

DAIL Advisory Board Meeting Minutes

October 8, 2020

Sally Fox Conference Center, Waterbury

ATTENDEES

Board Members: Ruby Baker, Nancy Breiden, Avril Cochran, Kim Fitzgerald, Joseph Greenwald, Jeanne Hutchins, Frances Keeler, Laura McDonald, Nick McCardle, Michelle Monroe, Delaina Norton, Diane Novak, Steven Pouliot, Beth Stern, Cathy Swain, Lorraine Wargo, Marie Zura

Guests: Chris Davey, Jill Olsen, Lynne Cardozo, Howard Goodrow, Virginia Renfrew, Lucie Garand, Melissa Morrison, Sean Londergan, Lynne Cleveland Vitzthum

State Employees: Monica Hutt, Megan Tierney-Ward, Liz Perreault, Kirsten Murphy, Nat Piper, Angela McMann, Ross McDonald, Angela Smith-Dieng

Motion to Approve Minutes: September 10, 2020: Move to Approve: Steve Pouliot
Seconded: Delaina Norton

Minutes are approved as written.

DAIL Updates

Commissioner Monica Caserta Hutt and Deputy Commissioner Megan Tierney-Ward

Deputy Commissioner, Megan Tierney-Ward reviewed DAIL updates with the Advisory Board found here: <https://dail.vermont.gov/resources/advisory-board/dail-advisory-brd-2020-items>

Time with the Commissioner

Commissioner Monica Caserta Hutt

Commissioner Hutt asked the advisory board for any specific topics they would like to hear about at this time. A request to hear about the sale of five Genesis nursing facilities was made. There is an expectation that a letter of intention will be submitted in the coming weeks. However, that official notice has not yet been submitted to the Agency of Human Services.

- DAIL should be receiving budget instructions for 2022 in the next few weeks.
- DAIL and VDH are creating a Vaccination Work Group that will plan how to roll out the COVID19 vaccination once the state receives it.
- Vermont is making a concentrated effort to make the flu vaccination to vulnerable populations.
- AARP released its annual score card for states and Vermont was ranked 5th in the nation.

- The U.S Commission on Civil Rights is recommending the abolishment of the 1934 labor law allowing sheltered workshops to pay subminimum wage to people with disabilities. Vermont eliminated sheltered workshops years ago. Part of the recommendation is for Congress to provide more funding for supported employment services.

Staffing:

Prior to the pandemic, staffing across the state's system of care was unstable. Now that we are living through the pandemic, staffing resources are worse. The pressures of staffing is compounded by needing staff to handle quarantine process as well as regular care.

There have been closings of residential care homes due to the lack of staff. DAIL does not have an answer to this crisis but will promote maximizing who is available to enter the workforce. DAIL may have to reconsider its stance on paying family for care and age specific housing to help fill the staffing void.

The lack of staffing is forcing service providers to prioritize the services that are given. This means that companion visits are likely not being provided which leads to isolation for people. This highlights the need to help create natural supports for people.

Falls Prevention

Adult Services Division Director Angela Smith-Dieng

Vermont ranks 48th in the country for falls with 1 out of 3 Vermonters over the age of 65 falling in the last 12 months. This is a costly and dangerous trend. To combat this trend, Vermont is working on education, screening assessments, and expansion of programs and interventions.

COVID19 has negatively impacted older Vermonters by eliminating the availability of in person programs. However, online programs are being offered and well attended.

Vermont is working with healthcare, government agencies, partners, and communities to put systems in place that will help reduce the amount of falls each year.

To view the full Power Point presentation visit: <https://dail.vermont.gov/resources/advisory-board/dail-advisory-brd-2020-items>

Workforce Development

Business, Legislative & Community Relations Manager for Vocational Rehabilitation (VR), Nat Piper

Creative Workforce Solutions (CWS) is an initiative that helps to coordinate workforce development. CWS promotes job and staffing opportunities to both job seekers and employers. It is a free service for employers and potential employees. Business Account Managers (BAM) and Employment Consultants offer review of business needs and develop training plans for candidates.

While the pandemic has made in person tours of businesses difficult, some businesses have developed virtual tours to give potential candidates some insight to the business. It is a challenge, but this approach has been successful.

The State of Vermont is facing staffing shortages and VR is working to fill those gaps by providing opportunities for diverse populations to be utilized in the workforce. VR partners with Department of Corrections, Department of Mental Health, Vermont Veterans, New Americans/Refugees, Vermont's Recovery Center Network, Office of Child Support, and at-risk youth service organizations. Creative Workforce Solutions is a way to connect businesses and people with supports and on the job training to help ensure longer retention and success.

Long Term Care (LTC) Ombudsman Annual Conflict of Interest Assessment

Vermont LTC Ombudsman, Sean Londergan

Sean Londergan, the state's LTC Ombudsman, addressed the DAIL Advisory Board to discuss the advisory board's role in ensuring that the LTC Ombudsman project is operating without organizational and individual conflicts of interest. The DAIL Advisory Board is asked to form a subcommittee that would work with the LTC Ombudsman and bring to the full advisory board an assessment and recommendation. Once the full advisory board considers the recommendation, a vote will be taken whether to certify that the LTC Ombudsman Project is operating without individual or organizational conflict of interest. If it is determined that the LTC Ombudsman Project is operating without a conflict of interest, a certificate from the advisory board is issued that will be included to the LTC Ombudsman Project annual report to the legislature. The following DAIL Advisory Board members volunteered to become the sub-committee and work with Sean in order to determine that the LTC Ombudsman Project is operating without conflict of interest:

Ruby Baker

Joe Greenwald

Michelle Monroe

Review Operational Procedures Edits & Weather Cancellations Process

DAIL Executive Administrative Assistant, Liz Perreault

The DAIL Advisory Board reviewed the *DAIL Advisory Board Operating Procedures, March 2012*. The document was viewed with some trackable edits that had already been made. The board approved of suggested edits and did not offer additional changes. The final document will be completed by the December meeting. If advisory board members would like to make further suggestions, they were asked to send them to Liz prior to the November meeting.

Board Updates

DAIL Advisory Board

There were no updates given.

Meeting was adjourned Diane Novak moved, Steve Pouliot seconded, all in favor – 12:15