

DAIL Advisory Board Meeting Minutes
September 9, 2021
Microsoft Teams Phone/Video Conference

ATTENDEES

Board Members: Ruby Baker, Jane Catton, Lynne Cardozo, Jim Coutts, Kim Fitzgerald, Joseph Greenwald, Michael Gruteke, Jeanne Hutchins, Laura McDonald, Nick McCardle, Michelle Monroe, Delaina Norton, Steven Pouliot, Cathy Swain

Guests: Marie Lallier, Sean Londergan, Melissa Morrison, Pamela Zagorski, Howard Goodrow, Eric Darius, Jesse Suter

State Employees: Monica White, Megan Tierney-Ward, Liz Perreault, Kirsten Murphy, Angela McMann, Angela Smith-Dieng, Laura Siegel, Clare McFadden, Susan Aranoff, Alicia Cooper

Motion to Approve Minutes: July 8, 2021, minutes: Move to Approve: Michael Gruteke
Seconded: Kim Fitzgerald

Minutes are approved as written.

DAIL Updates:

Monica White, Commissioner and Megan Tierney-Ward, Deputy Commissioner

- The department celebrated Employee Appreciation Day on July 29 with great success.
- Will Fritch has been hired as the new Director of Operations and will start on September 27.
- The Developmental Disabilities Services (DDS) Director position is still open and DAAIL is accepting applications. Amy Roth, DDS Assistant Director, has stepped up to fill in the gap.
- Amy Roth will be retiring in November and her position as DDS Assistant Director is currently posted.
- Clare McFadden is also retiring in November and her position as Payment Reform Deputy Director has been filled by Jessica Bernard.
- The position of Money Follows the Person (MFP) grant manager has been filled by Lynne Cleveland Vitzthum.
- DAAIL Received a new position from the hiring pool to support federally required Electronic Visit Verification work.

- September is Falls Prevention Month and DAIL will be releasing a press release in recognition of the event.
- Employee Engagement Survey has been completed and DAIL received higher than state average results. DAIL is working with DHR to synthesize into action steps.
- MFP grant has been approved for \$5M. This supplemental grant will be used to build more capacity in the program.
- Action Plan for Aging Well – invitations going out to stakeholders for the advisory committee, with an anticipated start in October.
- APS service navigators are being hired as part of the federal grant that DLP recently received.

Covid News:

- DAIL is partnering with VDH and DVHA to roll-out boosters to LTC facilities.
- DIAL is connecting VDH with LTC facilities and providers to interpret existing guidance in this current environment of COVID and the Delta variant.
- Long Term Care settings continue to have COVID outbreaks. However, because people are vaccinated, the severity and infection rate are less than prior to people being vaccinated.
- The TLC contract will be renewed so they can continue providing staff where there are staff shortages in facilities.

Provider News:

- The state is implementing \$5M State Fiscal Recovery funds (ARPA) for adult days.
- The Francis Foundation is closing. This was a small agency that subcontracted with Upper Valley Services and served approximately 20 clients. DAIL is working with the foundation and the SSAs to transfer people to other providers.

Update on D/HH/DB Services Work:

Laura Siegel, D/HH/DB Services Director

- Laura is working with the Department of Fish and Wildlife about updating their videos to ensure they are accessible via captioning or have a picture in picture (PIP) with an ASL interpretation. Additionally, like the DMV, they are developing a visor card.
- Assessing interpreter skills is an important tool that Vermont does not use. Laura is researching options for Vermont.
- The Department of Education had an RFP for services in school. Vermont Hears applied for and was given that contract.
- Laura has created a document that outlines the difference between Microsoft Teams and Zoom for conferencing platforms. She is sharing this with the Agency of Digital

Services and Department of Human Resources to advocate for state employees to have access to Zoom which has proven to be more accessible than Teams.

Developmental Services Payment Reform Project: Clare McFadden, Deputy Director of Payment Reform

Clare McFadden presented a power point that gave an overview of the work that has been taking place on payment reform for developmental services. The reason the state is working on reforming the DDS payment structure for home and community-based services is to do the following: identify gaps in information that would allow the state to determine that people received the services that the state paid providers to deliver, to streamline functions, to assure that payment to providers keeps up with inflation, and to uphold the agreement between the state and providers to increase transparency and accountability. To view the presentation in its entirety, click on this link: <https://dail.vermont.gov/resources/advisory-board/dail-advisory-brd-2021-items>

Assistive Community Care Services (ACCS) and Enhanced Residential Care (ERC) Rate Review Process: Alicia Cooper, Department of Vermont Health Access (DVHA)

To understand the process and its connection to DAIL, Alicia provided the following for context:

- DVHA reimburses licensed providers for Assistive Community Care Services.
 - These services are available as part of Vermont's Medicaid State Plan.
 - Approximately 1,000 individuals receiving these services in SFY21.
- DAIL reimburses licensed providers for Enhanced Residential Services.
 - These services are available to individuals eligible for Choices for Care.
 - Approximately 500 individuals receiving these services in SFY21.
- While rates for these services have seen small increases in recent years as a result of either targeted or across-the-board legislative appropriations, the rates have not been comprehensively reviewed.
- Because these services are related, DVHA and DAIL have begun a coordinated rate review process with the goal of establishing a methodology for determining and updating rates at regular intervals.

To view the presentation in its entirety, go to: <https://dail.vermont.gov/resources/advisory-board/dail-advisory-brd-2021-items>

Board Member Updates:

Kim Fitzgerald- Cathedral Square is beginning construction on new affordable housing in Grand Isle. The hope is to have the new housing open and available in a year.

Rub Baker- COVE facilitated their first respite care coalition yesterday and would like to expand that coalition to include more stakeholders.

DAIL Advisory Board Chair Announcements:

Fran Keeler left the state a while ago and resigned from her position on the DAB. She was also on the Self-neglect Work Group and the advisory board needs to have a representative on that work group. Please consider joining.

The November DAIL Advisory Board meeting is set for November 11, which is a state holiday so the offices will be closed. It is proposed the meeting move to November 4. The board voted to approve moving the meeting from November 11 to November 4.

Motion to adjourn, Lynne Cordozo moved the motion and Kim Fitzgerald seconded.

Meeting was adjourned – 12:30

DRAFT