

AHS Integration Efforts
Autism Planning for the Future
Meeting Minutes

Date: Wednesday, October 9th, 2024
2:00-3:00 p.m.

Facilitator & Notetaker: Molly Bumpas

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.

Present: Molly Bumpas, Wendy Scott, Margaret Fix, Danielle Cohen, Jen LaGro, Kara Hurwitch, Danielle Brier, Jenn Johnson, Regie-Cooper, Emmy Hilliard, Carmen Benedict, Emily Dischino, Laura Weaver, Eve Spratt, Amy Irish

Agenda Item	Discussion Notes
Feedback on infographic – Regie Cooper, CSHN	<p>Group gave feedback on documents Regie is editing for CSHN:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ What You Can Do While Your Child is Waiting for and Autism Evaluation Infographic 092024 (healthvermont.gov) ○ If any further feedback, can email Regie directly at Regina-anne.cooper@vermont.gov
Emmy Hilliard, VFN	<p>Emmy presented current resources for families through VFN. These include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Helpline 5 days week from 9:00-4:30: explain systems, learn to be advocate, brainstorm next steps, and listen to families ● Genetic navigator ● Parent rep support at Act 264 meetings ● Mental health ● Travel guides (Boston Children’s Hospital) ● Transition supports resource guide on website ● Parent matches ● Transition Core Team initiative ● Monthly virtual workshops for families ● 2025 conference in April ● UVM Family Faculty opportunities ● Funding opportunities – including for support groups ● Sibshops monthly – just began new tween group Chittenden <p>Emmy gathered feedback from group re: future workshop ideas: apps to support neurodivergent families; caregiver self care; sensory processing; executive functioning; building independence; the “end game” including guardianship for adults, trusts, etc.</p>
Updates	<p>Some school districts have been sending letters to families re: inability to provide special education supports to their child/ren due to staffing. Wendy reports AOE is aware and formulating a response.</p>

Next meeting December 11th 2:00-3:00