

# **DAIL Advisory Board Meeting Minutes**

## **July 14, 2022**

### **Microsoft Teams Phone/Video Conference**

#### **ATTENDEES**

**Board Members:** Jane Catton, Kim Fitzgerald, Joseph Greenwald, Jeanne Hutchins, Nick McCardle, Steven Pouliot

**Guests:** Erika Wolfing, Gail Zatz, Josh Smith, Marie Lallier, Megan Bermeister, Mary Hayden, Ross MacDonald, Jill Olson

**State Employees:** Monica White, Megan Tierney-Ward, Ashley Bonneau, Kirsten Murphy, Angela Smith-Dieng, Bard Hill, Susan Aranoff,

**Motion to Approve Minutes:** June 9, 2022, minutes: Unable to vote on approval of minutes as did not have aquarium. Vote will be held in September meeting.

#### **DAIL Updates:**

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

- Position updates: Ashley Bonneau has accepted and started the position as the Executive Assistant. IT Manager position is currently vacant and has been posted on success factors.
- HireAbility Vermont has gone through (Rehabilitation Services Administration) RSA audit. This was a 5-day audit that has taken place. Feedback has been complimentary but will take 6-8 months to receive official feedback.
- Dr Levine and Health Commissioner and Commissioner White took place in discussions on pandemic and older Vermonters for older adult's health.
- EAP has provided efforts for suicide prevention programs for first responders. EAP is working with agency of agriculture for peer support for farmers.
- Preventable falls for older Vermonters. DAIL has issued RFP to initiate falls prevention pilot program (2 year).
- Facilitated meeting focusing on Adult Day programs. Specifically discussed programs that had closed during pandemic. Starting to plan meetings with community specifically Rutland and Barre area.

##### **Megan Tierney-Ward, Deputy Commissioner**

- Request for information for specialized care in long term care facilities is still on track. Will be meeting internally to review RFI.
- The work for supporting nursing homes and Medicaid rate adjustments. DVHA was able to retractive payment adjustments for SYF22. Next phase is working DVHA their rate setting team to look at SFY23 to support the facilities.

- Kim Fitzgerald will be bringing the ACCS ERC rate review presentation back to stakeholders before the September DAIL Advisory Board meeting in September.
- We are working to support Medical Directors for facilities due to the shortage and their sub-contract needs. This is a short-term basis program so they can work towards their long-term plan.
- Working with DVHA to address Adult Day rates. May be hybrid rate review/payment reform approach.

### **Dementia Family Caregiver Center Updates**

#### **Jeanne Hutchins, MA, Executive Director, Center on Aging**

- The sessions are for 8 weeks, currently virtually. This program is for care takers of individuals with dementia.
- This is to help prevent emergency departments admittance and long-term care admittance.
- Program has received \$10,000 from UVMMC auxiliary center, to develop peer-peer mentoring program.
- Geriatric social worker initiative
- CARERS groups can be billing insurance. Trainee needs to be certified. Hope is to have 28 trained per year

### **DDSD Division Updates:**

#### **Jennifer Garabedian, DDSD Division Director**

- Housing Options/ Alternates (Act 186): \$500,000 has been earmarked for funding for HCBS FMAP. There has been an assessment with stakeholders for system gaps. Outreach has been made. Legislative report is due by April 2023.
- Developmental Disabilities State System: Three specific areas of focus were identified. Timeline is targeted sessions through summer, General session help by early fall. Draft plan by October. Final draft will be submitted to Commissioner in December. Requested and extension through legislature as required through act 186.
- Crisis Capacity Expansion: Working with VT Crisis intervention Network (VCIN) 3 statewide crisis beds for short term interventions 14-21 days. Anticipated contract with DHMC to start 8/1/2022.
- Intensive Transition Supports are expected to be online in 2022. There are two beds at LCMH first is anticipated 8/1/22 and second 10/1/22. Two beds are planned at GMSS, currently paused due to organizational restructuring. Space has been offered to other agencies.

### **Conflict Free Case Management Updates:**

#### **Dylan Frazier, Deputy Director of Medicaid Policy**

HCBS COI Corrective Action Plan: December 2021 submitted 5-year plan which included stakeholder engagement. Allowed more time for transitions as programs come into compliance. Allowed more time to account for ongoing COVID 19 response and workforce shortage. As of May 2022, comments were received: would not accept 5-year plan and would only accept 3 year or less plan. In July 2022

submitted new 3-year plan to be in compliance with CMS requests. Which includes stakeholder engagement. HCBS conflict of interest plan is posted on link in presentation. Implementation is scheduled by 2025.

**Payment Reform Updates:**

**Jessica Bernard, Deputy Director of Payment Reform**

Vermont uses Supports Intensity Scale (SIS-A).

Sample Update: SIS-A first group consists of 500 peoples receiving DS services. Sample started in 7/2021 and will finish in late July or early August. The results will help determine a possible payment method. Once sample is completed it will be processed prior to being presented to stakeholders for input. It will take several months to process the work from the sample assessments.

Everyone receiving HCBS services will need to complete SIS A assessment once every 3 years or as needed.

**Current Concerns:**

- DAIL/DS will need time to draft payment model frameworks, input is needed then choosing payment model.
- If we wait until payment model is made, then there would be around 3,400 peoples that need to be assessed in one – two years.

**Suggestions:**

DS providers would like DAIL/DS to continue to generate list of names for peoples to take the SS-A with options to swap out anyone who needs more time or is not in a good situation.

PGS to keep track of assessments and keep agencies up to date and inform agencies when indivual is needing a new one at the 3-year mark.

**Meeting was adjourned**

**Kim Fitzgerald first motion**

**Nick McCardle seconded motion.**