

AHS Integration Efforts
Autism Planning for the Future

Meeting Minutes

Date: September 30, 2021

1:00-2:30

Location: Teams

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: Philip Eller, Molly Bumpas, Cheryle Wilcox, Liliane Savard, Emerson Wheeler, Diane Bugbee, Valerie Wood, Jamie Rainville, Lana Metayer, Danielle Howes, Beth Forbes, Melanie Hall, Lyn Ujlaky, Kathryn Workman, Melissa Houser, Matt Habedank

Regrets: Julie Smith, Hillary Hill, Sarah Stutz

Agenda Item	Discussion Notes
Updates	<p>Dept. of Health:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Adam Poulin is now the CSHN Director as Monica Ogelby shifted to another position. <p>Diane Bugbee, DAIL:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Asst. Director and Director in DDSD are both under recruitment. Director left a few months ago and Clare McFadden has retiring Nov. 19th Clare and Amy are leaving.Maximum hourly wage for Family Managed Respite is being increased to \$17/hr. <p>Lilian Savard</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">In collaboration with Autism Coll. Is working on webpage for Autism resources—if you have any that you have found helpful, please send them to Liliane. https://www.uvm.edu/cess/cdci/uvm-autism-collaborativeSend resources to Liliane: lsavard@uvm.edu <p>Philip Eller-Autism Task Force</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Goal is making better links and having one database with info. from local resources.Updating website in the next month or two <p>DMH:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Workforce update. Vacancies at Designated and Specialized Service agencies is now at 850 (it was 780 in February). These agencies provide mental health and developmental disability services. Workforce Task Force continues to work on strategies to address this.Cheryle will attach the working strategic plan to notes and would love any suggestions or input on it.

	<p>Alex Langevin, AOE:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Working on rule change work (adverse effect that we've talked about in this group). • Right now, Alex is working on functional performance guidance and Alex would love to share this when ready so she can get feedback. • If you have any suggestions, opinions, etc. on adverse effect and functional performance please reach out to Alex at: Alex.Langevin@vermont.gov • When Alex has her draft ready she will share with this group for feedback <p>Dr. Melissa Houser:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sees a lot of children and works with them and their families on social engagement in ways that make sense for the children/youth. <p>Danielle Howes, CIS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For early childhood—how do we grow expertise in the EC workforce for identifying and supporting children who may have autism. <p>Lana Metayer, Parent:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Working with a couple other parents in school districts to set up the first Parents Advisory Council for Special Ed.
<p>Work on strategic plan goals in two groups</p>	<p>1. See Strategic plan for updates from Group B</p> <p>2. Group A Strategic Plan</p> <p>Goal: <i>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 diagnosis through adult services</i></p> <p>Members: Molly Bumpas, Lana Metayer, Danielle Howes, Phillip Eller, Melissa Houser, Melanie Hall, Emerson Wheeler, Diane Bugbee, Lyn Ujlaky</p> <p>Notes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Group discussed tackling the three subheadings of the plan (Young Children, School Age, Young Adult Transition) in smaller groups, possibly meeting between the Autism Workgroup meetings. Molly will follow up regarding the subgroups via email. <i>Note: This group discussed not losing sight of the thread that ties all these age groups together – the importance of doing important work at young ages that will be crucial for when children become adults—functional skills is a big part of this thread—inclusive playgrounds lead to inclusive workplaces!</i> • Young Adult Transition: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Jenny Masterson is identified as a resource for this group to determine what's available currently and processes already in place in Vermont ○ Danielle Parmelee, Neuro OT, is identified as a resource for this group ○ Group discussed possible needs assessment, including gathering information from autistic adults, intentionally including nonspeaking

	<p>adults. Green Mountain Self Advocates may be a helpful resource as far as planning this assessment.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • School Age: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Discussion re: ACT 264 process and how it could be used more often and more effectively for children on the spectrum. What is the process now? Maybe the LIT team meetings would be a good place to gather information. Comments included wondering if the ACT 264 process is flexible enough, and how to bring a larger pool of service providers from the community into the meetings. The group discussed the language used in this forum – “service gaps” – is there a better way to capture this? ○ The school world and the designated agency/community provider worlds are silo-ed. Families are left to coordinate across these worlds and face barriers to their logistical interactions. ○ Group discussed ableism in our culture – state level conversations are needed! How can disability become a priority in the state’s view? • Young Children: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Group discussed challenge of resources in serving young children 0-3 who are suspected of ASD. Wait lists for developmental evaluations are growing longer and longer and less professionals are trained in this work. A small group on this initiative has been started with Danielle Howes. Proposing way to train providers to serve children using evidence-based practices in their natural environments. Melanie Hall, CSHN, would like to join this work.
<p>Wrap Up and Next Steps</p>	<p>Next meeting: Tuesday, October 26th 10:30-12:00</p> 