

AHS Integration Efforts Autism Planning for the Future

Meeting Agenda

Date: September 18, 2020
10:00-11:00

Location: Microsoft Teams only

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, Diane Bugbee, Hillary Hill, Danielle Howes, Jenn Johnson, Katy Langevin, Cortney Keene, Tiffany Cochran, Matt Habedank, Valerie Wood, Julie Smith, Philip Eller, Marilyn Mahusky

Regrets: Joy Wilcox, Hanna Wagner

Agenda Item	Discussion Notes
<p>Introductions and Updates Updates from group members about any legislative information, other workgroups addressing autism services, DVHA, etc.</p>	<p>Cheryle Wilcox, DMH</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Due to Cheryle taking on new job duties, we are looking for a new co-chair to continue moving this group forward with Mary-Graham. Please reach out to Cheryle and Mary-Graham if you are interested! • DMH continues to post and create resources since COVID began. You can find them here--resources for providers, families and self-care: https://mentalhealth.vermont.gov/Corona-MH • As well we have a federal grant that is running through Vermont Care Partners which is focused on putting out PSAs to raise awareness of supports and mental health resources. The website they've developed can be found here: https://covidsupportvt.org/ <p>Mary-Graham McDowell, Rutland Mental Health</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mary-Graham is the new director of Developmental Disabilities at Rutland Mental Health (Congratulations!!!) • RMH has had to downsize their ABA program due to funding not being able to sustain the program. That has been very sad for Rutland and they are talking to folks at the state about how they can provide services in the current funding structure. <p>Danielle Brier, DVHA</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Update about ABA reconciliation-shout out to all on this call working through that with the state. • ABA providers are amazing, and this is the first reconciliation for the case rate that was established. Figured out how to save some providers money during the reconciliation and through billing. T • his reconciliation is on the tail end of completion. • If you have feedback on the case rate or quality, please put the feedback in writing to Danielle so she can share this with leadership.

Katy Langevin, AOE

- Working with I-Team to do more Autism focused professional development.
- Katy did a para training this summer which went well. AOE has put out documents on masking, toileting, hygiene.

Jenn Johnson, SD Associates

- Happy to be in week two of school and getting into a rhythm. students and families have done a great job with mask wearing and are getting used to the new pieces of this.
- Are serving some children at their site in Williston and Georgia on days those children are not in school.
- Had been hopeful they could get back to doing some work in homes, but that hasn't worked out due to COVID, however, they are doing more parent support work.
- They still have long waitlist and are trying to figure out

Valerie Wood, CDCI

- Recently put in a grant proposal to look at pilot-testing transition-aged process that is taking place in Rutland. This is about youth after high school who have IEPs. They did not get the grant, but the center is looking into alternative funding streams as to how they can support a better transition process for moving into adulthood-how to make sure this is person-centered.

Julie Smith, Howard Center

- Fully into the school year and supporting students 5 days a week. the center-based program is still small, and sustainability is challenging regarding funding. Enrolling three more children under the age of 5 within the next couple of weeks.
- Staff are excited to be back in schools and the transition has been smooth.

Diane Bugbee, DAIL

- DAIL is working with agencies to ensure health and safety of staff and individuals are protected. DAIL resource page: <https://dail.vermont.gov/novel-coronavirus-information> please visit the site.
- DAIL extended one of the support options for families who are on Home and Community Based waivers there is a way to shift some of those funds into difficulty of care funds for families. You can find out details on the website.
- Still waiting on state budget allocation for flexible family funding which gets provided out on an annualized basis out to the DAs.

Philip Eller, Autism Task Force

- Usually have their annual retreat in Sept. but it has been delayed until October.
- Still finishing up changes to their website.
- Main thing they are looking for right now is for parents who have difficulty getting their child services because of the adverse effect requirement. They would like this info. shared with the state school board because the rules are open. AOE website for the state board input:

<https://education.vermont.gov/state-board-councils/state-board/rulemaking#rule-3400> If you know of parents with difficulty, they can get in touch with Philip to be assisted through this process.

Danielle Howes, Children’s Integrated Services

- Their CIS Director, Morgan Cole, has resigned and will be done on Sept. 25th. They are working on what the plan will be for this position but there is no announcement yet.
- There has been a large shift in EI services-Chittenden County put out an RFP for EI services and after a full process they awarded the EI services contract to NCSS.
- CIS continues to work under a level-funded budget.

Tiffany Cochran, Autism, Advocacy and Intervention

- They have gotten a lot of referrals over the summer.
- Have expanded to many areas of the state.
- Using telehealth platforms to also provide services.
- Continuing to accept referrals.
- They have hired a part-time BCBA.
- Back working with Headstart in the NEK.

Matt Habedank, NCSS

- Summer has been bumpy but it is starting to get back to normal. still 20-25% below normal.
- Center is still doing a lot of telehealth, just a bit in homes and mostly outside.
- Trying to figure out what and how to provide support when the weather gets colder and we have to move inside.
- School-based services. summer program for 25-30 children and this went well. staff and children had a lot of fun.
- Did a lot of work prepping for school and getting used to wearing masks. a lot of discussion about school-based services.
- Most schools waited until the week before school started to define what services would look like. now that school has started it’s going well.
- NCSS launched new EMR September 1st

Discussion and Notes:

- There is a webinar this afternoon through Vermont Family Network about special education if you are interested.
- Question about what is happening with special education services-Katy responded that AOE is aware of the challenges and they are wanting to see how students are doing, what compensatory services will be needed, how much regression has occurred. Paying attention to this.
- Most schools are doing hybrid, but some may be moving to all in-person in October. There is a wide range of what is happening. Is there any master database on that? There is a map of what is happening:

<https://dfr.vermont.gov/about-us/covid-19/school-reopening#public-school>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• For families struggling to get internet-are there any resources to get them linked to an internet provider? That is the largest barrier to getting them into services. Any resources anyone knows about please send. This creates significant equity issues for obtaining services and supports.• What are families choosing for services? Telehealth or in person? It is different for families. The masking is difficult, and some children have been able to get notes to not wear one. Some families are choosing to not do in person due to that. It sounds like it varies by region and family preference. Some children and families enjoyed the remote aspect and did well.
Wrap Up and Next Steps	Next Meeting Thursday, November 12, 1:00-3:00