

AHS Integration Efforts
Autism Planning for the Future

Date: Wednesday, January 24, 2024

1:00-2:00

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: Molly Bumpas, Cheryle Wilcox, Alania Clements, BethAnn Lawrence, Danielle Dukette, Jennifer LaGro, Cortney Keene, Cammie Naylor, Emmy Hilliard, Danielle Brier, Valerie Wood, Meagan Rohde, Amy Murphy, Alyssa Heilbrun, Laurie Mulhern, Philip Eller, Kara Hurwitch, Cassie Santo, Beth Forbes, Mel Houser, Isaac Smith, Emily Dischino, Kate Abbott

Agenda Item	Discussion Notes
Survey Results and Next Steps Based on Feedback	<p>Molly showed the results from the survey that went out to the group—we had 16 responses. Thanks so much for responding!</p> <p>Based on the results we will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• do a set day and time for an hour—starting in April this will be on Wednesdays from 2-3• September 12th will do in person for 90 minutes (9:30-11:00) in Waterbury at state offices (Weeks Building).• Want to think about when we have tangible goals as a group and realize this meeting is a place to share information and increase our knowledge about supports, services, and the challenges that exist and what we can do about it.<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ The make up of the group and time seems to be most effective for updates and information sharing. AND want to keep the door open for projects if they come up.• See summary of all dates attached• Cheryle to check to make sure everyone who should be getting the agenda does—include more detail for members of the workgroup.

Agenda Item	Discussion Notes
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What keeps you coming back? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ This is one of the only places where one can hear about multiple perspectives and how the different parts of the system work together to provide supports. ○ So many resources here and the ability to connect with others who care about working for services to be better.
<p>Group Updates, including any legislation.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A group member asked if there were any legislative actions or legislators who could be champions for systems-change? Think about this in a future agenda and talk about legislative advocacy. • One member noted that there is a lack of good, high quality transition services. <p>DMH, Cheryle Wilcox:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is a new Enhanced Mobile Crisis program statewide as of January 1st: Mobile Crisis of Vermont — Mental Health & Substance Use Support (gethelpvt.org) • Vermont’s Community Mobile Crisis Program is here to support and reassure people dealing with emotional, mental health, or substance use crises. • Available 24 hours a day, this program provides rapid, effective, and compassionate support, ensuring no person, regardless of age, is left to face their crisis alone. • 2-person team can meet you, whether you’re at home, your workplace, or another community setting, providing the utmost convenience and comfort during distressing times. This mobile response team is composed of highly skilled providers and recovery coaches, offering a blend of expertise and caring support. <p>Alyssa Heilbrunn: I'd be interested in advocacy towards expanding who exactly is able to diagnose ASD. Given that social workers/OT/SLPs can use certain assessment tools but not diagnose seems very silly/antiquated given that there is such a demand for assessment and the need for a psychiatrist/MD to make the diagnoses seems steeped in a culture many of us are trying to move away from.</p>

Agenda Item	Discussion Notes
	<p data-bbox="634 142 1235 174">Education and Least Restrictive Environment:</p> <ul data-bbox="634 218 1463 709" style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="634 218 1463 470">• Discussed education and least restrictive environment. A parent shared that she had recommendations from multiple providers saying her child needed an ABA program and the school said the least restrictive environment was in the classroom. He was unable to access needed services from school district due to his placement. <li data-bbox="634 527 1463 709">• Member brought up that federally used language of Severe Emotional Disturbance for youth with complex needs in eligibility determinations for IEP. Would anyone be interested in advocating for a change? If so, please contact Laurie Mulhern at mulhernvt@gmail.com <p data-bbox="634 758 1024 789">Cammie Naylor, VT Legal Aid:</p> <ul data-bbox="634 800 1463 1220" style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="634 800 1463 869">• Involved in a working group related to S.103 which became Act 80 and enacted changes to discrimination law. <li data-bbox="634 879 1463 1020">• Last year there was legislation proposed by Rep. Wood around restraint and seclusion. If you are interested in hearing more about this you can reach out to Cammie for more detail. <li data-bbox="634 1031 1463 1100">• Use of screeners and intervention supports for students with SLD who may not be identified. <li data-bbox="634 1110 1463 1220">• Census based funding and school budgets a lot going on. It is being presented as schools not managing their budgets, but is about the change in funding.
<p data-bbox="159 1270 483 1302">Wrap Up and Next Steps</p>	<ul data-bbox="634 1270 1463 1339" style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="634 1270 1463 1339">• Think about discussing more about legislative advocacy and coming up with items this group would want to get behind.