

Autism Workgroup Meeting Minutes

July 2022

Present: Cheryle Wilcox, Molly Bumpas, Matt Habedank, Liliane Savard, Beth Forbes, Kelsey Naro, Cortney Keene, Jeremiah Dickerson, Cammie Naylor, Erika Rojas, Michael Hoffnung, Rachel Wassel, Phillip Eller, Hillary Hill, Danielle Brier, Mel Houser, Keith Williams, Jennie Moon, Catherine Armani-Munn, Cathy Booth

Regrets: Valerie Wood, Lyn Ujalky, Julie Smith, Brian Marrier, Jamie Rainville, Danielle Howes

Review of Children with Special Health Needs Documents with Betty Morse:

Members shared feedback on draft of an infographic and frequently asked questions intended for parents whose children are on wait lists for autism evaluations. Discussion included differences in service for those children under 3 (CIS gateway) and 3+ (school district). Also discussed how Designated Agencies work differently and provide different services across the state. Feedback included how to embed the philosophy of understanding, community support, and connection. Emphasize all service providers (SLP, OT, PT, ABA). If members wish to provide more feedback, they can email Betty at betty.morse@vermont.gov. We are appreciative to Betty for bringing these documents to our group and managing lots of information!

Member Updates:

- Erika Rojas, DMH, is back in attendance after being unable to participate for a period due to staffing issues, etc. Welcome back Erika!
- Cortney Keene, BCBA, shared that Keene Perspectives is welcoming two new BCBA's in August. In addition, they are preparing to open their new space in White River Junction. Currently hiring behavior technicians.
- Jennie Moon shared that Dr. Sand Loud, Developmental Pediatrician from DHMC, will present a talk in Bennington at Vermont Department Health on August 25 at 5:30 on children with ASD.
- Liliane Savard shared she has been taking a Global Disability class and doing accompanying project exploring perspectives of autistic adults regarding supports. She offered to present her findings at next meeting.
- Mel Houser shared that All Brains Belong, Vermont Family Network, and Vermont Department of Health are sponsoring Neurodiverse Inclusive Vaccine Clinic on August 28 on state house lawn. They provide customized experiences for each participant. In addition, the weekly Brain Club is going hybrid – on zoom as well as on state house lawn- Tuesdays at 6 pm. Mel will also present a training for VFN on threat processing and self-regulation presenting as demand avoidance, as well as how to promote co-regulation.
- Liliane shared that the Autism Research Collaborative at UVM will start work in September on their PCORI grant focusing on transition from pediatric to adult care. This includes lit review, determining what's missing in adult care, and engaging autistic stakeholders in the process.