

## **DAIL Advisory Board Meeting Minutes**

**October 12, 2023**

### **Microsoft Teams Phone / Video Conference**

#### **Attendees:**

**Board Members:** Lynne Cardozo, Jane Catton, Eliza Eager, Kim Fitzgerald, Joseph Greenwald, Tom Hamilton, Jeanne Hutchins, Steven Pouliot.

**State Employees:** Monica White, Megan Tierney-Ward, Ginny Clark-Ziske, Rebecca Silbernagel, Angela McMann, Sarah Lipton, Angela Smith-Dieng.

**Guests:** Justin Davis, Miranda Gray, Rachel Lee Cummings, Susan Aranoff, Stephanie Parker, Helen Labun, Kirsten Murphy, Kaili Kuper, Frederick Neu.

**Motion to Approve September 2023, Minutes:** Motion to approve minutes:

**First:** Jane Catton

**Second:** Steven Pouliot

**Minutes were:** Approved

**DAIL Commissioner Updates:** Monica White -The Adult Services Division - Age Strong Vermont will be issuing a draft plan for public comment on November 1st. The effective date for the Age Strong Vermont program will be January 2024.

Governor Scott declared October 7th, 2023 as Ageism Awareness Day in Vermont.

AARP - Long-Term Services and Supports Score Card was released, Vermont ranked #9 in the country and is a national leader of affordability and access, <https://ltsschoices.aarp.org/scorecard-report/2023>.

DBVI- has White Cane Awareness events running around the state promoting education.

DBVI - awarded a \$10M grant - Pathways to Partnership.

HireAbility- Governor Scott recognizes employers with the Spirit of the ADA Awards, promoting employment for people with disabilities.

DDSD - The last week in September the Division and provider staff conducted a SIS-A validation study, results should be available in 1 month. For more details, people can refer to the presentation by Jessica Bernard at the September 14, 2023, board meeting.

DLP – Draft federal regulations have been proposed for Adult Protective Services. Public comment due next month.

The Residential Care Home regulations were reviewed by the Interagency Committee on Administrative Rules and will next be taken up by the Legislative Committee on Administrative Rules (LCAR) with public comment. The anticipated effective date is October 1, 2024.

Home Community Based Services- input received, AHS, DAIL, Department of Mental Health.

The Alzheimer's event on Sept 17<sup>th</sup> went well.

**Deputy Commissioner:** Megan Tierney-Ward presented - CMS proposed new nursing facility rules proposing to increase minimum nursing requirements to Registered Nurse- .555 hours, Nurses Aid 2.5 hours and RN on site 24/7. Vermont Health Care Association is also providing input. Public input is due November 6, 2023. <https://www.cms.gov/newsroom/fact-sheets/medicare-and-medicaid-programs-minimum-staffing-standards-long-term-care-facilities-and-medicaid>

Vermont Health Care Association (VHCA) The VHCA submitted a report to DAIL assessing the capacity of residential care and assisted living in Vermont along with recommendations. Will share the report with the board and include time on next agenda to discuss further.

**Money Follows the Person (MFP) Project:** Sarah Lipton presented updates on the MFP projects. Refer to the Power Point presentation for details. Projects include a partnership with Age Well Vermont- powerful tools for caregivers. Watch for expansion of mental health support in a couple weeks.

**Board Member Updates: & Meeting Topics:** Kirsten Murphy presented - Essential for Living – A Best Practice Workshop – October 27<sup>th</sup> in Burlington. <https://vtaba22.wildapricot.org/>

Susan Aranoff updated the board that Kirsten Murphy was elected as President for Council of Developmental Disability / National Board.

Jeanne Hutchins updated board: Mount Mansfield Villages won a grant to set up vaccine clinics either a mobile van or contract with a local pharmacy. This includes a \$25.00 gift card to participants as an incentive to get vaccinated. Contact Jeanne if you know of areas that need services. Helen Labun will check with members of the VT Health Care Association to see if there is a need.

Megan updated board – Laura Siegel is prioritizing Health Equity for Deaf, Hard of Hearing and DeafBlind Vermonters. Would like to invite Laura to come back to the board with an update.

Heads Up: November is National Caregiver Awareness Month.

**Emergency Housing Updates:** Justin Davis and Miranda Gray presented – Vermont has 862 participants eligible for shelter. They have not been as successful in negotiating down hotel housing cost as they had hoped. 35 of the households in the program came from flooding in early July. They have been successful in finding permanent housing for 126 households. Economic Services Division (ESD) wait times reached 2-3 hours. New contracted services from Ohio have reduced the wait time to 2 minutes or less.

**Vermont LTC Ombudsman Annual Conflict of Interest Review:** Kaili Kuiper presented -Annual review Conflict of Interest Policies. The board subcommittee reviewed the policy and made some small recommendations that were adopted.

Motion to approve.

First- Jane Catton

Second- Eliza Eager.

Approved

**Department of Corrections Health Services Contract Overview:** Max Titus presented – The Department of Corrections has contracted with Well Path to provide health services in the corrections setting. Well Path provides all care up to the hospital level of care for incarcerated patients. Well Path is paid from a general fund, not Medicaid or Medicare. Incarcerated patients are screened upon arrival at

each facility and provided with any medications necessary. People with complex health or personal care needs are typically transferred to one of their specialized units where Well Path provides enhanced care.

Jeanne Hutchins announced her upcoming retirement at the end of the calendar year!

Meagan Tierny-Ward shared: Procedure says the Board will provide recommendations and the Governor will appoint the position. Megan and Ginny are to confirm the process and provide a link to the Statute and Advisory Procedural Manual to the board prior to the next meeting.

Meeting was adjourned at 12:30