

# AHS Integration Efforts

## Autism Planning for the Future

**Date:** Thursday, January 19, 2023

1:00-2:30

Facilitator: Molly Bumpas

Notetaker: Cheryle Wilcox

**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?

**Strategic Plan Goals:**

- A. 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 early identification and diagnosis through adult services.
- B. Increase access to assessments, supports and services up and through transition to adulthood.
- C. Educate community about inclusion and neurodiversity.

**Present:** Cheryle Wilcox, Molly Bumpas, Kara Hurwitch, Cathy Booth, Danielle Brier, Tova Eisemann, Jamie Rainville, Danielle Cohen, Cammie Naylor, Lyn Ujalky, Emma Saunders, Brenda, Janelle Germaine, Matthew Habedank, Julie Smith, Cortney Keene, Hannah Bloom

**Regrets:** Philip Eller

Agenda Item	Discussion Notes
Updates from Group Members	<p><b>Bounce ABA-Tova:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Expanding into VT-doing in home ABA billing all insurance companies. Office located in Shelburne but not limited to that area.</li> <li>• They are recruiting BCBA’s. Referrals can be made from anywhere in VT and they will let folks know if they can serve them depending on the area.</li> </ul> <p><b>Keene Associates</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• moving to another location in White River Junction.</li> </ul> <p><b>Cathy Booth, Autism Partners:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Opening in St. Albans and ready to take clients. Clinic-based.</li> <li>• Formerly called Autism Bridges- Autism Care Partners. Offices in Northern New England.</li> </ul> <p><b>Danielle Cohen</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• AAI just opened a clinic in Rutland. Looking for staff.</li> <li>• Also offer home and school-based.</li> </ul>

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	<p><b>Emma, SD Associates:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Have some availability to make movement on young children on their waiting list.</li> <li>• They have had luck hiring Part-time staff who are college students who want training.</li> </ul> <p><b>Vermont Family Network:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Receiving another grant in the next month to disperse stipends to families who need funds (\$200) families with a child with autism-can be used for activities, respite, attending a conference, sensory items—it will be on their website when they can start accepting applications.</li> <li>• <a href="#">Annual Conf. April 11<sup>th</sup> (registration is not live yet for the conference) Building Inclusive Communities</a>. Dr. Joelle Van Lent will be primary speaker. Being held at UVM. Afternoon have partnered with CDCI to show the movie “My Disability Roadmap”. With a panel afterwards.</li> <li>• <a href="#">Join Vermont Public and Vermont Family Network</a> as we gather to discuss strategies to build supportive communities for those with Autism. With the help of clips from the PBS Film "In a Different Key" and our panel of educators, advocates, and those living with Autism we'll present ways you can help. We also invite you to share your thoughts and questions throughout this interactive event. Moderated by Vermont Edition host/senior producer Connor Cyrus.</li> </ul> <p><b>Autism Assessment Clinic</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Has paused referrals right now until July-August of this year. The reason is that the waitlist is at an unsustainable level.</li> <li>• During this time, they are going to formally merge with UVM Team Assessment and Dr. Forbes clinic. They are working to pull all of their resources together. UVM is going to be hiring for a social worker for the Autism Assessment Program. May be getting funding for a full-time psychologist who would also be able to do evaluations. Right now, they only have one psychologist.</li> </ul> <p>Molly is starting a caregiver training program (Hanen More Than Words) for parents of 2–5-year-olds. This is free for families. They work on communication strategies and able to connect families to each other. You can email Molly interested parents or give them Molly's information. Looking to start in early March.</p>

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	<p>Molly is involved in a project proposal to provide more training/education to pediatricians so pediatricians can increase comfort in giving actual diagnosis.</p> <p><b>Children with Medicaid getting scripts for ABA services-Danielle Brier:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prescription for ABA services from a qualified professional including: a board certified or board eligible psychiatrist, doctorate-level licensed psychologist, a board certified or board eligible neurologist, a developmental-behavioral or neurodevelopmental disabilities pediatrician.</li> <li>• Current diagnostic assessment (DVHA may request a reassessment be provided if medically necessary and additional services are being requested) by a clinician experienced in the diagnosis and treatment of autism and is within their scope of licensure.</li> </ul> <p>Please refer to the attached <b>flowchart attached</b> for members who do not have a diagnosis of Autism but have an Early Developmental Disability.</p>
<p>Problem-solving about how to get more educators to the workgroup</p>	<p>In past years, we had folks who worked in administration level positions in education (principals, special educators, etc.)</p> <p>Current school staff are stretched thinner than ever before. To that end, could we bring forth education voice by reaching out to groups such as the Vermont school board, Vermont Special Education, Vermont Principals Assoc., Vermont Superintendents Association, Agency of Education, VTABA-professional assoc. of ABAs in Vermont.</p> <p>There have been educators in the past who came and at times felt challenged trying to respond to the needs from a group advocating for services.</p> <p>This is an open group, and all are welcome! Feel free to extend to others who may be interested in joining. You can send their name and contact information to Molly and Cheryle.</p>
<p>Discuss and plan how we impact this goal:</p> <p>1. Educate Community about inclusion and diversity</p> <p>Notes from last time:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ We need to do more education about</li> </ul>	<p><b>What are folks doing already?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hannah Bloom shared she has been involved with Caledonia Supervisory Union-working with teachers on co-regulation. They are looking to apply for education grants to do more work on co-regulation as a way to increase inclusive environments.</li> </ul> <p><b>Cheryle will send member list to group with notes—please add to it if you are new and not on it. This list is so we know what knowledge and skills are present in this group for us to learn from each other.</b></p>

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<p>inclusion and ableism.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Brains are not one-size fits all and we need to help be the voice to educate others about this.</li> <li>○ “Disrupter of the system” by improving things for others.</li> <li>○ How do we support different ways of self-expression.</li> </ul>	
<p>Are there topics, issues that any member of this group would like to put on a future agenda or take time today to problem-solve with the group?</p>	<p>Cheryle will reach out to John Spinney for a future meeting to see if he can talk about transition tool kit.</p> <p>Jason Capobianco, CDCI, VFN met with him about transitions. Jason has been doing research across states to see what other states are using for tools for transitions. He may be a great resource as well.</p>