

**AHS Integration Efforts**  
**Autism Planning for the Future**  
**Date:** Wednesday, September 27, 2023  
1:00-2:30  
**Facilitator and Notetaker:** Molly Bumpas

**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?

**Attending:** Renee Fuller, Regie Cooper, Cassandra Santo, Amy Murphy, Julie Smith, Danielle Dukette, Valerie Wood, Philip Eller, Janelle Germaine, Kara Hurwitch, Jennifer Wedin, Lisa Harrison, EmmaRose McCadden, Mel Houser, Beth Forbes, Denise Lavallee, Catherine Armani Wood

**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.

Discussion Notes
<b>Discussion based on the questions below posed by the RNs below: (1 hour)</b>
<p><b>Guiding Family and Child Health Project Inquiry:</b> <i>Family &amp; Child Health Coordinators are dedicated to protecting the health and safety of children and families. We collaborate with local health care providers, hospitals and partner organizations to create systems that improve access to care. Joined by:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ <i>Deb Kitzmiller, RN Brattleboro VDH Office</i></li><li>○ <i>Lisa Harrison, RN Bennington VDH Office</i></li><li>○ <i>Renee Fuller, RN St Johnsbury VDH Office</i></li><li>○ <i>Jen Wedin, RN Rutland VDH Office</i></li></ul> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Are some patients avoiding routine and preventative healthcare due to lack of neuro-inclusive universal design and flexibility within primary care settings?</li><li>● What work or tools have already been implemented (or are pending) to address this need?</li><li>● Is there a role for Family &amp; Child Health Coordinators to support the creation of more comfortable and accommodating settings to reduce barriers to access care?</li></ul>

## Discussion Notes

### Group Member Updates:

- Mary Coogan (Brattleboro Early Intervention) looking for facilitator to guide focus groups for parents with autistic children and design survey of needs in the region. There is strong interest in starting a parent group for this population. Molly will connect Mary with EmmaRose McCadden and Valerie Wood.
- All Brains Belong is hosting the Community Health Education Fair as part of Fall Festival in Montpelier on the state lawn on Sunday 10/1/23.
- Regie Cooper is a new attendee to this group in her new role as Health Systems Specialist with CSHN.

### Next Meeting agenda items

- Is there interest in meeting in person this year?
- Would it be ok to do a survey to check in about the group direction—what questions should we ask?
- Should we be thinking about the agenda setting is based on our strategic plan and then we each reflect at the end of meetings of how we can use that information to make a small change that moves our goals forward?