

**AHS Integration Efforts
Autism Planning for the Future**

Date: Tuesday, June 28, 2022
10:00-11:30

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?

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: Jamie Rainville, Kelsey Naro, Melanie Hall, Matt Habedank, Beth Forbes, Hannah Bloom, Cortney Keene, Danielle Brier, Valerie Wood, Mel Houser, Erin Russell, Cathy Booth, Rachel Wassel, Jennie Moon, Cammie Naylor, Kara Hurwitch

Regrets: Cheryle Wilcox

Which strategic plan goal does this tie to?	Agenda Item
A. Increase access to assessments, supports and services up and through transition to adulthood. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Active website with resources available on it-how to get in, contact person, how it is funded, possible grants and funding available. Include organizations that may be private pay, how do we know more about these and learn the 	How do we make the IFS webpage for this Autism WG the go-to place for information—what do we have for resources on other sites that should be linked? https://ifs.vermont.gov/docs/autism

models-how do we make those supports accessible also— regardless of income status. Ask Liliane if this fits with what she is doing and timeline.

Are there topics, issues that any member of this group would like to put on a future agenda or take time today to problem-solve with the group?

Upcoming agenda items:

1. Overview of CANS (Child and Adolescent Needs and Strengths) possible Autism Module
2. Special Ed rule changes
3. Who's voices are missing from this table? How do we solicit their feedback even if they can't come to the meetings (e.g. survey)?

MINUTES

Updates from members:

- Valerie Wood – Hearing from advocates regarding the needs of autism evaluation for teenagers/adults in the state. Vermont Psychological Services clinic at UVM are doing evals for this age range – there is a wait list.
- Jamie Rainville – Shared about training regarding SPED eligibility rule changes on July 7 – See VFN website for details. Also VFN is doing a leadership series in the fall.
- Kelsey Naro –Shared that CSHN social workers are moving to a care consultation model. This involves working on systems-level projects and acting as a support to teams working with families when needed. For questions/requests, there is a general inbox: ahs.vdhcshnconsultation@vermont.gov
- Mel Houser – Asks providers and professionals in Vermont to share information to all about long haul COVID in the ASD population. This is a health crisis. Some families with neurodiverse children are mitigating risk about sending their children to school in the fall given this information. Giving educators information about long haul COVID risk in this population is important as well to promote creative solutions.
- All Brains Belong is beginning a program called Kid Connections for those 3 to 17 years of age. Groups are based on interests of the participants. See website for details: allbrainsbelongvt.org

Comprehensive Resources for Autism Brainstorm:

- Molly and Cheryle have drafted the beginnings of a Resource List to go on our workgroup's government website. Members gave feedback on this draft and helped brainstorm format, content, and use. Molly will make suggested revisions and bring back to the group.

