

DAIL Advisory Board Meeting Minutes

November 9, 2023

Microsoft Teams Phone / Video Conference

Attendees:

Board Members: Jeanne Hutchins, Nicholas McCardle, Jane Catton, Delaina Norton, Kim Fitzgerald, Joe Greenwald, Steve Pouliot, Frederick Neu

State Employees: Monica White, Megan Tierney-Ward, Joe Nusbaum, John Gordon, Ginny Clark-Ziske, Angela Smith-Dieng

Guests: Erika Wolffing, Angela McMann, Stephanie Parker, Susan Garcia Nofi, Susan Aranoff, Jessica Bernard, Virginia Renfrew, Kirsten Murphy, Kaili Kuiper

Quorum met.

Motion to Approve October 2023 minutes: Motion to approve minutes:

First: Kim Fitzgerald

Second: Jane Catton

DAIL Advisory Board Chair Nominations and Membership: Megan Tierney-Ward presented the Chair Nominations. Input from the Board and Commissioner needs to be submitted to the Governor's office for consideration. The Governor's office makes the final decision. The chair nominees are Jane Catton and Kim Fitzgerald. They have both submitted letters of interest. A suggestion was placed before the Board to consider Co-Chairs. Board members held a straw poll on the suggestion of Co-Chairs.

First: Rick Neu

Second: Steve Pouliot

Both candidates offered a few words of interest. Ultimately names and recommendations will be sent to the Governor's office which will make a final decision.

The Commissioner's office is currently working to update the current membership list. Once cleaned up, correct, solid, we will be recruiting new members. The Commissioner's office will send an email regarding which demographic needs representation, who we need on the board to keep balance.

DAIL Commissioner Updates: Monica White- Announcement of the pending press release iCare will be coming to Vermont to operate a specialized nursing facility. They are in the mid stages of the purchase of the Bennington Health and Rehab facility in Bennington VT. iCare anticipates admittance to begin by the end of 2023.

Laura Siegel, Director of Deaf, Hard of Hearing, and DeafBlind Service attended The National Association of Social Workers Integration of best practice of using sign language in facilitating comprehensive understanding and enhanced communication access. Laura is an outstanding resource, and we are proud to have her as part of our team.

DAIL is working on collaborative workforce and retention campaign. This includes a substantial reframing of work as a viable career path. Growing from support work to a professional development career pathway. We aim to increase public awareness and decrease vacancies in the workforce. Funded by ARPA funds – hope to see positive changes in direct workforce.

CDCI recently published a supported employment data brief, Developmental Disabilities Services Division participated in this work, it highlights history and trends of employment by individuals with developmental disabilities.

The Adult Services Division will be hosting the Age Strong Vermont Summit- held at the Waterbury State Office Complex on Wednesday November 15th from 9-11am. All are welcome to attend.

The Division of Licensing and Protection Director Joe Nusbaum will present changes in the Adult Protective Services Statute - Title 33 Chapter 69 later in the meeting. The Survey and Certification draft rule for state licensed facilities is now loaded on Secretary of State Office webpage – there will be public hearings in January 2024.

HireAbility - Senior leaders attended the National Governors Association Summit in late October. They were joined by CCV, Department of Labor, Workforce Development Board. Some tangible takeaways include working to create better coordination and collaboration, eliminating barriers for training.

The VCAP Demonstration Program continues working to get that fully rolled out. The Employer Advisory Group is to provide input on industry access and promote employment opportunities.

Through VCAP HireAbility is looking to enroll participants moving towards career goals. Through the end of the grant, we will have developed Learn and Earn opportunities and partnerships.

The Division for the Blind and Visually Impaired facilitated white cane awareness events throughout Vermont. They had a wonderful turn out in partnership with VABVI.

DBVI is working hard to launch the Pathways to Partnership grant which is \$10M over 5-year period, going through administrative processes now.

We would like the Division for the Blind and Visually Impaired team present an overview in future to the Board.

Deputy Commissioner: Megan Tierney-Ward presented the iCare press release purchasing announcing iCare Purchasing the Bennington Health and Rehab from Genesis. Currently Bennington Health and Rehab has a low census leaving 40 beds for immediate use. iCare is in midst and needs to finish the formal ownership process. They will provide Nursing Home level of care, and not complex ventilator care as they do at The Pines.

If you know of anyone who is concerned about the project, please direct to Deputy Commissioner Megan Tierney-Ward or directly to iCare who can describe their services and answer questions. As a licensed Nursing Facility, they will accept Medicare, Medicaid, and Private pay. Folks will need to meet nursing home needs for level of care, follow the Vermont admissions process. There is a referral form that can be used to make referrals, though many referrals will come from hospitals or corrections as they are hard to place.

Referrals will have to demonstrate there is no better placement for that person (on referral form) iCare and The State Eligibility Team will partner to determine eligibility. Representatives from the following agencies will make up the State Eligibility Team. The Department of Disabilities, Aging, and Independent Living, Department of Corrections, Department of Mental Health, and ICARE.

It is undetermined if short term stays will be part of the services provided by iCare, though we know they will provide Nursing Home level of services, and not complex ventilator care.

In 2022 Legislature passed Act 167 which called for healthcare reform. The Green Mountain Care Board contracted with a firm, Oliver Wyman to do a listening tour. They want to hear from everyone. They will be at next month's meeting and will answer questions about the health care delivery system.

The listening tour on September 29th was specifically for Vermonters with disabilities and family members, one question asked was, how is it for you and your family to access health care? Kirsten Murphy updated the board that disabilities has been designated to be a health disparity group. Kirsten also shared that Vermont is increasingly working on health equity, and hopes people make it to November 21st listening session.

Job Openings in DAIL: Dementia Services Coordinator- Applications due by November 26th. And the Administrative Services Manager I, Adult Services Division– Applications due by November 27th.

Guest Presentations:

Angela Smith-Dieng, Director of the Adult Services Division: Presented Age Strong Vermont Roadmap to the Board with a slide show. Vermont's Multisector Plan on Aging Draft for Public Comment.

Jessica Bernard, DS Payment Reform Director: - DS Validation Study Analysis- SIS A. Shared validation study for 6 level frameworks. The results in the presentation included details of the project, answered review questions, and provided the goal which is to meet the need for majority of people. This is led by the Human Services Institute. Non-State employees led the study although State of Vermont employees participated.

Joe Nusbaum, Division of Licensing and Protection Director, and John Gordon, Adult Protective Services Director – Presented Vermont's new Adult Protective Services statute. A brief history and the positive changes made were included in a slide show presentation.

Board Adjourned at 12:23pm