

DAIL Advisory Board Meeting May 9, 2024, minutes

In-Person and Teams

In Attendance:

Board Members: Kim Fitzgerald, Eliza Eager, Joe Greenwald, Steve Pouliot, Nick McCardle, Rick Neu, Lynne Cardozo, Jane Catton, Gary Chester, Andre LaChance, Shellie Stevens, Marie Zura, Delaina Norton,

State Employees: Jill Bowen, Megan Tierney-Ward, Ginny Clark-Ziske, Jennifer Garabedian, Angel Smith-Dieng, Kirsten Murphy, Julie Abrahamson, Rebecca Silbernagel, Amanda Arnold, Jessica Bernard, Angela McMann, Fran Hodgins

Guests: Kiley Kuiper, Devon Ayers, Gloria Quinn, Susan Aranoff, Mary Gyori

Quorum-met - yes

Introductions, roll call, review agenda, review and approve minutes. – Jane Catton, Chair.

Motion to approve agenda: - Jane Catton, Chair

First: Kim Fitzgerald

Second: Joe Greenwald

Agenda: Approved

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

First: Steve Pouliot

Second: Rick Neu

Minutes: Approved

DAIL Updates: 10:10 – 10:30

Dr. Jill Bowen, Commissioner and Megan Tierney-Ward, Deputy Commissioner brought some exciting news to Board Members. The Vermont Outdoor Recreation Economic Collaborative (VOREC) has received the largest grant in the history of the program to build accessible trails. Green Mountain Trails and Greenways Council partnered with Vermont Adaptive Ski and Sports (VASS), Vermont Mountain Bike Association (VMBA), Upper Valley Trails Alliance (UVTA), Northern Forest Canoe Trail (NFCT), and Community Geographics (CommGeo), the organization that maintains Trail Finder to form a Vermont “accessibility hub” to improve, build, and promote accessible recreation trails throughout the State. The Department of Disabilities Aging and Independent Living (DAIL) is proud to have supported the grant proposal and looks forward to implementation of the partners’ plans.

Vermont was chosen to participate in the Workforce Learning Collaborative, this new federal initiative is intended to address the direct care workforce shortage, bringing together partners from the world of CMS, ACL/aging and disabilities, and DOL/workforce development. Vermont is one of 14 states that were selected to participate in this collaborative program. For more information click on the link below.

[States Selected for Program to Tackle Direct Care Crisis \(ncoa.org\)](https://www.ncoa.org/states-selected-for-program-to-tackle-direct-care-crisis)

The Division for the Blind and Visually Impaired opens The Innovation Café in new Burlington State Office Facility. The café is part of DBVI Business Enterprise Program which creates opportunities for people who are blind to run a small business on State or Federal property. Stop by and experience the high-quality customer service and great food.

New Federal Rules for Adult Protective Services (APS) were released this week. States will have until June 1, 2028, to come into compliance with the Federal rule, and Federal funding to State APS programs will be contingent upon meeting the rule in its entirety. In anticipation of the forthcoming rule, DAIL helped shepherd a new APS statute through the Vermont Legislature that meets nearly all requirements under the new rule.

On May 8th the Apprenticeship & Trades Fair took place at the Brattleboro Union High School Gym giving students who are not looking for a post-secondary education to learn about earn- and–learn training opportunities in Vermont.

DS Payment Reform: 10:30 – 11:15 Jessica Bernard, Deputy Director of Payment Reform presented a slide show describing Supports Intensity Scale, Adult Version (SIS-A). This is a “standardized assessment tool”. This means the tool has been shown to be consistent in how it measures the needs of program participants. Presentation slides available.

Break 11:15-11:25

Age Strong VT Plan 11:25 – 12:00 Angela Smith-Dieng, Director of Adult Services Division updated the board on the Age Strong VT Plan. Review of the 7 goal areas were reviewed and the board had a chance to review and reflect on questions and provide feedback. Presentation slides available.

Lunch 12:05-12:45

HCBS FMAP Funding: 12:45-1:15 Wendy Trafton, Deputy Director of Payment reform and Fran Hodgins, Administrative Services Director gave a presentation on Section 9817 of the American Rescue Plan: Vermont’s Proposal to Enhance, Expand and Strengthen Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) under the Medicaid Program. Presentation slides available.

HireAbility Workforce Innovation & Opportunity Act: 1:15 - 1:45 Amanda Arnold, Quality Assurance Manager, Alice Porter Administrative Services Manager presented on the Workforce Innovation & Opportunity Act (WIOA). Presentation slides available.

Board Member Updates: 1:45-1:55 Kim Fitzgerald shared that ground was broken on a new community in St. Albans.

Kirsten Murphy shared the budget bill is out of conference. Items of interest, 1) Two pipelines for funding to provide housing for people who receive medical home-based services. 2) For information on the Able Saving Program please reach out to the Treasurer’s office. 3) Jane Catton updated the group about ongoing work related to UVMHC’s plan to build a new Ambulatory Surgery Center. She noted that she and Kim Fitzgerald were invited to a community feedback session with Dr. Stephen Leffler, President of the Medical Center. UVMHC will be presenting their plan to the Green Mountain Care Board on May 20, 2024. The group heard about the project and discussion ensued.

Public Input: 1:55-2:00 - none

Motion to Adjourn 1:55pm

First: Rick Neu

Second: Joe Greenwald