

DAIL Advisory Board Meeting Minutes
May 10, 2018
Sally Fox Conference Center, Waterbury

ATTENDEES:

Board Members: Robert Borden, Nancy Breiden, Terry Collins, Kim Fitzgerald, Kenneth Gagne, Joseph Greenwald, Jeanne Hutchins, Nancy Lang, Nancy Metz, Virginia Milkey, Delaina Norton, Diane Novak, Steven Pouliot, Beth Stern, Lorraine Wargo

Guests: Ruby Baker, Marie Zura, Lynne Cleveland-Vitzthum, Kristen Murphy, Sean Londergan, Mike Firkey, Matt Boger

State Employees: Camille George, Monica Hutt, Liz Perreault, Diane Dalmasse, Phil Seiler, James Smith, Linda DuCharme, Dawn Hrubovcak, Wendy Madigan, Christel Bentley, Tela Torey, David Leonard, Monica White, Alice Porter, Mike Goldberg, June Bascom, Megan Tierney-Ward

Motion to Approve Minutes: April 12, 2018 minutes: Moved to Accept: Diane Novak
Seconded: Steve Pouliot
Abstained: Gini Milkey, Nancy Brieden, Lorraine Wargo

Minutes are approved.

Conversation with the Commissioner

Monica Hutt, DAIL Commissioner

The advisory board was asked if there were any topics they wanted Commissioner Hutt to discuss that weren't included in the agenda. The additions to the agenda were to discuss the changes in the language used when speaking of older Vermonters and the press release on "Vermont Works to Reduce Risky Drinking Behaviors Among Older Vermonters." Because of the full agenda, these items will be addressed at future meetings.

Budget Update

The budget is not final at this time. DAIL was slated for two big proposed reductions in Developmental Services and the General Funds Attendant Services Program (ASP). However, the proposed reduction in Developmental Services has been fully restored.

The proposed elimination of the General Fund portion of ASP was not fully restored by the Senate, the program's budget was cut by \$639,547, which is almost half the program budget. Along with the

change in the funding, language was added that would require DAIL to work to find other programs for participants to utilize.

One of the programs that is being used to fill this need is Choices for Care (CFC). However, there are requirements and limitations to that program that make the transition difficult for participants. The Area Agencies on Aging (AAA) are working with participants to see if they are eligible for Long Term Care Medicaid which is one of the requirements of the CFC program. Beth Stern, Director of Central Vermont Council on Aging, stated that her agency is finding that most people don't want to make the switch to CFC from ASP because they will lose the ability to have spouses paid for the assistance they provide with Instrumental Activities of Daily Living (IADLs - which includes activities such as housework, grocery shopping and meal preparation), for some people there would be a high patient share and some people won't qualify for as many service hours as they have been receiving through CFC. This change in services can create a hardship for families so they choose not to move to CFC.

DAIL will be reporting back to the Legislature in September to discuss how the transition is going and if participants are able to utilize other programs in order to pare down the ASP.

The summary of the House and Senate changes to DAIL's recommended SFY19 budget are:

- 2% increase to AAA Home Delivered Meals and the VCIL Home Delivered Meals Grant
- 2% increase to Adult Day – Day Health Rehabilitation
- 2% increase for all Home and Community Based Services

There had been conversations about moving where the line item for CFC is in the budget. Currently, it sits in DVHA's budget and DAIL would like to move it to the DAIL budget. The benefit to having it in the DAIL budget is it would change how costs are allocated across the department and provide more flexibility to better support system development, training, quality assurance and other important administrative activities. The legislature has decided to leave it where it is for now. DAIL will bring this to the legislature again next year.

In the big bill, there is a proposed 4.3% increase to the General Fund for Mental Health to fund and increase Master level salaries. This increase to the provider's pay is very targeted and does not include employees of the two specialized agencies but will increase the salary of those who work for the Designated Agencies (DA).

Legislative Update

As the legislative session moves through, DAIL is constantly monitoring bills that are both specific to DAIL or minimally affect the Department.

H.897 would bring school districts into parity with the best practices for students who require additional services. The new law will improve the way special education is funded. Instead of a block grant and reimbursement model, it will now be a grant based on best practices. Part of this bill also

addresses that if you receive any public money, you must accept special education students into the school system and provide the necessary accommodations.

Act 125: This act creates the Nursing Home Oversight Working Group to examine the oversight of nursing homes in Vermont, including their financial stability and licensing criteria. The Working Group must report to the General Assembly by January 15, 2019 with its findings and any recommendations for legislative action. The act eliminates a requirement to obtain a certificate of need from the Green Mountain Care Board for the transfer of ownership of a nursing home. It directs the Secretary of Human Services to develop a process by which the Agency of Human Services will accept and review applications for transfers of nursing home ownership in lieu of the certificate of need process. It allows applicants who filed a letter of intent or application for a certificate of need with the Green Mountain Care Board for transfer of nursing home ownership on or before July 1, 2018 to choose to use the Agency of Human Services' process instead of continuing with the certificate of need process."

APS – Staffing Shortage and Impact

Adult Protective Services (APS) will be losing three investigators and DAIL is trying to bring in someone to help for an interim period to do investigations until APS is fully staffed again. At the same time, the division is seeing an uptick in investigations. Once fully staffed, the case load is still between 30-40 cases per investigator.

DAIL will be looking at how the Department for Children and Families (DCF) handles their child protective services division and potentially adopt some of their processes. DCF also has established standards for staffing based on caseload that allow for increased staffing as the caseload increases.

Organ Donation

Matthew Boger, New England Donor Services

Matt Boger from the New England Donor Services came to the advisory board to inform the group that persons over the age of 60 and those with disabilities can still donate organs and tissues. Mr. Boger also wanted to seek advice on how best to reach those populations.

Currently the Donate Life Vermont organization works with the Vermont Department of Health and the Vermont Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) to educate and solicit the population to donate. Ninety-eight percent of donors in Vermont register using DMV's licensing check off process. However, the rate for those registering over the age of 60 is very low. Since not everyone has a driver's license, an interested person can also register online.

Mr. Boger is asking the advisory board members to bring back to their organizations the knowledge that anyone can become a donor. In the end, a doctor will determine whether or not a donor is suitable when the time comes. An individual can also dictate which organs and tissues they are willing to donate, if not all. It is also encouraged that people who decide to donate, should have that

conversation with family members so when the time comes, it is not a surprise or shock to the family.

This is another way for older Vermonters and those living with disabilities to contribute to society. For any provider or organization interested in sharing this information with their population, Mr. Boger is happy to send informational materials that can be displayed and given out. If assistance is needed to connect groups with Mr. Boger, you can do so through Liz Perreault, DAIL Executive Assistant.

Public Service Recognition; DAIL AWARE Implementation Team

Monica Hutt, DAIL Commissioner

Commissioner Hutt took this opportunity to introduce DAIL Aware Team to the Advisory Board. The AWARE team had been recognized by the Governor's office during Public Service Recognition week. The team worked on creating and implementing a data management system for the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation and the Division for the Blind and Visually Impaired. It was done on time and under budget, which is no small feat. Congratulations to: Christel Bentley, Linda DuCharme, Mike Goldberg, Suzanne Hopkins, Dawn Hrubovcak, David Leonard, Wendy Madigan, Alice Porter, Karen Symonds, Tela Torrey, Lisa Young.

Board Updates

DAIL Advisory Board Members

Ken Gagne

Ken will be attending the self-advocates Voices for Choices Conference in Burlington and will give an update at next month's meeting.

Terri Collins

Home Health is taking steps to work with non-medical home health providers in the Northeast Kingdom.

Delaina Norton

There is a free event at the Howard Center: Thursday, May 10 Scattered: ADHD Across the Lifespan Presentation with Q & A with Feyza Basoglu, MD and Joseph Lasek, MD 6:00-7:30 p.m

National Core Indicators

June Bascom, Developmental Disabilities Services Division (DDSD)
Megan Tierney-Ward, Adult Services Division

The National Core Indicators (NCI) program helps state agencies learn about their own performance. Vital Research manages the survey and they hire Vermonters to conduct the survey. The

interviewers travel statewide and work with providers to connect with people who receive DD services.

There are 38 states and the District of Columbia involved with the 2016-2017 survey. NCI's focus for the survey is statewide information. For the past two years, the survey was given in a different way and at a different time of year.

The survey tool consists of four parts. 1) Pre-survey information that helps the interviewer prepare for the meeting and conduct the survey. 2) Background information that is a list of questions about demographics, residence, health, employment status, and service and supports. 3) Two different survey styles: one way is the survey is completed only through a direct meeting with the individual. The other way is the individual have a proxy to help with answering the questions. However, this proxy may not be a case manager or service coordinator. 4) A surveyor feedback sheet is used to record information such as how much time a survey took to complete and any problems that occurred during the interviewing process.

You can find the 2015-2016 and 2016-2017 NCI report on the DDS website and soon the 2017-2018 results will be available. For the 2016-2017 report, we only had 325 participate in the survey, NCI requires a population of a minimum of 400 for the most accurate information. For the 2017-2018 survey, 425 individuals were interviewed.

The way DAIL will use this information to help apply for National Grants, meet certain requirements of Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) and most importantly, to help the department know the areas needing improvement and where things are going well. DAIL's next steps are to work with NCI to include things that matter to Vermont.

Another survey that is available on the DDS website is the Staff Stability Survey. This survey shows where Vermont ranks nationally in staff turnover, hourly wage and offering staff paid time off.

NCI has also developed a survey for Aging and Disability services. This is the first year that Vermont has joined this survey and so far, the process has gone pretty well. The results of this survey should be available next year.

Meeting was adjourned

2:00