

DAIL Advisory Board Meeting Minutes
August 10, 2023
Microsoft Teams Phone/Video Conference

ATTENDEES

Board Members: Ruby Baker, Lynne Cardozo, Jane Catton, Kim Fitzgerald, Joe Greenwald, Tom Hamilton, Jeanne Hutchins, Nick McCardle, Steven Pouliot.

State Employees: Megan Tierney-Ward, Ashley Bonneau, Rebecca Silbernagel, Brian Guy, Fred Jones, Angela Smith-Diegn, Jason Pelopida

Guests: Frederick Neu/Center on Aging, Kaili Kuiper/VT LTC Ombudsman VT Legal Aid, Susan Aranoff/BT DD Council, Marie Lallier/VCP, Susan Garcia Nofi/VT Legal Aid, Tom Hamilton/VTSILC.

Motion to Approve June 6, 2023, Minutes:

Motion to approve minutes:

First: Jane Catton

Second: Nick McCraddle

Minutes were approved as written.

Flood Event – Personal Refection’s:

DAB Members

Age well was able to avoid a lot of the flooding areas. Many of the other agencies were affected by the flood. There were a lot of roads washed out so alternatives were used to get food to individuals who were isolated. Services were able to be served, no services were held up.

Home Health Services - Irene had helped learn lessons which helped with the emergency planning for this flood.

In Cambridge there is a non-profit that owns the building that multiple practices are housed in. The community and providers came and helped the family practice to help with the recovery and clean up. They were only closed for days, and they are seeing patients. It may be a month for the practice to be able to start rebuilding.

One item that was brought to light was the importance of training on basic life support. GMSA had been holding town hall meetings about water notices. There were notices to boil water, but it was discovered that there was language access issues. A plain language document was created for water boil notices.

DAIL Flood Response

Brian Guy Operations Director, Fred Jones, Director, Division for the Blind and Visually Impaired

Brian Guy described the State emergency response to the flood and DAIL's role in that response. The State immediately set up a State Emergency Operations Center (SEOC) 7/9/23 which was the incident command center for the State of Vermont flood response. All requests for emergency assistance went through the SEOC including swift water rescue and fire resources. AHS departments helped staff the SEOC day and night, including Brian Guy. The SEOC was originally in Waterbury but then moved to Berlin and staff are on 12-hour shifts.

Fred Jones explained that FEMA held daily meetings to discuss unmet needs for people with disabilities. They also provided updates to the State on individuals who had been registered for FEMA assistance and how much money has been dispersed to date.

DAIL SFY24 Legislation

Rebecca Silbernagel, Principal Assistant, Megan Tierney-Ward, Deputy Commissioner

Please refer to the detailed presentation that is uploaded on the website.

DAB Subcommittee Recommendations to Dept. of Financial Regulations

Jane Catton, CEO Age Well

Jane described the process used by the subcommittee that met and reviewed the 1rate increase proposed by the Vermont Health Plan. The subcommittee written recommendation described how many people would be affected, and why the increase is excessive. The recommendation is that the rate increase is excessive. All members voted to approve the letter. The letter was sent on behalf of the board to the Department of Financial Regulation.

Member Announcements & Legislative Updates

DAB Members

The Vermont Conflict of Interest team is having a release of their first report that will be open to a comment period. Nick McCardle is a part of the group if there are any members who have any additional questions.

The accessibility projects across Chittenden County is holding an event on 8/26/23 for Zoey's Race, it is a 1,5,10k race (walk/run) for home improvements for accessibility.

Motion to End Meeting

Motion: Kim Fitzgerald moved to end meeting.

Second: Jane Catton second the motion

Meeting was adjourned at 12:00