

# DAIL Advisory Board Meeting March 14,2024

Draft minutes

**In Attendance: Board Members:** Joseph Greenwald, Rachel Seelig, Delaina Norton, Lynne Cardozo, Steve Pouliot, Lawrence Seiler, Jane Catton, Rick Neu, Eliza Eager, Kim Fitzgerald

**State Employees:** Megan Tierney-Ward, Ginny Clark-Ziske, Rebecca Silbernagel, Angela Smith-Dieng, Angela McMann, Kristen Murphy, Reagan Winkler, David Riegel, Miranda Gray

**Guests:** Andre LaChance, Betsy Hassan, William Kowalewski, Kaili Kuiper, Marie Lallier, Marie Zura, Eric Covey,

**Quorum-met** - Yes

**Introductions, roll call, review agenda, review and approve minutes** - Jane Catton, Chair

**Motion to approve meeting minutes from January 11, 2024** – Jane Catton, Chair

**First:** Kim Fitzgerald

**Second:** Rick Neu

**Minutes:** Approved

**DAIL Updates:** Megan Tierney-Ward, Interim Commissioner updated the board on the recruitment process that has been happening, regarding the appointment of a new Commissioner to DAIL. There should be an official announcement next week and a new Commissioner in place by the end of April.

The Agency of Human Services sponsored an Accessibility Conference on March 13,2024 for State employees.

Nursing Home Bed Board is almost ready to roll out. This will provide almost real time details for Hospital and Nursing Homes regarding the number of beds available in Nursing Homes across Vermont.

FMAP Projects, Direct workforce marketing contract just recently launched. DAIL is using the same marketing group that did HireAbility rebrand. The timeline for this to roll out is still pending.

iCare- is purchasing Bennington Health and Rehab, this project has been in the works for over 1 year and is in the final stage. The new name of the facility will be Mission Care at Bennington. Please follow the link below for more information.

<https://www.missioncareatbennington.com/faq/>

Developmental Disabilities Services Division has been working with VT Legal Aid on the Ombuds Pilot Project. This program is designed to expand the current Long Term Care Ombudsman to serve those being served by the Developmental Disabilities Services Division and the Brain Injury Program.

**AHS Housing Overview & General Assistance Housing Program Update:** David Riegel, Director of Housing Policy and Planning, AHS, Miranda Gray, Deputy Commissioner, DCF and Megan Tierney-Ward, Interim Commissioner, DAIL

The Agency of Human Services Housing Catalog was presented to the board. Presentation available (attachment provided)

Emergency Housing, and the Budget Adjustment Act were discussed. The housing needs of 450 households that do not meet the criteria described in the Budget Adjustment Act will need to exit hotels. Some extensions have been given to June 30<sup>th</sup>, if they have health condition or disability. For this extension to be given the participant must have a form completed by their Primary Care Provider giving documentation for qualification for continued housing.

The State does recognize that some households had no plan. Temporary Shelters are being set up providing congregate settings. This provides shelter if folks have no other plans. These are overnight shelters only 7pm to 7am and will be staffed by the National Guard.

HomeShare VT is another resource available to Vermonters. This program brings Vermonters together to provide housing and support to help folks be successful.

**Age Strong Vermont Update & Board Role Discussion:** Angela Smith-Dieng, Director Adult Services Division & Jason Pelopida, Director State Unit on Aging

Angela provided a recap of the Age strong VT Plan. Presentation provided. (attachment provided) Vermont's work is part of a national movement for multisector plan on aging. The S.3827 Strategic Plan for Aging Act would provide federal funds to States for enacting a multisectoral plan on aging.

**Home Health Moratorium:** Member Discussion: Board members discussed the need for an extension on the Certificate of Needs for Home Health Agencies. Agencies have been struggling to meet the needs of people across the state.

Interim Commissioner Tierney-Ward responded to the question "what is the logic of continuing the moratorium" stating that DAIL was not expecting this to be in the budget, that the Certificate of Need through the Green Mountain Care Board is specific to skilled home care services. The Choices for Care personal care agencies are non-skilled for the purpose of CRN Managed Service Providers. Processes are in place to look at what it would look like to add more options to the Choices for Care system. Home Health agencies are also going through changes around Conflict Free Case Management as well. There was pressure on industry and that is why the moratorium was continued.

**DAB Agenda Topics & Work Plan Grid:** Members discussed topics for future meetings which will be added to the work plan grid. DAIL staff will use the grid to assist in developing agendas each month over the course of the year, and to be reviewed each January for content. Chair Catton reminded the group that our May and September meetings will be in person at the Waterbury State complex and encourages as many as possible to attend in person. More details to follow. Also, next month, Kim Fitzgerald will chair the meeting as Ms. Catton will be away.

**Motion to End Meeting:** Jane Catton

**First:** Lynne Cardozo

**Second:** Rick Nue

**Meeting Adjourned:** 12:02pm

