

## AHS Integration Efforts Autism Planning for the Future

Meeting Minutes

Date: July 17, 2019

1:00-3:00

**Location:** Waterbury State Office Complex, Oak 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:** Cheryle Wilcox, Mary-Graham McDowell, Beth Forbes, Danielle Bragg, Erika Rojas, Matt Habedank, Megan Mayo, Danielle Bragg, Danielle Brier, Hanna Wagner, Sara Stowell, Diane Bugbee, Laura B, Liliane Savard, Danielle Kent

Agenda Item	Discussion Notes	Next Steps
<p><b>Introductions and Updates</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Updates from group members about any legislative information, other workgroups addressing autism services, DVHA, etc.</li> <li>• Discuss next iteration of data tracking Sheet</li> </ul>	<p>Megan Mayo, CSAC: Trying to do more groups with parents and children. Also, opening groups up to other parents who aren't necessarily open to services. They've had luck with children's groups, but the summer has been a difficult time to get enough parents who are available for a group.</p> <p>Danielle Bragg, DVHA: ABA payment update --July 1<sup>st</sup> the new funding case rate went into effect and was successful in payments going out the Friday before. Around 20 more children are now being served and it is possible this is due to the new case rate. A new provider has come into the state and it is possible that UCS may be starting an ABA program. Danielle Brier as the new Autism Specialist is the contact if anyone has questions about ABA programming.</p> <p>Liliane Savard: Autism Collaborative is getting up and moving. May be doing some research with families as well to learn about their experience. This collaborative does not provide direct services to children.</p> <p>Mary-Graham, Community Care Partners: have already seen an improvement through payment reform in no longer needing authorizations for high needs children who phase in and out of needing 2:1 supports.</p> <p>SLP and BCBA—if they both are treating at the same time, only one can bill and this is typically the SLP or professional in private practice who bills.</p> <p>Megan Mayo shared that New Mexico just passed a law that guarantees insurance coverage from birth through death for those on the spectrum. <i>The law expands coverage for autism therapies to transition-age youth and adults with autism</i></p>	

	<p><i>covered by private, state-regulated health benefit plans as well as Medicaid. New Mexico has set a new precedent by creating a statutory requirement for Medicaid coverage of autism therapies, including applied behavior analysis (ABA), regardless of an individual's age.</i></p> <p><i>If you'd like to read more you can do so here:</i>  <a href="https://www.autismspeaks.org/advocacy-news/new-mexico-passes-landmark-legislation-autism-insurance-coverage">https://www.autismspeaks.org/advocacy-news/new-mexico-passes-landmark-legislation-autism-insurance-coverage</a></p> <p>Beth Forbes, UVM Medical Center shared that they have hired an SLP for their program. Continue ramping up 80 evals a year to 100 evals a year. Demand is still a bit more than they can accommodate. Trying to meet the demand statewide. They are willing to see families from anywhere in the state. They are partnering with Kathy Workman, psychologist at CDC, to make referrals back and forth to each other to serve as many children and families as possible. Autism assessment clinic can determine what level of evaluation should occur for a family.</p> <p>Matt Habedank, NCSS shared that Johnson is the only instate program for BCBA's and at this point they only have 2 people enrolled so if they don't get more they are going to have to cut the program.</p>	
<p><b>Strategic Planning</b>  <i>By June 2020, we are going to complete our first annual Autism WG report</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Which goals do we want to prioritize? We should focus on 3 to make it manageable.</li> <li>• Measurement and deliverables – come up with concrete next steps – do this in three groups-one for each goal area.</li> </ul>	<p>Reviewed the strategies we have brainstormed in this group and discussed what the group would like to prioritize. The notes were captured on the strategic plan.</p> <p>Our goal is by next summer 2020 to have our first annual Autism WG report that includes data (both qualitative and quantitative), family perspective, resources, gaps, and policy recommendations.</p> <p>We need to think through what qualitative data we want to focus on.</p> <p>We would love to ensure we have communication with AOE and brainstormed ways we could connect more with folks to get an education perspective. Cheryle will reach out to contacts at AOE to see if there is a better way to get their feedback about the discussion occurring in this group.</p>	<p>Mary-Graham and Cheryle will clean up the strategic plan based on today's discussion and will send out to our full group</p> <p>Cheryle will ask Philip and Marilyn if they would team with her to make sure this group stays updated about the special education rules and what is happening with the Census Based Funding Act 173</p>