

AHS Integration Efforts

Autism Planning for the Future

Date: Tuesday, Tuesday, November 29, 2022

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, Matt Habedank, Philip Eller, Jamie Rainville, Erin Russell, Kelsey Naro, Valerie Wood, Cammie Naylor, Cortney Keene, Catherine Armani-Munn, Sarah Cardinal, Danielle Brier, Mel Houser, Aimee Clark

Regrets: Lyn Ujlaky, Julie Smith

Agenda Item	Discussion Notes	Next Steps
Updates from Group Members	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• This is our last meeting of 2022! You should have received a full list of meetings for 2023. If you didn't, please let Molly and Cheryle know.• Philip-Autism Task Force: you should have received the email last week with next year's goals for the Autism Task Force. Monitoring adverse effect, looking for an adult with autism to join the task force, expand and highlight the issues of females being diagnosed with autism-this is greatly under diagnosed. Any thoughts or questions please let Philip know.• Staffing: one agency reported having luck hiring in school-based program, possibly getting a little bit better, but still not enough to meet the need. Retention is a struggle—folks come in and may leave suddenly.• Cortney: retention has been strong the past 3 months. Are getting an uptick in applicants.• Some individuals who are applying are coming from different fields looking for something different.• Updated on workforce across Designated and Specialized Service agencies-please see attached workforce plan for data and investments to increase recruitment and retention.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• If you didn't receive notifications of next year's meetings, please let Molly and Cheryle know.• Please see attachment with Autism Task Force goals

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Valerie Wood, Centers for Disability and Community Inclusion, UVM: Attended a gathering in Washington DC two weeks ago—while there they met with Vermont’s congressional delegate staff to bring up needs in Vermont. This is a great way to advocate—with both state and federal representatives. • Molly shared that UVM now has an OT program—first year they are fully running. They have open positions. • Vermont Higher Education Neurodiversity and Inclusion program is being reworked—Executive Director is Hannah Markos with Landmark College. • Family support group for families who have children with autism are starting a lending library for sensory items stationed at the Family Room in Burlington. Catherine is involved and will share more information as she gets it. • Danielle Brier, DVHA: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ have two new ABA providers in the state—based in Shelburne area—Bounce ABA, Tova Isman and Applied Behavioral Mental Health Services are getting onboarded. ○ That brings the total up to 20 Medicaid eligible ABA providers in Vermont. ○ AAI is expanding to Rutland area. 	
Final review of Resource document for posting!	Molly will update with new resources that were shared today and then we will post! Thanks to all who reviewed and gave us feedback.	
Look at strategic plan summary document and choose next action item to tackle as a group!	<p>Looked at our strategic goals.</p> <p>1. Transition to adulthood continues to be an area that needs focus and attention.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Young adults often move from the child to adult system without a plan and transition. There may be written transition plans, but they aren’t actual transition plans. ○ This goes hand in hand with family education and supporting families, so they know what they are entitled to and what exists. ○ One place that can be very helpful for families is to look at the AOE transition planning tool—John Spinney at AOE, has been instrumental in growing the transition plan toolkits-it’s a graduation checklist. 	There is a new Children’s Specialist at DAIL starting in two weeks. Cheryle will be sure to invite them back to this group.

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ From Cortney Keen: regarding early Intervention transition - Here is a resource that the I-Team Early Intervention organized that we reference when we are working with families who are also accessing part c services and medical ABA services so that we can make sure we are covering all parts of transition so families who access medical aba are not missing out on supports because they access services with us and part c: https://padlet.com/iteam_ei/9ahn0t8vnykspnh ○ VFN is hosting this webinar tomorrow: College and Careers - Personalized Support Planning https://www.vermontfamilynetwork.org/event/register-for-college-careers-personalized-support-planning/ <p>2. Increase access to assessments, supports and services</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ We completed the resource map!! ○ There is a training gap in the school system to understand how to support children and their families. ○ Survey-have any partners done any surveys to learn from parents about what they need? if so, could we use this information to inform us? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Do our Designated Agencies have any surveys that could help us? --Cheryle will find out. ○ Danielle Brier will send ABA scorecard so we can see what is on there. ○ VFN let us know they don't have one specific to this. ○ We did some work in a previous small group to brainstorm questions so if we decide to go that way we should look at that. <p>3. Educate Community about inclusion and diversity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ We need to do more education about inclusion and ableism. ○ Brains are not one-size fits all and we need to help be the voice to educate others about this. ○ "Disrupter of the system" by improving things for others. ○ How do we support different ways of self-expression. <p>Are we missing anything in our strategic plan that we haven't captured here? how do we address the lack of assessment resources in Vermont? Is there a way to provide support to pediatricians about recognizing autism and making those diagnoses? Molly has been talking to the Maternal Child Health Division about this.</p>	<p>Invite John Spinney to this group to discuss the transition toolkit and his work</p> <p>Include HireAbility in meetings</p>

