

**DAIL Advisory Board Meeting Minutes  
April 14, 2022  
Microsoft Teams Phone/WSOC - Red Maple**

**ATTENDEES**

**Board Members:** Ruby Baker, Lynne Cardozo, Jane Catton, Kim Fitzgerald, Joseph Greenwald, Laura McDonald, Nick McCardle, Michelle Monroe, Delaina Norton, Steven Pouliot, Marie Zura

**Guests:** Meg Burmeister, Rachel Seeling, Marie Lallier, Thomas Kauffmann, Pam Zagorski, Stephanie Parker, Alexander Bobella, Dan Noyes, Theresa Wood

**State Employees:** Monica White, Megan Tierney-Ward, Liz Perreault, Susan Aranoff, Conor O’Dea, Angela Smith-Dieng, Jennifer Garabedian

**Motion to Approve Minutes:** March 10, 2022 minutes:                      Move to Approve: Ruby Baker  
Seconded: Steve Pouliot

Abstained: N/A

**Minutes are approved as written.**

**DAIL Updates:**

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

- Discussions with DAIL Directors about how to support DAIL staff wellness and resiliency is occurring. There have been ideas generated and the team is working to establish a plan that can support this effort.
- Will Fritch resigned and vacated the Director of Operations position the end of March. Recruitment for this position has begun.
- HireAbility Vermont rebranding has been rolled out.
- Youth Summer Career Exploration Program 2022 has received 191 apps versus the 145 last year.
- Invest EAP jointly sponsored Farm First with the Vermont Agency of Agriculture to provide a peer support network to all Vermont farmers. The program launched nine peer farmers from across the state and from a variety of types of farms to participate in a training series where they are learning skills for offering effective emotional support and resources (such as funding opportunities, technical assistance, succession planning, business advising, and mediation) to other Vermont farmers.
- Diane Dalmasse recently celebrated her 50<sup>th</sup> year working for the State of Vermont. A resolution from the legislature was read from the floor and a letter from Governor Scott congratulating her on so many years of service was presented to Diane.

- The Road to Mobility is a collaborative workgroup with AARP Vermont, Vermont Highway Safety Alliance, University of Vermont Medical Center, and the Vermont Department of Health that focuses on supporting older adult drivers. The workgroup has developed a free [webinar series](#) for drivers.
- Adult Services Staff participated in the Geriatrics Conference that was held at the Double Tree by Hilton Hotel in Burlington on Tuesday 4/12.
- The Vermont State Plan on Aging has rolled out the statewide survey conducted by EnVision. The survey results will help inform the plan for the SPA for the next three years (2023-2025).
- Legislative bills to note that are at various states of completion:
  - Hearing Aids H.266.
  - HHS DS bill H.720.
  - Alzheimer’s bill S.206.
  - S.285, expansion of Blueprint and MNG.
  - H.703 Workforce Development Pilot program to embed HAVT counselors in recovery centers.
  - Budget – Big Bill.
- **SNF Bedboard Data** (as of 4/12)
  - 292 beds off-line, a **40% decrease since 1/10/22**.
  - 147 bed open and ready for admissions, a **126% increase since 1/10/22**.
  - VAHHS reported 102 subacute patients are awaiting discharge to a SNF.
- **Bedboard Work**  
 VDH and their AllClear contractor continue work with VHCA on the medium-term solution for LTC Facility “bedboard” work to transition to a more automated solution by 6/1/22. AHS is exploring long-term solutions to unify bedboard needs across the agency.
- **Hospital Discharge Barriers**
  - Medicaid Eligibility Barriers - Medicaid eligibility start dates for new applicants and length of time to grant eligibility are two primary issues that prevent/delay discharges.
  - LTC Facility Specialized Care
- **SNF Medicaid Rate Analysis for SFY22 and SFY23 (Act 83)**
  - Medicaid Rates - DVHA Rate Setting is finalizing analysis for SFY22 impact of contract staffing costs. Expect completion by 4/22. If the analysis reveals an unmet need, a retractive adjustment will be applied to SFY22. Then DVHA Rate Setting will do a similar analysis with recommendations for SFY23.
  - SNF Bed Contracts - DAIL is coordinating the wind down of the SNF bed contracts with 7 facilities. If the rate adjustment results in an adequate adjustments,

contracts will end 5/1/22. Facilities are making efforts to move away from contract staffing (if able) while sustaining beds. Once the analysis is complete, we will swiftly determine whether there is an unmet financial need for sustaining beds beyond 5/1.

- **State House Communication Access**

Laura Seigel has been working with Mike Ferrant at the Office of Legislative Operations to improve communication accessibility. There is now an accessibility web page with ways people can request accommodations. It has been a very positive response.

[Legislative Operations \(vermont.gov\)](https://legis.vermont.gov/).

### **Vermont State Plan on Aging (SPA):**

#### **Conor O’Dea, State Unit on Aging Director**

Every four years, a revised Vermont State Plan on Aging (SPA) must be created as required by the Older Americans Act (OAA). Conor O’Dea presented to the board a high-level overview of the plan which can be found on the DAIL website: <https://asd.vermont.gov/content/vermont-state-plan-aging-2019-2022>.

The division of Adult Services is taking public comment on what changes should be made to the plan to better serve Vermonters until April 29, 2022.

This advisory board meeting was open to public comment and advisory board members and guests had an opportunity to give their feedback. The advisory board also created a subgroup to give a written statement from the DAIL Advisory Board’s perspective that will be finalized at the May 12<sup>th</sup> meeting. The subcommittee consisted of: Ruby Baker, Lynne Cardozo, Jane Catton, Kim Fitzgerald, and Marie Zura.

To view the entire presentation, please go to the DAIL website:

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

### **Developmental Services (DS) Updates:**

#### **Jennifer Garabedian, Director of Developmental Services**

The DS division has been through many staffing changes and vacancies in the recent past and Jennifer Garabedian reported that those vacancies have been filled and staff are working on succession planning and strategic prioritization.

The Developmental Services State System of Care Plan Renewal occurs every three years and DAIL must adopt a plan that describes the nature, extent, allocation, and timing of services for people with developmental disabilities and their families. Because of the change in 2014 which requires changes in certain categories to go through the rulemaking process, recent updates have required updating the SOCP and regulations at the same time.

After the proposed Regs have been filed with the Secretary of State's Office, there will be a public comment period. Once the 500 test cases for the SIS-A are finished, Director Garabedian will return to the Board with an evaluation and summary of the efficacy. She will also report on the new SIS iteration and how it will be used.

To view the presentation in its entirety, please go to: <https://dail.vermont.gov/resources/advisory-board/dail-advisory-board-2022-agendas-handouts-minutes>.

**Older Vermonters Caucus:**

**Representative Dan Noyes and Representative Theresa Wood**

The Older Vermonter's Caucus was created five years ago as a way for policy makers, partners, and Vermonters to discuss relevant issues that older Vermonters face and ways to address the challenges.

Currently the caucus meets every Wednesday at noon in the Pavilion in Montpelier and by Zoom. If you are interested in being added to the distribution list in order to receive the Zoom link information, email Representative Dan Noyes at: [DNoyes@leg.state.vt.us](mailto:DNoyes@leg.state.vt.us).

**Advisory Board challenges, opportunities, and updates:**

**DAIL Advisory Board members**

**Kim Fitzgerald** – SASH has a partnership with BC&BS of Vermont with approximately 300 members will receive SASH services.

**Rachel Seelig** – The Civil Rights Conference is coming up. For more information go to: <https://hrc.vermont.gov/2nd-civil-rights-conference>.

Kim Fitzgerald moved to end the meeting.

Steve Pouliot second the motion.

**Meeting was adjourned            12:19**