

## Autism Planning for the Future

**Date:** Friday, December 8, 2023

10:00-11:00

**Facilitator:** Cheryle Wilcox

**Notetaker:** Molly Bumpas

**Present:** Cortney Keene, Regie Cooper, Sarah Cavernos, Julie Smith, Amy Murphy, Jennifer LaGro, Phillip Eller, Becky Zopf, Danielle Brier, Meaghan Rohde, Molly Bumpas, 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.

Agenda Item	Discussion Notes
<b>Group Member Updates</b>	<p>Amy Murphy AOE: Seeking practice-based coaches for childhood environments to help further expansion of MTSS. Serve children 0-5 in childcares, HeadStart, universal PreK, etc. Target supports for each child in their natural learning environment. Julie Smith will connect Amy with clinicians in Early Childhood program at HC.</p> <p>Julie Smith, HC: Autism program is serving students in school settings ages 3-22. The need is large – cannot meet demands due to continuing staffing crisis. HC is having intensive consultation with outfit in Boston.</p> <p>Cortney Keene: Keene Perspectives has been accredited as Behavioral Health Center of Excellence (BCOE). Congrats!</p> <p>Becky Zopf CIS Coordinator Chittenden County: Shared current programs that include Strong Families VT in which coaches go to families in home or community.</p>

Agenda Item	Discussion Notes
	There is no wait list for this program currently. Take only Medicaid families currently.
<p><b>1. Remind folks of the goal of the group. Does this still work?</b></p> <p><b>2. How can the members of this group further/promote the goals of the strategic plan?</b></p>	Group overall feels goals are still applicable. Perhaps small group work to update progress on goals would be helpful. Feel free to invite others to attend this group. Are we missing a geographic area(s) that are underrepresented? Also discussed possibility of hybrid in person meeting in Waterbury in 2024. Cheryle and Molly will look at this.
<b>Legislative Session 2024</b>	Legislative session begins Jan 3 <sup>rd</sup> . Departments have put forth initiatives and governor will recommend some initiatives in early January – this information will become public at that time.
<b>Wrap Up and Next Steps</b>	<p>You should have one-hour meetings in your calendar for Jan, Feb, and March. Molly and Cheryle will look at survey results to adjust as needed for the remainder of the year.</p> <p>Cheryle will send the member list out again as we have new members to update. Please add yourself if you are not currently on the list.</p> <p>Please take our QUICK survey to give Cheryle and Molly feedback on how the group is working for you.</p>