

AHS Integration Efforts
Autism Planning for the Future
Meeting Minutes

Date: Wednesday, April 10, 2024
 2:00-3:00

Facilitator: Molly Bumpas

Notetaker: Cheryle Wilcox

Overall Goal of our work group: This workgroup convenes to 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, Cassie Santo, Alyssa Heilbrunn, Cammie Naylor, Regina-Anne Cooper, Eileen Mendes, Philip Eller, Emily Dischino, Jenn Johnson, Danielle Cohen, Beth Ann Lawrence, Laurie Mulhern

Agenda Item	Discussion Notes
Group Updates, including any legislation.	<p>Molly:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Statewide practice to train pediatricians in autism diagnosis. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ There are 17 pediatricians who have volunteered their time to undergo this training. ○ 3-hour initial training, and then twice monthly training sessions. ○ Starting soon, Molly and Dr. Prelock will be offering drop-inn hours for pediatricians. <p>Alyssa Heilbrunn:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Joining a nationwide virtual four-part series group tonight: Family ECHO: Autism through National Children's if any parents or direct service providers are interest in attending. • Going to Family Room to hear from New American parents on April 15th to hear about what would be helpful for them to hear about. <p>Regina-Anne:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Special Needs Information Program: SNIP is a voluntary safety initiative aimed at providing first-responders with vital information regarding an individual’s disability and specific needs. See attached flyer <p>Programmatic updates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ SD Associates: Montpelier and Williston have early childhood programs (Sparklers) that have openings and they can take referrals.

Agenda Item	Discussion Notes
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Autism, Advocacy and Intervention: 7-10 people on the waitlist currently. Try to keep their waitlist reasonable so families don't get false expectations of when they can get in. Availability of when client can engage in services makes a difference for getting in. <p>Regina-Anne-asked a question to see if there is a GIS map of services for autism resources anywhere? She would like to work on this but also doesn't want to duplicate if this is happening somewhere else.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● This group created a resource list that is on the website for this group but we haven't done a map. https://ifs.vermont.gov/docs/autism ● 2-1-1 has a directory of resources and you can isolate by service and county. ● Medicaid provider list also has staff who are taking new clients. http://www.vtmedicaid.com/#/providerLookup ● Autism Collaborative has a great list of resources, but not by county. ● One challenge to doing something like this is having someone who can regularly update the map and keep resources current.
<p>Any follow up from February's presentation on Placement and Least Restrictive Environment with Cammie Naylor, Vermont Legal Aid</p>	<p>Group member asked what LRE what it means and what it doesn't mean:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● What is a Free and Appropriate Education and that needs to be provided in LRE. There is a legal requirement for an IEP team to place the child in the educational environment in the most inclusive manner possible. ● FAPE-operating definition:—Individualized Education Program (IEP) reasonably calculated to enable a child to make progress appropriate in light of the child's individual circumstances. Board of Educ. of Hendrick Hudson Central School Dist., Westchester County v. Rowley, 458 U.S. 176 (1982); Andrew F., ex rel. Joseph F. v. Douglas County School Dist. Re-1, 137 S.Ct. 988, 1001 (2017). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ IEP teams need to grapple with this and how to implement ● See full slides for more detail (attached here) ● See slides for what FAPE is not. ● Discussed that Occupational Therapists can be written into IEPs for consult with BCBA after conducting a functional behavioral assessment to build a behavior plan. We need to be collaborating and working in interdisciplinary teams. ● When a parent unilaterally places their child in an educational setting FAPE is no longer required. ● Adverse effect has changed. Functional performance is used to evaluate for adverse effect. This has been very powerful for children with autism. ● Evaluation is extremely important. Under IDEA a child has to be evaluated every three years, however, a parent or teacher can request it annually. Once the evaluation is done, if a parent disagrees with the evaluation, parents are entitled to an independent evaluation if they 'disagree'.
<p>Resource List—any updates? Add resources for adult assessments?</p>	<p>Please take a moment to check out our resource list to see if things should be changed or added:</p> <p>https://ifs.vermont.gov/sites/ifs/files/documents/Autism_Resources_for_Vermont_1.pdf</p>

Agenda Item	Discussion Notes
Wrap Up and Next Steps	May 8 th from 2:00-3:00