

**AHS Integration Efforts
Autism Workgroup Meeting Minutes**

Date: March 11, 2019
10:30-12:30

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: Julie Smith, Diane Bugbee, Valerie Wood, Joy Wilcox, Philip Eller, Morgan Cole, Danielle Howes, Elizabeth Forbes, Danielle Brier, Hillary Hill, Matt Habedank, Carol Hassler, Rachel Boyers, Hope Morris, Robin Suarez, Danielle Bragg

Regrets: Marilyn Mahusky

Agenda	Discussion Notes	Next Steps																
<p>Introductions and Updates</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Updates from group members about any legislative information, other workgroups addressing autism services, DVHA, etc. • New Autism WG Co-Chair 	<p>Hold the Date: Autism Day at the statehouse—April 10, 2019. Philip Eller will be sending a flyer by email. When it comes please post and disseminate to others!</p> <p>Vermont Higher Education Collaborative (VTHEC)/Joy Wilcox (Thank you for the additional information, Joy, to include in these notes)</p> <p>Right now we are in the midst of a transition in our Autism program and have developed (or are developing) some new courses to replace some of our current offerings. We are trying to be responsive to the needs of the field. With that said, here is the certificate that will be fully implemented by next fall.</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="text-align: left;">Course</th> <th style="text-align: left;">Credits</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>*Understanding ASD</td> <td>3 Fall 2019</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Teaming and Collaboration Assessment</td> <td>1 Fall 2019</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Structured Teaching</td> <td>1 TBD</td> </tr> <tr> <td>**Behavior</td> <td>2 Summer 2019</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Communication</td> <td>3 Summer 2019</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Curriculum</td> <td>3 Spring 2020</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>3 Fall 2020</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>* Students can take our Understanding ASD course in the fall or Autism Spectrum Disorders: Issues in Assessment & Intervention at UVM.</p> <p>** Students can take our behavior course this summer or the Instructional Methods in ABA course that is offered in January. We also offer ABA I every fall and that would count as the "behavior" requirement.</p>	Course	Credits	*Understanding ASD	3 Fall 2019	Teaming and Collaboration Assessment	1 Fall 2019	Structured Teaching	1 TBD	**Behavior	2 Summer 2019	Communication	3 Summer 2019	Curriculum	3 Spring 2020		3 Fall 2020	
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Children's Integrated Services (CIS)/Morgan Cole and Danielle Howes:

- In the fall 2018, CIS ended a contract with the Howard Center due to ongoing work to align services and payments for agencies throughout the state.
- VFN sought guidance from Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) about what services/supports should be put on the One Plan as an entitlement. CIS is working closely with AOE on this.
- If the rules are opened it would be in the spring-if this occurs CIS we will be coming to this group for input and feedback as a key stakeholder group.
- This will be about what services are entitled under EI in Vermont.
- If the rules are open to public comment the link will be sent to this group as soon as it is available.

CIS, Danielle Howes and Dept. of Health, Children with Special Health Care Needs, Dr. Carol Hassler:

- Is working to do a pilot in some areas of the state that are far from the Burlington CDC. This work is to provide assessments for children enrolled in EI. This will ensure parents don't have to travel so far and to try to provide more early evaluation for children.
- Saw first two children this past Friday in St. Johnsbury where one of the pilot sites is happening.
- This pilot is in place for six months and the success will be assessed at that time.
- **Problem trying to solve:** Trying to get more effective and efficient diagnosis occurring sooner so services can get started.
- **This targets children** aged 0-3 to get earlier diagnosis happening.
- **Pilot is to answer the question:** Can a regional approach help families access evaluations sooner?
 - The process that occurs:
 - Referred by CIS EI team.
 - Regionally based services for Morrisville, Newport, St. Johnsbury, Hartford, Springfield, Rutland (these are the regions that funnel into the Barre clinic).
 - They contact Carol Andrew who helps with paperwork being done (assessments done, One Plan, etc.)

- Carol and Carol will go as close to the region as possible to make the evaluation as accessible as possible. They look at all the forms sent to glean everything they can prior to meeting the family and child.
- This is meant to be less intensive than the full CDC evaluation. This is a community response. A small amount of children may need to go on for additional evaluation (such as referral for genetics, neurology consult).

Census Based Funding Advisory Workgroup (legislatively mandated)Cheryle Wilcox, Joy Wilcox, Phillip Eller:

- The Vermont General Assembly established the Census-Based Funding Advisory workgroup in 2018 through Act 173. The purpose of the act is to enhance the effectiveness, availability and equity of services to students who need additional support. The act changes the way special education funding is administered to a census-based funding model. The advisory group's role is to advise the State Board of Education on rulemaking related to the act. Additionally, the group will advise the Agency of Education and SU/SDs on the implementation of the act. Finally, the group may recommend any changes to law that may be needed to the General Assembly.
- Cheryle Wilcox represents DMH on this group and Philip Eller has been attending meetings as an interested member of the public. As well, Joy Wilcox has been following the information that has evolved and has been discussing the evolution with other interested parties.
- There is a recommendation to only open a smart portion of the special education rules and there is disagreement from group members as to whether or not this is appropriate
- Link to website with all information:
<https://education.vermont.gov/state-board-councils/census-based-advisory-group>
- Vermont Legal Aid has asked for adverse effect to be addressed and that rule opened
- Vermont's definition of adverse effect is more constrained than 48 other states

UVM/Developmental and Behavioral Pediatrics/Dr. Elizabeth Forbes:

- Started doing collaborative assessments with the Dept. of Health. Working to recruit a speech and language pathologist.

- Waiting list is holding at about 3 months

Vermont Family Network (VFN)/Rachel Boyers:

- Early Childhood Day is this Wednesday at the legislature
- VFN will be recruiting for a service coordinator

Department of Vermont Health Access (DVHA) Quality Team Update/Danielle Bragg:

Danielle Bragg has shifted into being the manager of Quality at DVHA. Danielle Brier is the new Autism specialist as of April 1st. Danielle Brier comes from DMH in the Children’s Unit. Danielle Bragg will still be very involved with autism quality oversight in regions.

Howard Center Autism Program/Julie Smith:

- Down a BCBA
- Trying to figure out what is happening with autism services starting next year. There aren’t enough BCBA’s in Vermont.
- Big waitlists because of not having enough staff and services
- Trying to figure out the best way to structure their programming and maintain fidelity to ABA.
- Continue to collaborate with their ARCh program (a program that serves children with mental health and developmental disabilities)

NCSS Autism Program/Matt Habedank:

- Transitioning from IFS funding stream to DVHA funding— this was to line up all funding streams and rates to be consistent across the state.

Community Care Network (Rutland Mental Health) Mary-Graham McDowell:

- This past week Community Care Network (CCN) did a pilot training for the medical center with over 70 staff from the hospital present to learn about autism and alternative communication
- The state police are going to do some partnering with CCN for information when working with people who have alternative communication needs
- Asked to do a one-hour training for nurses coming up

New Co-Chair for the Autism Workgroup:

We are very excited to announce that Mary-Graham McDowell from CCNRutland Mental Health will be the new co-chair with Cheryle.

	<p>Mary-Graham oversees the ABA program in Rutland and will be such a valuable asset in this new role with our group.</p> <p>Very special thanks to Diane for her years of being such a consistent force in this group as co-chair. Diane will continue as a member of our group so luckily, we aren't losing her!</p> <p>UVMHC Autism Clinic/Hope Morris:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Was in DC last week and her group was able to get time with Patrick Leahy's senior staff to discuss the lack of fully funding for IDEA and special education funding. • Would like to have data on how many children are not getting the services they need—Joy recommended contacting VFN to look at their data to see what phone calls they get from family members. • Special Needs support center-Philip will get data from them to pass on to Hope. 	
Strategic Planning for the next two years	Broke into small groups and each group provided feedback to detail out more our goals and initiatives to take us through the next two years. At our May meeting we will review this document with a focus on how we measure our progress towards our goals.	Cheryle will send out an updated document with edit's from today before our next meeting
Presentation about forward momentum occurring through Help Me Grow ~ <i>Janet Kilburn and Lauren Smith</i>	Due to presenter illness this presentation was rescheduled for the May meeting	
Wrap Up and Next Steps	Next Meeting-May 15 from 2-4	