

AHS Integration Efforts Autism Planning for the Future

Meeting Minutes

Date: January 9, 2020

1:00-3:00

Location: Waterbury State Office Complex, Ash Conference Room

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: Mary-Graham McDowell, Cheryle Wilcox, Philip Eller, Danielle Brier, Hanna Wagner, Jenn Johnson (SD Associates), Matt Habedank, Joy Wilcox, Carol Hassler, Diane Bugbee, Erika Rojas, Hillary Hill, Hillary Watson (Children’s Integrated Services),

On skype: Liliane Savard, Kerri McGilvrey, Marilyn Mahusky

Agenda Item	Discussion Notes	Next Steps
<p>Introductions</p> <p>Updates from Clare McFadden, DAIL, Payment Reform Director</p>	<p>Updates from Clare McFadden, DAIL, Payment Reform Director</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DAIL has identified they had some challenges with their waiver home and community based services. They could not account for how they were spending their funds because they didn’t have good reports and data about services being delivered. They embarked on a project to correct that problem. • As the project has rolled out it has become bigger than initially identified. How we pay and account for services is the focus. • Looking at what services are needed and how to fund those services. • Types of services will stay the same • There is an advisory committee and four subcommittees working on aspects of payment reform. State staff, providers, family members, other stakeholders are part of the subcommittee. • Probably won’t roll out for another couple of years because of the work that still needs to be done. • Going to shift from a home grown needs assessment, with no standard protocol about completing them to Support Intensity Scale for person-centered planning and the scores can be used to inform an amount of funding you would provide to a specific individual. Going to send out an RFP to find someone who can do these assessments. The assessments will still include the team. The assessment will be rolled out over the next three years. 	

- Only 63 children get HCBS right now and those children will not get the assessment. The tool will only be used for adults over 18 a child is transitioning into adult services.
- Agencies have the Monthly Service Report to use for data reporting, but it has a lot of gaps for developmental services. Because of this, agencies are going to report into the Medicaid Management Information System (MMIS) system which captures more detail and will show a complete record of what people are receiving for services.
- DAIL pays bundled rates by the day but the rates attached to the services in plans are different to every provider across the state. Typically, agencies have said what it costs to provide the services and the bundled rates are then set within their capped budgets. The rates that will be set under payment reform will be more uniform across the state and more transparent.
- They have been using a professional contractor to do a rate study to inform setting new rates.
- The way of paying and details has not been set. Still figuring out the payment model.
- Conflict free case management-a new federal rule says that agencies that provide case management and direct services cannot do both for a family. DAIL is still trying to think through the best way to do this.

Questions from group:

1. **Will this have an impact on family managed ability to manage their own waivers?** Want to preserve a family's ability to still choose which way they want to have services- by an agency or to manage the waiver themselves.
2. **Who will be doing the Support Intensity Scale?** DAIL is putting out an RFP to see what outside entity can do this.
 - **Would that entity also do the clinical eligibility piece or would that still be the DA?** Currently Vermont is minimally in compliance because we are not supposed to delegate this authority to a non-government entity. This process may change but the DA will still be the entity gathering information and working with the family.
3. **Will other supports and data be looked at?** Not at this time.
4. **Are there lessons to be learned from looking at appeals over time? Have you learned from the appeals or how you are tracking appeals?** Yes, learn from outcomes of appeals regarding directions they should go to thinking about funding. We assume even after it rolls out there will be evaluation and changes.

	<p>DDSD website has information so you can stay updated: https://ddsd.vermont.gov/project-initiatives/dds-payment-reform</p>	
<p>Updates Updates from group members about any legislative information, other workgroups addressing autism services, DVHA, etc.</p>	<p>Liliane: Autism Collaborative just submitted a grant proposal for more support through an engagement award to have support at the federal level. To look at patient informed outcomes.</p> <p>Marilyn Mahusky, Vermont Legal Aid: Act 173 still a work in progress. This the legislation that changed how special education is going to be funded in this state. At this point, AOE is looking at the special ed rules. AOE still needs to figure out how to fund independent schools. Next year there will be more proposed rules and the timing of this. UVM just completed a weighting study to look at things like school district demographics, incidence of learning disabilities, poverty rates. You can find all meeting minutes and information here: https://education.vermont.gov/state-board-councils/census-based-advisory-group</p> <p>Kerri McGilvreay-work for Autism Bridges. Opening clinic in Burlington. Founded in 2007 in Bedford, NH. They have expanded to MA and now Burlington. Typically work with individuals from 18 mos. to school aged. Just getting started and taking referrals. Offer intensive one-on-one ABA in home and in the community. They do accept Vermont Medicaid. Capacity-starting out small and don't expect a large capacity.</p> <p>Jenn Johnson, SD Associates: Still looking into becoming a school and working with AOE around that. Have some openings in Williston for young children due to some families transitioning.</p> <p>Hillary, Children's Integrated Services: Family Engagement Coordinator, just started in October. Primary goals of position is to work with council that advises about CIS services, working to coordinate family engagement services.</p> <p>Matt Habedank, NCSS: just able to hire to fill last consultant position.</p> <p>Danielle Brier, DVHA: running preliminary numbers about claims to get ready for reconciliation in April.</p> <p>Joy Wilcox, Higher Ed. Collaborative: struggling with getting numbers for the autism certificate program. It's been that way since 2005 and they've tried different models. They have scholarships if funding is the issue. There is no endorsement in autism by AOE because there aren't enough people. Shared some themes that the</p>	

	<p>cost is prohibitive and need more online access because travel is difficult. Joy said if anyone has ideas let her know.</p> <p>Philip Eller, Autism Task Force: Website will be up within a month. Not doing an Autism Day at the state house this year. March is a Disability Awareness Day. Green mountain Self-advocates in May the Autism task force. Philip is attending the Act 173 and special ed. advisory council to advocate for the needs of people with autism.</p> <p>Marilyn pointed out there is professional development focus with Act 173 and thought it might be worth connecting the Higher Ed. collaborative to the work of this group.</p>	
<p>Strategic Planning and Data Profile</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Finalize data profile • Finalize parent survey • Determine dissemination plan 	<p>Review data profile draft and parent survey</p> <p>Go through this and go through what makes sense, what would you add, change, etc.</p>	<p>Cheryle and Mary-Graham will take today's feedback and create the surveys to send to this group for final approval prior to the next meeting.</p>