

AHS Integration Efforts
Autism Planning for the Future

Meeting Agenda

Date: July 23, 2020

9:30-10:30

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, Hillary Hill, Joy Wilcox, Beth Forbes, Katy Langevin, Cortney Keene, Matt Habedank, Valerie Wood, Damien Owczarski, Marilyn Mahusky, Liliane Savard

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: 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 will be 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> <p>Katy Langevin, AOE: Just did 8 mini-trainings for paraprofessionals and one was on Autism. Katy was an Autism specialist and she provided the training. If anyone needs content for trainings, please contact Katy. Katy put together an Autism and online learning guide. The guide is not published yet, but when it does get published Katy will send us all the link. They are also working on face masks, sensitivity, seclusion/restraint guidance. She is happy to send these when they are done.</p> <p>Hillary Hill, DVHA: Medicaid allows 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 Reconciliation letters have gone out. If you have questions, feel free to reach out to Danielle Brier.</p> <p>Diane Bugbee, DAIL: Diane has heard from some folks looking for an Autism 101 training—does anyone know of one? Eligibility determinations and guardian evals are slowing restarting in the Designated Agencies with strict precautions for everyone involved. DAIL-DDSD has gotten permission to extend their System of Care plan through 2021 since updating the plan was halted due to COVID. 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</p> <p>Liliane Savard: Trying to assess how learning online is working for families and children with autism they would like to craft a survey to gather more information</p>

about this. Liliane has started a google document and you can input anecdotal evidence so we can pull ideas for what is needed for trainings and supports. Autism Collaborative website is being worked on and they want to include providers. The Autism Task Force and our Autism planning group pages will be linked on the site as well. **Requests from Liliane:**

1. *Could everybody share names and contact for their group or individual providers who have expertise in working with individuals with ASD? This is for the resource page of the UVM Autism Collaborative website*
2. *Could you add to [this google document](#) anonymous anecdotal evidence regarding how providing services through Zoom or other online platform has been received by families and providers and ideas to improve delivery of services through this model? We are looking to design a survey to inform continuing education that might be helpful to provide. We discussed a coaching training and possibly a video modeling training. Your answer will give us more information on the needs of the autism community both providers and parents.*

Damien Owczarski, WCMH/Representing Vermont Assoc. of Behavior Analysts:

They have an insurance advocacy committee and they want to start building resources and training. He would like to hear what others want. He can be emailed at: DamienO@wcmhs.org. One request is for an in-depth training on how to deal with Tri-Care. Marilyn wondered if Vermont Legal Aid health care advocates could be helpful for folks who are struggling to get coverage.

Joy Wilcox, Higher Ed Collaborative: The higher ed collaborative has been working to get things online. They are looking for people or ideas for livestream webinars. If you have suggestions, they would like to see and people who could do them please let Joy know. BCBA program through NVU may not be continuing so we may lose the only one we have here. The person who ran the program took another job and moved and NVU is still deciding if they are going to look for someone else to run the program.

Cortney Keene, Keene Perspectives: They were closed from March 18th until May 18th-now open for in person. Safely and successfully providing services for 11 children/youth. Doing a summer program for a few youth whose families were really struggling with this program, with this program they are now serving 16 learners.

Matt Habedank, NCSS: trying to figure out how to keep programs surviving. They did a lot of transitioning to online supports which worked well for some youth and families and for some this did not work at all for. Since the beginning of June, restarting in person services outside with safety measures in place. Some families are still not comfortable doing anything in person. Doing summer program was challenging serving 27 out of 38 in summer programming which has gone really well. School restarting with hybrid model so they will be working to see what this looks like and how to keep staff employed. A lot of questions for school services.

	<p>Beth Forbes, Dept. of Pediatrics: it has been a time of transition and change at UVM, they are making progress. UVMMC autism assessment clinic is back up to pre-COVID numbers. Some meetings are being done by virtual and some in person. Clinic is up to about 75% capacity-see new folks for assessments. ng follow up for folks who need more assessment. Kathy Workman (VDH-CSHN) is sharing their space because the Burlington clinic space is not open yet. Other two CDC clinics are still not open because the space is not open yet. Facing a lot of clinical stress because they are open but clinical interventions aren't necessarily back up and running at the same level. Recommended finding out which providers are using telehealth to bridge some of the geography. Beth has not had individuals who have responded well to telehealth services. About 1/3 of who Beth serves are New Americans which adds complications and needs which make telehealth challenging. The wait for ABA services in Chittenden has been 12-15 months due to provider availability. Early Intervention is shifting from Vermont Family Network to NCSS Sept. 1st.</p> <p>Marilyn Mahusky, Vermont Legal Aid: State Board of Education is considering the rules related to Act 173 (funding for Spec. Ed). Vermont Legal Aid in collab. with VFN, private attorneys, educators have submitted what they would like to see changed in the special ed rules. They would like to see the adverse effect gate to be removed because it isn't consistent with the federal requirements. Comment period for the rules is extended to the end of Dec. due to COVID. If you would like to comment you can do that here. https://education.vermont.gov/state-board-councils/state-board/rules</p> <p>Valerie Wood, UVM-CDCI/Parent: Her son age 3 was identified with autism. The waitlist now is shorter than it was then—the waitlist four years ago was 2 years. SD Assoc. was just getting started then. After 2 years of no movement on the SD Assoc. they received a letter letting them know they hadn't had movement on the waitlist so they were being removed because by the time their son would get in, he wouldn't be eligible anymore because of his age. Their family was able to eventually access services through Howard Center. Discussed concern knowing how much earlier intervention helps for young children.</p> <p>Needs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Next time-Discuss wait times for services again and how we can advocate for access • Continue telehealth flexibilities
Wrap Up and Next Steps	Next Meeting Friday, September 18th 10:00-11:00