

## **DAIL Advisory Board Meeting Minutes: October 10, 2024 [draft]**

**Board Member Attendees:** Chair Jane Catton, Lynne Cardozo, Steve Pouliot, Joseph Greenwald, Rick Neu, Marie Zura, William Kowalewski, Eliza Eager, Gary Chester, Shelly Stevens.

**DAIL Staff Attendees:** Commissioner Jill Bowen, Deputy Commissioner Megan Tierney-Ward, Jeffrey Nunemaker, Jennifer Garabedian, Angela McMann, Conor O’Dea, Bard Hill, Rebecca Silbernagel, Jessica Bernard, Ginny Clark-Ziske

**Guests:** Erika Wolfing, Marie Lallier, Katherine Martin, Susan Garcia-Nofi, Kaili Kuiper

**Quorum met:** Yes

### **1. Approval of September's Minutes:**

- A motion to approve the minutes for September was **approved**.
- **First:** Marie
- **Second:** Steve
- **Discussion:** It was suggested that the minutes should reflect increased involvement in the Department of Health's weekly COVID survey support. The link to this will be included in the updated minutes.

### **2. DAIL Commissioner Updates (Jill Bowen PhD, Commissioner):**

- **Listening Tour Update:** Provided to the Board an update on the listening tour and locations and agencies visited. The Bennington Mission Care facility has opened. A summary of visit provided.
- **October Events & Awareness Days:**
  - **Ageism Awareness Day** was observed on October 9, 2024.
  - **White Cane Awareness Day** – Burlington will host an event on Saturday October 12, 2024.
  - Acknowledged **Global Diversity Awareness Month, Guardianship Awareness, and Breast Cancer Awareness**, among others.
- **Riverflow Community:** A new pilot project is underway, with a visit planned in the coming weeks.
- **Systems of Care Review:** The Commissioner is working to elevate a systems-of-care review and will present updates in future meetings.
- **Budget Update:** The budget process is ongoing, and there is a reduction in federal pandemic funds. The Governor's budget will be announced in January. It was mentioned that the legislative process PowerPoint could be resent.
- **Falls Prevention Awareness:**
  - In September, DAIL and VDH hosted a Falls-Free VT Gathering, emphasizing the need for further education and awareness on fall prevention.
  - The **CAPABLE Pilot Program**, a multi-disciplinary initiative in NW Vermont, launched in early 2024. So far, 18 clients have completed the program. It was suggested as a future agenda item to hear the outcomes of this project.
  - **National Costs of Falls:** The annual cost of falls in Vermont was noted as being \$110–120 million in services.
  - **Inquiry:** A question was raised as to whether long-term care facility management participated in the Falls-Free Gathering. Jane C. will follow up.
- **iCare Process:** An updated presentation on the iCare process will be provided in the future. There is interest in inviting iCare representatives if deemed helpful.

- **Shelly S.** expressed interest in participating in **National Falls Prevention Month** (December) and offered to host any long-term care (LTC) related events.
- 3. Member Legislative Priorities:**
- **Jane C. (AAA):** The legislative priorities being reviewed include food insecurity and nutrition support. AAA delivers 1.4 million meals to older Vermonters in need. The cost per meal ranges from \$10 to \$12, with demand increasing 12-16% annually. Efforts are underway to address the gap with Global Commitment funding.
    - Discussion covered case management services, Choices for Care (CFC) program rate increases, and coordination with housing groups and authorities.
    - **Privacy & Data Bill:** AAA seeks exclusion from a privacy and data bill initiated last year.
  - **Marie L. (VT Care Partners):** Their legislative agenda focuses on conflict of interest (COI), payment reform, and enhanced community-based residential settings, particularly concerning housing.
  - **Commissioner Bowen** Raised the issue of anti-isolation efforts, noting that for some, meal delivery is their only form of social contact. Suggested incorporating cost savings into reports, such as comparing the cost of delivering a meal per day for one year to the cost of a 1-day hospital or 10-day nursing home stay.
  - **Housing Discussion:** Members shared concerns about increasing levels of acuity in clients, particularly within the unhoused population. The lack of accessible and affordable housing options was highlighted as an ongoing issue.
- 4. LTC Ombudsman Annual Conflict of Interest Review (Kaili Kuiper):**
- A committee of five individuals will review COI cases to determine if they are free of conflicts. A report will be shared with the DAB for review. Kaili invited members to volunteer for the sub-committee by emailing her. (Shellie, Rick, William, Joe, Eliza volunteered for the committee)
- 5. Conflict of Interest Case Management – Status Updates (Conor O'Dea):**
- Conor presented updates via a PowerPoint presentation.
  - **Bidders Conference:** Six interested parties, both in-state and out-of-state, attended.
  - **Questions Raised:**
    - Susan asked whether one of the interview panels would include advocates.
    - Joe inquired about budget concerns regarding the period between July 1 and October 1.
  - **CME Selection:** The selection process for case management entities (CME) is expected to be completed by May 2025. The CME will serve designated areas and must provide case management services within 60 minutes or 60 miles of the clients they serve.
  - **Concerns from Local DAs:** Local designated agencies (DAs) expressed concerns about the lack of information regarding how case management roles will be defined and rolled out.
  - **Marie Z.:** Raised concerns about how out-of-state entities will manage face-to-face services if selected.
  - **Marie L:** Noted that the high-level service tables do not provide sufficient detail on what responsibilities providers will have. A letter of concern is being drafted for the Commissioner's review.

#### Next Steps:

- Covid-19 Data <https://www.healthvermont.gov/disease-control/covid-19/covid-19-data>
- Future agenda items will include updates on the CAPABLE program outcomes, systems of care, and legislative priorities regarding housing and long-term care services.

Meeting adjourned @ 11:44am.

