

Autism Planning for the Future Meeting Minutes

Date: Wednesday, June 12, 2024

2:00-3:00

Facilitator: Molly Bumpas

Notetaker: Cheryle Wilcox

Join Zoom Meeting

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, Ryan Hardee-Fauth, Cortney Keene, Wendy Scott, Valerie Wood, Shira Habermehl, Jenn Johnson, Danielle Brier, Regie Cooper, Margaret Fix

Agenda Item	Discussion Notes
Introductions	Welcome to new member, Shira Habermehl—SLP in private practice in Chittenden County.
Joined by Hannah Markos, VT-Higher Ed Collaborative about Neurodiversity and Inclusion certificate program	<p>Hannah was unable to make it last minute so we will reschedule with her.</p> <p>Molly provided some updates about the program:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hannah is the Director of the program. She is an educator with a lot of experience from birth through adulthood. • Molly has been on the advisory board for the program. • Program is to support professionals being more inclusive in neurodiversity—has been taken by spec. ed, SLP, OT, paraeducators, classroom teachers. • It is 18 graduate credits—core courses—framework of neurodiversity, understanding and supporting individuals learning needs, support and advocacy, neurodiversity affirming supports. • There are standalone workshops for those not in the program—anyone can attend. • There is a big fieldwork component to the program.

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If you go the Higher Ed collaborative website there is information on the program and how to sign up. • Most folks are taking a course a semester—it is 5 courses and then you can get 3 more credits from workshops/electives. • This program runs year-round. • You can reach out to Molly if you have questions about this.
<p>Updates</p>	<p>Question by group member:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Where can folks find outpatient therapists to work with individuals with Autism? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Could we add this category on our resource list? ○ UVMCMC has some therapists and there is a wait list. Vermont Center for Children, Youth, and Families at UHC in Burlington. ○ We could add psychology today info. on our resource list for finding a therapist-- That way it is kept up to date. ○ Vermont Psychological Services at UVMCMC <p>Vermont Early Childhood fund through Building Bright Futures:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Just awarded funds to Northwestern Medical Center for adding more assessment for young children where there is suspected autism. • Soon this program will be doing 20 assessments a month. • This started for just Franklin/Grand Isle and UVMCMC has some families on the list for NMC as well. <p>Cortney Keene, Keene Perspectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In terms of ABA services (not dx services), we have just hired 3 new behavior analysts and will have rolling openings for 2–3-year-olds over the next 6 months (total of 9 openings in 2024 in Windsor County (WRJ). <p>Jenn Johnson, SD Associates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Willison and Montpelier early intervention program-has openings. Please let others know. <p>Danielle Brier, DVHA:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Let group know that https://www.fortahealth.com/ reached out to Vermont Medicaid to see if they could become a VT Medicaid provider. • They are a fully remote ABA program. • VT Medicaid is talking to them to see if this would be reasonable for Vermont. Danielle will update as discussions occur.

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	From Courtney Keene: The autism commission on quality (ACQ) has created organizational guidelines with their new accreditation: https://autismcommission.org/ There are not any currently accredited ACQ Vermont providers.
Wrap Up and Next Steps	Reminder-no meetings in July and August. Next meeting is Thursday, September 12th in person in Waterbury or virtual 9:30-11:00