

DAIL Advisory Board Meeting April 11th, 2024 minutes-draft

In Attendance:

Board Members: Michael Gruteke, Kim Fitzgerald, Eliza Eager, Joe Greenwald, Steve Pouliot, Nick McCardle, Rick Neu, Rachel Seelig,

State Employees: Megan Tierney-Ward, Ginny Clark-Ziske, Jennifer Garabedian, Angel Smith-Dieng, Bard Hill, Angela McMann, Kirsten Murphy, Julie Abrahamson, Dylan Frazer, Wendy Trafton,

Guests: Gary Chester, Mary Beth Pinard, Andre LaChance, Helen Labun, Kerry White, Marie Lallier,

Quorum-met - yes

Introductions, roll call, review agenda, review and approve minutes. – Kim Fitzgerald, co-Chair.

Motion to approve meeting minutes from January 11, 2024 – Kim Fitzgerald, co-Chair.

First: Steve Pouliot

Second: Nick McCardle

Minutes: Approved

DAIL Updates: 10:10 – 10:30

Megan Tierney-Ward, Interim Commissioner updated Board members on the following items:
Pathways to Partnership Grant from the US Department of Education. The grant's award goes through 9/30/28 and is intended to assist youth with disabilities in transitioning from high school to adulthood. Funds will be used to improve the school to career, independent living, and post-secondary outcomes of students with disabilities. The grant was developed in partnership with the VT Agency of Education, Local Education Agencies, the VT Center for Independent Living, the University of Vermont Center on Disability and Community Inclusion, Developmental Disabilities Council, and the VT Family Network.

On March 19, the Green Mountain Care Board notified Birchwood Terrace nursing facility in Burlington that a Certificate of Need (CON) is not needed to relicense 16 beds that the previous owner took offline. The purpose of bringing the beds back online is to assist Vermont's critical need for hospital post-acute patient flow. Birchwood will work with DAIL Survey & Certification to update their license from 144 to 160 beds.

In March DAIL HireAbility staff was on-hand to offer guests information about employment services at the temporary shelter services that were opened in Burlington, Barre, Brattleboro, and Rutland.

Alzheimer's Advocacy Day was held at the State House Thursday, March 27. DAIL staff participated in the day-long event to raise awareness. This event was sponsored by the Alzheimer's Association.

Senator Sanders was able to Visit the Waterbury Senior Center on March 28th. He held a discussion on the reauthorization of the Older American's Act (OAA). Additionally, in response to an invitation to provide public input, DAIL submitted a letter to the US Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions, on March 20, 2024, in support of the OAA reauthorization. Some of Vermont's top recommendations included:

- Fully fund the OAA so all programs and services can be utilized to the maximum extent practicable.
- Adding foot clinics, oxygen level, heart rate, and respiratory function to Section 102 (14)(B) will allow for health screenings at Senior Centers of other important health factors affecting the older population.
- Increasing the availability of meals designed for individuals with physical disabilities and medical conditions that make it difficult for them to consume meals typically provided is a matter of equity and safety.
- Include "evidence-informed" as a best practice in addition to evidence-based.

Department of Disabilities, Aging and Independent Living and Department of Mental Health issued a joint memo to Designated Agencies and Specialized Services Agencies, extending designation by one year. The purpose of the extension is to accommodate large systemic changes happening such as Conflict of Interest Case Management and DS Payment Reform.

Department of Disabilities, Aging and Independent Living testified on April 9th before the House of Human Services on S.192. Testimony included information about Act 248 (1987) civil commitment to the Commissioner of the Department of Disabilities Aging and Independent Living (DAIL) for individuals with intellectual disabilities, individuals with justice involvement/public safety risk who engage in Developmental Disabilities Home and Community Based Services, and data related to this population.

Assisted living and residential care rules for Residential Care Homes are with the joint Legislative Committee of Administrative Rules. This is on track to be finalized by summer. There is a grace period to allow facilities time to come into compliance.

COI Case Management: 10:30 – 11:00 Dylan Frazer Deputy Director of Medicaid Policy & Department of Disabilities Aging and Independent Living Conflict of Interest Case Management Team presented updates. Presentation slides available.

AHEAD Application Update: 11:00 – 11:15 Wendy Trafton Deputy Director of Payment Reform AHEAD Presentation available.

Act 186 Housing Projects: 11:15 – 11:45 Julie Abrahamson, Developmental Disabilities Residential Program Developer. Presentation slides available.

Board Members News Updates: Members 11:45-11:55

Rick Neu shared that the first successful Memory Café was held and will meet every second Tuesday at 11am in Burlington.

Public Input: Guests 11:55-12:00 - none

Motion to Adjourn 11:35 am

First: Rick Neu

Second: Joe Second