluation Infographic 092024 (healthvermont.gov)</a></li> </ul> <p><b>Hannah, Northwestern Medical Center:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Access to OT and SLP—can now be accessed there!</li> <li>○ Families can also access them as an assessment clinic</li> </ul> <p><a href="#">Vermont DMV has information for law enforcement</a> to educate them about how to interact with someone who has a disability.</p>

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	<p><b>Keene Perspectives in White River Junction:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Have hired 3 behavior analysts and this has meant they can double the learners they have in their program. 20 children by the end of November!</li> <li>• BCBA workforce has seemed to shift and there's been an influx into Vermont.</li> </ul> <p><b>Rya Hardee-Fauth, Howard Center:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In the midst of turnover—4 of the 6 BCBA's are leaving.</li> <li>• They have hired one who starts at the end of this month.</li> </ul> <p><b>Cammie Naylor, State special education advisory panel:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Starting monthly meetings back up, first Tuesday of every month</li> <li>• AOE website for more information: <a href="#">Special Education Advisory Panel   Agency of Education (vermont.gov)</a></li> <li>• Always looking for more members</li> <li>• If you do the application—download it AND then fill it out—if you fill it out before saving it the information will disappear.</li> </ul> <p><b>Molly Bumpas, UVM Autism Assessment Clinic:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Waitlist is down to 8 months; it has been over 2 years in the past</li> </ul>
<p><b>Joined by Hannah Markos, VT-HEC about Neurodiversity and Inclusion certificate program</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Shifting language to neurodiversity has been recent and looking at universal support through a learning lens.</li> <li>• Thinking about neurodivergent identity and how we can support individuals based on their specific needs as a human being and what do they need to be successful.</li> <li>• Program is 18 graduate credits—5 core courses, and 1 elective. Offer a broad range of electives. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ You don't have to take the courses in a certain order</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Mostly has been teachers in Vermont who are doing the program. A lot of SLPs, and some individuals from out of state-and one from British Columbia.</li> <li>• Whenever they can meet the same learning outcomes they provide the classes online.</li> <li>• Doing some consulting in schools and starting with other higher ed institutions.</li> <li>• Will be releasing a podcast in mid-October <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ 10 episodes about neurodivergent topics that have come up. (selective mutism, reduce harm with students who are neurodivergent)</li> <li>○ Will be syndicated to major podcasts platform (google, apple, VTHEC website)</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Program page lists courses: VTAHC <a href="#">Pathway to Licensure Program Descriptions   VT-HEC (vthec.org)</a></li> </ul> <p><b>Driver's Education for youth with autism:</b></p>

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	<p>Group member brought up Driver’s Ed and need for funding to support youth with driver’s ed classes. <a href="#">AOE puts out guidance for accommodations</a>. Check into:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">HireAbility</a></li> <li>• John Spinney at AOE</li> <li>• Vermont received a grant last year to support transition and independent decision-making—connect with funding source. <a href="#">Vermont Pathways to Partnership</a></li> </ul>
<p><b>Joined by Courtney Fitzpatrick,</b> Department of Mental Health, Preschool Development Grant Manager</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There are 6 different activity areas under the Preschool Dev. Group.</li> <li>• Activities include focus on infant, early childhood, and family mental health. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Two funding areas are supporting our Designated Agencies in 2 evidence-based practices Child Parent Psychotherapy and Parent Child Interaction Therapy.</li> <li>○ Infant and Early Childhood and Family Mental Health Consultation and Education <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ This funding needs to be focused on children 0-8 and their families.</li> <li>▪ This is a service to provide consultation to early care and learning programs, teachers, building capacity of adults to support children’s social and emotional well-being.</li> <li>▪ Could funds go to parents for education to support them in working with their children?</li> </ul> </li> <li>○ DMH put out a request for grant applications earlier this year and will be putting out another one soon.</li> <li>○ Funds need to support a gap that exists-can’t supplant funds already being used for something.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>Please email <a href="mailto:Courtney.Fitzpatrick@vermont.gov">Courtney.Fitzpatrick@vermont.gov</a> with questions or more ideas!</p> <p><b>Notes from group members for needs:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Group member talked about having apps and tools that make other languages available.</li> <li>• Investments in VTHEC programming.</li> <li>• How do we support more multi-cultural work? What are the right ways to use language, so the translation works for families.</li> <li>• Child find and older kids not being discovered earlier to provide supports.</li> <li>• Joint trainings across disciplines—help families apply for social security, how to support their children</li> <li>• What is missing is more folks have contact with someone who can problem-solve with them</li> <li>• More focus on early multi-tiered systems of support</li> <li>•</li> </ul>
<p><b>What is on the Autism</b></p>	<p><a href="#">Autism Services and Planning Coordination   Integrating Family Services (vermont.gov)</a></p>

<b>Agenda Item</b>	<b>Discussion Notes</b>
<b>Webpage and what else do we want to include?</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li data-bbox="423 184 1247 216">• Need to add HireAbility and Vermont Family Network to list</li></ul>
<b>Wrap Up and Next Steps</b>	