

**AHS Integration Efforts**  
**Autism Planning for the Future**

**Date:** Friday, February 15, 2023

10:00-11:30

Facilitator: Cheryle Wilcox

Notetaker: Molly Bumpas

**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.

Agenda Item	Discussion Notes
Updates	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Cheryle: Agency of Human Services, including DAIL, DCF, DMH are working on a Request for Proposal to see if there is interest from any entity in standing up a psychiatric residential treatment center in Vermont for children 12 – 18 years of age for intake, can stay through age 21 if there is need.</li><li>2. Kelsey Naro: CSHN social worker: Melanie Hall on parental leave, for needs – email <a href="mailto:AHS.VDHCSHNConsultation@vermont.gov">AHS.VDHCSHNConsultation@vermont.gov</a>. Also posting positions soon for a) health systems team and b) care consultation team</li><li>3. Kathleen Kourebanas: has started a non-profit, housing and independent program for her daughter with autism. Howard Center is supportive. Her daughter receives ABA based on Essentials for Living. In talks with family in PA to have son come join program. Need a building still.</li><li>4. Jamie Rainville, VFN: annual conference April 11 at Davis Center 9 – 1 with theme Inclusion and Well Being. Register at <a href="http://vermontfamilynetwork.org/events-news/annual-conference/">vermontfamilynetwork.org/events-news/annual-conference/</a> Following conference, free screening of film by Samuel and Dan Habib in coordination with CDCI. Also webinar on Jump on Board for Success (JOB) regarding supported employment for youth. Reminder about Flutie grant. Also some funding streams for respite support. See VFN website for more info.</li></ol>

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	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>5. Mel Houser, All Brains Belong: Providing education for employers – expanding neuroinclusive employment – 80% of autistic people are unemployed. Also free public health education regarding autism and long haul COVID.</li> <li>6. Tova Eisemann: Bounce ABA provides in home services, location dependent on staff availability, intake at 802-395-1539</li> <li>7. Jennie Moon, EI – her EI team is teaming with DHMC Dr. Nina SanLoud for telehealth diagnostic visits - 4 so far and going well</li> <li>8. Valerie Wood, CDCI: preliminary survey results for 5 year plan- 3 themes: a) housing b) access to mental health services c)transition age services</li> <li>9. Matt Habedank, NCSS ABA: having more luck with staff lately!</li> </ol>
Legislative Activity-bills to pay attention to	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Bill regarding seclusion and restraint in process- ABB, CDCI, VFN, Vt Legal Aid all working on. Looking for increase data and documentation. Current data does not make it to the AOE – need to change this. Mel mentioned looking for families who have children adversely affected by R &amp; S in schools. Hannah Bloom worked on similar coalition in NM – Cheryle requested info about this.</li> <li>2. <a href="http://legislature.vermont.gov/bill/status/2024/S.66">http://legislature.vermont.gov/bill/status/2024/S.66</a> This bill in senate education would change how we see licensed independent schools in VT – takes away approval process; therapeutic schools vs. independent schools. Cammie shared this.  <a href="http://legislature.vermont.gov/bill/status/2024/H.208">http://legislature.vermont.gov/bill/status/2024/H.208</a>  <a href="https://legislature.vermont.gov/bill/status/2024/S.56">https://legislature.vermont.gov/bill/status/2024/S.56</a>  These bills impact early childhood: recommend public schools responsible for universal pre-K for 4 year olds. Perspective of child care providers is that removing 4 year olds will impact staff ratios and cause closures.</li> </ol>
<a href="#">System of Care Report Discussion</a>	Cheryle shared parts of the State Interagency System of Care report. Overall recs involved 1)funding to implement a unified parent representative system 2) Retention and recruitment efforts to address workforce challenges in mental health support, developmental disabilities services and peer support 3) Strengthening community-based supports Group looked and data and discussed.
Next Meeting: Invited: Jacqui Keller, Vermont Family Network	March 23 <sup>rd</sup> 11:00-12:30