

DAIL Advisory Board Meeting Minutes

December 10, 2020

Microsoft Teams Phone/Video Conference

ATTENDEES

Board Members: Ruby Baker, Avril Cochran, Kim Fitzgerald, Joseph Greenwald, Jeanne Hutchins, Frances Keeler, Laura McDonald, Nick McCardle, Michelle Monroe, Steven Pouliot, Lorraine Wargo, Marie Zura

Guests: Chris Davey, Lynne Cardozo, Susan Aranoff, Lynne Cleveland-Vitzthum, Janet Hunt, Sean Londergan, Sheila Burnham, Matt McMahon, Sarah Launderville, Melissa Morrison

State Employees: Liz Perreault, Kirsten Murphy, Megan Tierney-Ward, Matt Corjay, Ross McDonald, Conor O’Dea, Nat Piper, Angela Smith-Dieng, Bard Hill

Motion to Approve Minutes: November 11, 2020 minutes: Move to Approve: Marie Zura
Seconded: Kim Fitzgerald

Abstained: Steve Pouliot

Minutes are approved as written.

DAIL Updates:

Megan Tierney-Ward, Deputy Director Advisory Board Membership Update

The advisory board received a letter from Diane Novak announcing her immediate resignation from the DAIL Advisory Board.

Megan’s notes-

LTC Facilities

1. DAIL continues to have at least one representative on daily “HOPR” (Health Outbreak Prevention & Response) calls with VDH and facilities experiencing positive COVID results. This assures that providers feel supported and that we can have a rapid response to staffing, PPE and supply needs. These calls occur multiple times per day as a facility moves through the testing protocol towards full negative results.
2. DAIL facilitated a great technical assistance call VDH and LTC facilities regarding COVID-19 infection control and best practices.
3. DAIL responded to a concern from the LTC Ombudsman in central Vermont about volunteers in nursing facilities. DAIL explained that the reason for using volunteers is the staffing shortage caused by the pandemic. The challenge is keeping folks with dementia confined to their rooms in order to safely isolate/quarantine residents in accordance with VDH/CDC

guidelines. Normally, these folks are able to “wander about” within their secure unit, participate in group activities, and go to the dining room for congregate meals. This is no longer possible when isolation/quarantine requirements become necessary. Their sometimes-challenging behaviors can make confinement to their room very upsetting. The “volunteers” are actually medical workers, providing “care” in the form of diversional activities. In doing so, they are preventing further spread of the virus. Facilities can choose to administer POC tests upon the volunteer’s arrival, and/or roll them into any facility wide testing events.

4. All nursing facilities have voluntarily chosen to pause visitation due to the recent surge of C19 cases.
5. DAIL is finalizing a communication to all nursing facilities about distribution of federally supplied BiNax Now cards for “do it yourself” antigen tests. To use the tests, facilities must participate in training this week and obtain CLEA certification which is necessary for administrating the tests. Nursing facilities will use the tests daily for all staff coming to work. Other LTC facilities will use them for people who are symptomatic.
6. VDH is rolling out vaccines for LTC facilities starting 12/21/20 at the earliest. Then a plan will be finalized for community-based healthcare workers.

Personal Protection Equipment (PPE)

1. DAIL purchased fit testing kits and members of the LTC COVID Team are training to be fit testers. They will be able to fit test DAIL staff who use N95’s at work and be emergency backup to the current available fit test resources.
2. The DAIL LTC COVID team continues to evaluate the PPE needs of providers and advocate for situational needs of providers. For example, non-PPE supplies are in demand for items such as tray tables and commodes when a facility has an outbreak.

Adult Day

1. Services are suspended.
2. ASD is working on alternative ways to pay for remote, group services. We hope to engage in payment/delivery reform when the dust settles on COVID.

Care Relief Funds (CRF)

1. DAIL finalized a \$700K CRF grant payments to DA/SSAs for family stipends.
2. DAIL finalized a \$375K CRF grant to Burlington Health & Rehab for them to hire traveling staff and specialty staff to transition patients out of UVMHC who no longer need to be there are who require nursing home level of care. This is intended to help with hospital flow to free up beds during the COVID surge.
3. DAILY finalized a \$25K CRF grant to a Residential Care Home experiencing an outbreak who needed to purchase emergency staffing, supplies and meal services.
4. DAIL has identified backup staffing in LTC facilities as one of the top challenges during the pandemic. Though the current protocol has worked for one case at a time, it has become

clear that a more sustainable model is needed. DAIL's Director of Operations Monica White worked with the DAIL LTC COVID team to research emergency staffing plans in other states and identified a hiring pool model that Minnesota that may work well for Vermont. The proposal is being finalized and funding identified for contracted on-call staff.

Other

1. DAIL finalized a confidential employee survey designed to offer staff an opportunity to share what is working and what is not working for them. The survey ended 12/2 with almost 50% response rate. Results will be used by management to gauge employees' needs during the pandemic and beyond.
2. DAIL announced information about a new collaboration with VDOL to help Vermonters recruit caregiver staff. Independent Direct Support Workers and self-directed employers may now use VDOL's "[JobLink](#)" platform.

Workforce White Paper Presentation

Sarah Launderville, Vermont Center for Independent Living (VCIL) Executive Director

To read the report, go to: [Working with Disability: Toward a truly inclusive Vermont Labor force](#)

This report was created by many partners to highlight people with disabilities participating in and having access to the work force. The hope is this report will ignite conversations and awareness to the target audience of policy makers and legislators. There is a goal to create a series of papers that delve deeper into the many topics around employment for people with disabilities. This initial report is to touch on the topics and make them known.

This report has been slowly released and there will be a big launch to the public in January and brought to the legislature when the 2021 session begins. If you are interested in learning more, follow these links to more information:

<https://ddc.vermont.gov/>

<http://www.vcil.org/wp-content/uploads/PWD091720.pdf>

http://www.vcil.org/wp-content/uploads/PWD091720_accessible.pdf

Vermont State Plan on Aging Needs Assessment Survey

Angela Smith-Dieng, ASD Director and Conor O'Dea, State Unit on Aging Director

The Vermont State Plan on Aging acts as the blueprint for services for older Vermonters. Since this plan dictates what services are made available and how they are made available it is important to understand what the needs and challenges are for older Vermonters. Therefore, the needs assessment was critical in gathering information that will help shape the overall state plan. The Area Agencies on Aging will also utilize the needs assessment survey when they develop their plans.

A collaboration with partners across the state made the distribution of the survey quite successful. It was made available both electronically and hard copy. In retrospect, the distribution of the survey did not have a standard rollout across the state and that will be improved for future surveys.

To view the full PowerPoint presentation, follow this link to the DAIL Advisory Board page:
<https://dail.vermont.gov/resources/advisory-board/dail-advisory-brd-2020-items>

Money Follows the Person (MFP)

Angela Smith-Dieng, ASD Director and Matt Corjay, MFP Grant Director

DAIL is in the process of applying for the MFP Supplemental Demonstration Grant awarded by Centers for Medicare and Medicaid (CMS). This money can be spread out through the year 2025 which would allow time to create a long-term plan that would stabilize the program for future years.

To view the PowerPoint presentation please follow the link to the DAIL Advisory Board page:
<https://dail.vermont.gov/resources/advisory-board/dail-advisory-brd-2020-items>

Long Term Care (LTC) Ombudsman Conflict of Interest Assessment

Sean Londergan, VT LTC Ombudsman

Sean Londergan addressed the advisory board outlining the two items he would be discussing:

1. Asking the DAIL Advisory Board to certify that the Ombudsman Project is operating without conflict.
2. Give an update to the Advisory Board about what the role of an ombudsman is.

Conflict of Interest Study:

The DAIL Advisory Board created a subcommittee to conduct the annual review and then report back to the full DAIL Advisory Board. The subcommittee members were: Ruby Baker, Michelle Monroe, Joe Greenwald. The subcommittee reviewed both the State and Federal Ombudsman statutes.

The DAIL subcommittee, which reviewed conflict of interest and the Vermont Long-Term Ombudsman Project, determined that the Project is currently free of conflicts and has procedures in place to ensure that it is able to operate free of conflicts of interest for the next year.

After hearing from the subcommittee, the full DAIL Advisory Board accepted the subcommittee's recommendations that the Ombudsman Project could operate conflict free for the upcoming year.

Joe Greenwald moved that the DAIL Advisory Board certify that the Vermont Long-term Ombudsman Project was without conflict of interest and would be able to operate free of conflict of interest was made and approved by the full Board. Ruby Baker seconded the motion, the motion was passed. DAIL will issue the certification letter to Sean Londergan for inclusion with the Ombudsman Annual Report that is submitted to the Legislature each year.

Board Updates

DAIL Advisory Board Members

Jeanne Hutchins announced that Tara Paisley is the new chair of Home Health and Hospice, taking Judy Petersen's place now that she has retired.

Mt. Mansfield Village currently has 39 members and 37 volunteers and is coming up on its one-year anniversary since they opened. The Montpelier/Barre area has been researching the village program and are interested in opening a site in that region.

Ruby Baker reported that COVE is preparing to roll out initiatives for the 2021 year. Some of what is coming up for the new year is ageism training at businesses using reframing tools, exploring a way to work with the Developmental Disabilities (DD) Council and discussing what happens when the person with DD or the caregiver ages. COVE is also preparing for the upcoming legislative session and will be advocating for insurance coverage for hearing aids.

Michelle Monroe reported that the Safety Connection program the Howard Center piloted is ending.

Meeting was adjourned 12:31

DRAFT