

AHS Integration Efforts
Autism Planning for the Future

Meeting Agenda
Date: May 21, 2020
 1:30-2:30
Location: Skype 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, Diane Bugbee, Michael Hoffnung, Hillary Hill, Nora Sabo, Sara Stowell, Carol Hassler, Joy Wilcox, Beth Forbes, Mary-Graham McDowell, Marilyn Mahusky, Tiffany Cochran

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: Shared that given the pandemic the survey has not been moved forward. DMH and ADAP applied for and received \$2M to support emergency services for adults with Substance use disorder or Severe Mental Illness—begins immediately and will be distributed to Designated Agencies and Peer support agencies. DMH has been putting together resources since COVID began. You can find them here--resources for providers, families and self-care: https://mentalhealth.vermont.gov/Corona-MH</p> <p>Mary-Graham, Rutland Mental Health: team quickly embraced telehealth and have had lots of engagement from families who had difficulty engaging previously. Staff are busy and providing meaningful telehealth.</p> <p>Hillary Hill, DVHA: just want to remind folks that Medicaid does allow services to be delivered by telehealth and some services can also be delivered just by audio when connectivity issues prevent video. DVHA resource page: https://dvha.vermont.gov/covid-19</p> <p>Diane Bugbee, DAIL: the dept. has been busy and all COVID related information and there is information for both providers, families and information about more respite supports. DAIL resource page: https://dail.vermont.gov/novel-coronavirus-information</p> <p>Tiffany Cochran, Autism AI: over the last 9 weeks they have been doing a series of video trainings with NEK Headstart. there are links to those trainings on Autism AI- they are geared towards dealing with power struggles, sibling rivalry, etc. zoom training with some of the teachers from HeadStart and some parents. They can be found here: http://www.autismai.com/aai-training-videos.html</p> <p>Nora Sabo, UVMHC: Child Development Clinics that are in Barre, Rutland continue to be on hold. Carol and Nora are working with folks from WIC to talk about what are</p>

the combined things to focus on while we get ready to start up again. the hold up is that the state office buildings are still closed to the general public. When they do start, they will have a few children they need to reschedule. Waiting lists are getting longer. They have gotten more referrals. Not yet scheduling for Rutland, Barre or Kathy Workman in Burlington.

Michael Hoffnung, UVM Autism Assessment Clinic: Doing remote assessments to triage and meet with families who had been previously scheduled to determine what else they may need. they will start bringing them in person next week. It is restricted as to how many people can be in the building. It is challenging to do assessments given the need for facial coverings.

Beth Forbes, Dept. of Pediatrics: opened to in-person visits a few weeks ago. they are scheduling follow up for folks who need more assessment. working through how to do good assessments with facial coverings on. Feeling optimistic they will able to move some children into assessments.

Carol Hassler: Can anyone share how CIS EI are doing with their home-based visiting? Are they using PPE? How is that working? Cheryle will reach out to Danielle Howes. As well, Beth Forbes shared what she is hearing from families is that EI is largely providing remote services. Home Health in Chittenden and Franklin County are getting some speech and language services because Home Health is deemed essential. Hillary shared that DVHA has been working with CIS to create codes so they can do more telehealth. Beth has heard that some ABA services are only serving current clients; not all are taking new referrals but hearing this may be shifting.

Tiffany shared they are still receiving referrals and doing assessments through telehealth.

Beth F. shared that 20-25% of patients have declined remote service at this time.

Marilyn Mahusky, Vermont Legal Aid:

- Under the CARES Act local schools are going to be getting funds to support staying connected so they can access education (hot spots, technology)
- \$13.5B allocated by congress to support education-Vt. is expected to receive \$4.5M through the Governor's relief fund.
- 90% will flow directly to LEAs
- Funds also to be used for MH supports for children and teachers, supplemental after school programs, online instruction, etc.
- See attached document from Marilyn: Pages 15-16 for list of 12 permissible uses of ESSER funds by LEAS. Also-link here: <https://www.cleweb.org/news-article/cles-analysis-elementary-and-secondary-funding-cares-act>
- Vermont Legal Aid is advocating through town meetings, sharing info. with the Governor and Sec. of Education about the use of funds.
- VLA also has concerns about some of the guidance being put out by AOE regarding compensatory services. Schools are obligated under Federal Law to

make sure children get their education. If you know of families with concerns you can refer them to VLA and/or the Vermont Family Network.

Technology Needs: Discussed the need for families to have more technology—Tiffany shared that they have helped families with this so they can access services, Vermont Community Foundation provided a grant of \$100,000 to the DA network to provide technology to clients and families as well.

DCF information—courts have required parent-child contact to occur so Family Services has continued to work on that. Changing legal status probably will not be occurring much given only emergency hearings are happening. Resource page: <https://dcf.vermont.gov/COVID-19>

Question was asked: Carol Hassler and Carol Andrew—any home visits? Yes, thinking about it. Carol Andrew is doing some face-to-face visits in NH. Carol Hassler is still operating within telehealth.

Wrap Up and Next Steps

Next Meeting July 23rd, 9:30-11:30

We only have access to Skype, but you can also just call in to the number rather than needing to click on the link. We'll make the number more obvious for our next meeting.