

# **DAIL Advisory Board Meeting Minutes**

## **March 10, 2022**

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

#### **ATTENDEES**

**Board Members:** Ruby Baker, Lynne Cardozo, Jane Catton, Kim Fitzgerald, Joseph Greenwald, Michael Groteke, Jeanne Hutchins, Laura McDonald, Steven Pouliot

**Guests:** Sean Londergan, Meg Burmeister, Marie Lallier, Alexander Bobella, Lindsey Owen, Spenser Weppler, Rachel Seelig, Marichel Vaught

**State Employees:** Monica White, Megan Tierney-Ward, Liz Perreault, Kirsten Murphy, Angela McMann, Susan Aranoff, Angela Smith-Dieng, Will Fritch, Hib Doe, Jennifer Garabedian, Wendy Trafton, Bard Hill

**Motion to Approve Minutes:** February 10, 2022, minutes: Move to Approve: Steve Pouliot  
Seconded: Mike Groteke

No abstentions.

**Minutes are approved as written.**

#### **DAIL Updates:**

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

- Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) is rebranding the division and will go by the name of HireAbility. They launched the new name last week.
- VR/HireAbility is accepting Summer Career Youth program applications now.
- The Brain Injury Association and Green Mountain Support Services announced their consolidation into one agency. More information will be forthcoming.
- Money Follows the Person (MFP) has issued RFPs for projects (holistic social and mental health supports, expanding volunteer supports, identifying and supporting individuals with brain injury, and home modifications and peer support to assist community living) and contracts are being negotiated now.
- COVID – FEMA was extended to July 1, 2022. This funding source affects some of the State projects supporting COVID response including the TLC Staffing Pool contract.
- You Tube Training available re: working with people who are Deaf, Hard of Hearing and DeafBlind (D/HH/DB). <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WvQjQEfXEpM>

##### **Complex Care in Skilled Nursing Facilities (SNF)**

- Exploring options with Vermont facilities to expand expertise/capacity – some have been identified.

- Researching specialty SNF that operates outside of Vermont to determine whether Vermont needs/wants a specialty facility dedicated for “difficult to place” Vermonters (behavioral/mental health/justice involved).

#### **Legislative Activity**

- BAA Bill Status H.679 (vermont.gov) – Specific to DAIL – DAIL is working with the Department of Vermont Health Access (DVHA) and their division Rate Setting to establish a rate setting process to address contracted staffing costs for SFY22 and SFY23. \$1M ARPA funds for Adult Day through 6/30/22, health care workforce incentive \$2k per eligible worker.
- H.266 – A bill addressing Hearing Aide Coverage in Vermont in controlled plans. This coverage is already included in VT Medicaid.

#### **HCBS Enhanced FMAP Funding Update:**

##### **Wendy Trafton, DVHA Deputy Director of Health Care Reform**

In section 9817 of the American Rescue Plan Act states are provided with a 10% federal medical assistance percentage (FMAP) increase for Medicaid home and community-based services (HCBS) for activities to enhance, expand, or strengthen HCBS.

HCBS is defined broadly within Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) Guidance.

**Estimated projections** indicate Vermont will claim over \$67M in funds attributable to the increase in FMAP which will be employed as the state share to implement approved activities valued at \$149.5M.

#### **Time periods:**

Increased FMAP is for expenditures occurring between 4/1/21 and 3/31/22

Funding may be used through 3/31/24

To view the presentation in its entirety, please go to the DAIL website.

<https://dail.vermont.gov/resources/advisory-board/dail-advisory-board-2022-agendas-handouts-minutes>

#### **Rebranding Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) to HireAbility:**

##### **Hibbard Doe, Field Services Manager**

1. VR has transformed into HireAbility Vermont as a new consumer-facing brand with Division of Vocational Rehabilitation.
2. VR met with adult, youth, and employers in focus groups to discuss programs, mission and values along with the marketing company, The Place Creative, out of Burlington.
3. Feedback was that the term “rehabilitation” did not connect with the customer base about the services that are provided. It was especially apparent with youth who didn’t feel they needed rehabilitation.

4. Different focus groups were used to talk about other brand names and how they might resonate with staff and partners.
5. The Place Creative developed marketing materials
6. A statewide media launch about the rebranding effort will begin in March 2022 and throughout the Spring. (Television, YouTube, Popular Websites and on social media)
7. Throughout the website and print materials, pictures and quotes from HireAbility Vermont participants will be used.
8. Materials will still be identified as a state program (see lower right-hand corner of all materials). HireAbility Vermont is the consumer facing brand.

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#### **HUD Modification Grant:**

##### **Kim Fitzgerald, Cathedral Square Corp. Chief Executive Director**

The program aims to reduce risk of falling, improve general safety, and increase accessibility through low-cost, low barrier, high impact home modifications.

- Must qualify by income - below 80% of the area median income level and live in one of these towns. The grant targeted HUD's definition of rural areas. To qualify you must: own your home, have a household income below \$53,700 for 1 person or \$61,400 for 2 persons and be at least 62 years of age. Live in Williston, Richmond, Bolton, Hinesburg, Huntington, Jericho or Underhill.
- In two months, 35 participants have been approved.
- Six projects have been completed.
- Work is scheduling into May (2-3 months out).
- Majority of our referrals have come from SASH Coordinators.
- Other referrals from senior centers, front porch forums, and UVM's Connecting Cultures.

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#### **New Victim Advocate Services:**

##### **Marichel Vaught, COVE Elder Victim Advocate**

Marichel Vaught is the Victims Advocate at COVE who provides education on scams that target the older population, and advocates for older Vermonters who need help with housing and disability rights. She also advocates for older Vermonters who are victims of crimes. Marichel helps people navigate the judicial system and connects them with resources. She is also working with peers in the community and different housing sites to become ambassadors.

Currently her caseload is 10-15 people who are victims of a crime. She works closely with other services, so people don't get lost in the shuffle and she offers a "warm handoff".

**Advisory Board challenges, opportunities, and updates:  
DAIL Advisory Board members shared updates.**

**Ruby Baker** reported that COVE continues to monitor bills that are relevant to older Vermonters.

**Jeanne Hutchins** reported that the UVM Center on Aging Symposium will be held on May 9, in person at the Hilton in Burlington, Vermont.

**Lynne Cardozo** asked if there were any new information on the numbers of older Vermonters being adversely affected by COVID. She also asked with the relaxation of COVID rules, how does that affect places like nursing homes and senior centers?

**Meeting was adjourned at 12:22**