

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

Meeting Minutes

**Date:** Friday, February 18, 2022

11:00-11:30

**Location:** Teams link

**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?

**IFS website for notes:** <https://ifs.vermont.gov/docs/autism>

**Present:** Cheryle Wilcox, Julie Smith, Matt Habedank, Cortney Keene, Erin Russell, Hillary Hill, Melanie Hall, Kelsey Naro, Brian Marrier, Philip Eller, Danielle Brier, Kimberly Maki,

**Regrets:** Beth Forbes, Molly Bumpas, Hanna Wagner

Agenda Item	Discussion Notes
Updates as a large group	<p><b>DVHA, Danielle Brier:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Excited to announce that the ABA Supplement has received an overhaul. While none of the information in the document is new, language was reworked to provide clearer guidelines on frequently asked questions.</li><li>• The updated ABA Supplement can be found here <a href="http://www.vtmedicaid.com/assets/manuals/ABASupplement.pdf">http://www.vtmedicaid.com/assets/manuals/ABASupplement.pdf</a></li><li>• The updated ABA Medical Prior Authorization form can be found here: <a href="#">DVHA Forms</a></li><li>• The ABA Clinical Practice Guidelines document has been moved to the <a href="#">Clinical Practice Guidelines</a> page.</li><li>• <u>The VT Medicaid ABA webpage is no longer in operation.</u></li><li>• Please use the above links moving forward and let me know if you have any questions.</li><li>• <b>Reminder:</b> a child does not need to have an ASD diagnoses to receive this benefit. If a child has Vermont Medicaid with a developmental delay, please send info to Danielle Brier for review and discussion to see if they qualify.</li></ul> <p><b>Children with Special Health Needs</b> is back focused on their work from being redeployed to Covid response for nearly two years!!</p> <p><b>Autism Care Partners</b> just moved locations to a bigger, better location off of Kimball Avenue which means they can expand services if they can get the staff. Tuesday, March 2<sup>nd</sup> 4-6:30 pm Open House to check out facility. <b>Kimberly sent flyer to Cheryle—see attached to email.</b></p> <p><b>Howard Center</b>-dire need of staff. Huge wait list.</p>

Agenda Item	Discussion Notes
	<p><b>NCSS:</b> just hired first two new staff for autism program in almost a year!</p> <p><b>Philip Eller, Autism Task Force-</b><a href="#">Vermont Coalition for Disability Rights</a> is hosting Disability Awareness Days-see the link to their website with details.</p> <p><b>Keene Perspectives:</b> staffing is stressful. Just had 4 people start last week. a lot of folks resigning with no notice which they haven't experienced before. They are expanding into another site across the street from the. The key will be hiring staff. Renovations will start mid-March.</p> <p><b>Erin Russell, Green Mountain Behavior Consulting:</b> Director of Program Development and trying to expand services in diff. ways. Opened an EI clinic in Bennington, Kristie Hoffman is the director.</p> <p><b>Danielle Howes, Children's Integrated Services:</b> will be leaving her position at CIS at the end of this month to transition to the DVHA payment reform team. Danielle has done an amazing job over the past two months bringing a group together to use ARPA funds that were allocated to CIS to put out an RFP for consultation and supports to the field. More info to come!</p> <p><b>Jenn Johnson, SD Associates:</b> staffing challenges as well.</p> <p><b>Liliane Savard, teaching at UVM</b>—applied for two grants in Jan. for healthcare transition to adult services, increase supports-will know in March. Some of the funds have to be directed to families and those with Autism to get their feedback and expertise. Have a virtual playground going that is working very well. If you have children that would benefit please contact Liliane.</p> <p><b><a href="#">Navigating Autism</a> book</b> just came out by Temple Grandin and Deborah Moore—steps for helping kids on the spectrum. Empowering strategies for anyone who works with children and teens on the spectrum.</p> <p><i>International best-selling writer and autistic Temple Grandin joins psychologist Debra Moore in presenting nine strengths-based mindsets necessary to successfully work with young people on the autism spectrum. Examples and stories bring the approaches to life, and detailed suggestions and checklists help readers put them to practical use. Temple Grandin shares her own personal experiences and anecdotes from parents and professionals who have sought her advice, while Debra Moore draws on more than three decades of work as a psychologist with kids on the spectrum and those who love and care for them.</i></p>
<b>Next Meeting</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• As a large group review the strategic plan to add details about what is happening so we are all on the same page about our goals.</li> <li>• THEN, select one area as a group we can focus our energy on for the next few months.</li> </ul>