

State of Vermont
Autism Task Force Meeting
MEETING MINUTES
5-8-09

Committee Meetings 9:30-10:30 am
Task Force Meeting 10:30 am –12:30 pm

National Bank’s Community Room
308 N. Main Street
Barre, VT

Mission

The mission of the Vermont Autism Task Force is to coordinate the efforts of interested parties who serve individuals with autism spectrum disorders and their families, and to promote the implementation of best practices throughout the state of Vermont.

Norms:

- We work hard to start the meeting on time, people come as soon as they can & they will inform the group if they need to leave early at the beginning of the meeting
- We allow people to finish speaking
- We are respectful of one another in discussions of children, adolescents & adults with ASD, their families, & the professionals, programs & agencies that work with them
- We actively solicit diverse ways of looking at things
- We use person first language (e.g., child with autism versus, autistic child)
- We recognize when more information is needed before a discussion can proceed
- We clarify actions that need to be taken, by whom and when
- We collaboratively determine agenda items for a meeting and important topics that should be discussed as a group
- We revisit our norms periodically and make changes as needed

MEMBERS SENDING THEIR REGRETS: Jessica Levi, Tim Fox, Lisa Irwin-Davidson, Ron Marcellus, Angela Timpone, Marie Christine-Potvin, Amy Ducker Cohen

PRESENT: Stan Baker, Pascal Cheng, Clare McFadden, Claudia Pringles, Nicole LeBlanc, Holly Betit, Dean Mooney, Joy Wilcox, Terry Holden, Patty Prelock, Jim Caffry

Establish Roles

Facilitator: Stan Baker

Recorder: Stan Baker
Time Keeper: Pascal Cheng
Rudder Keeper: Holly Betit
Equalizer: “ “
Processor: Claire Bruno
Wellness: Claudia Pringles/Nicole LeBlanc

Introductions:

Updates from members:

- ❖ Nicole – Policy summit in DC – trying to get community choice act signed – long term care will not be included in health care reform act. Need to keep the pressure on the politicians in DC –
- ❖ Holly – Clare and Claire did training in Bennington – great feedback.
- ❖ Terry – Developing Community Fellowship – very organic contacts in the community – build the circle of belonging
- ❖ Pascal - Reported on “road trip” documentary project that includes filming in Sri Lanka, Japan, and Finland
- ❖ Clare McFadden – Working with Brian Dague at CDI at UVM on grant proposal using stimulus dollars to do research on ASD – to evaluation pilot program taking place in VT now – providing additional supported employment counseling resources through VR – has someone in Chittenden Co. working with 8 to 12 people ages 17 – 25 (funded through DD Council) – The other pilot is 8 week curriculum on social thinking that would apply to work setting (pilot going in Hartford area related to this) – the research is to evaluate the effectiveness of this model compared to regular VR services.

Update on Summer Autism Institute: June 22 – 26, 2009

- Flyer is out
- Speakers excited to be there
- Not sure how financial climate will affect people’s attendance
 - Scholarship money is available for families for conference fees
 - Leslie Ann Ring fund is available for paraprofessionals and others
- Thursday & Friday will provide Level I certification on pivotal response training
- There will not be a specified Resource Fair but there will be displays in the hallway throughout the Conference with representatives available – hopefully this will reach more people
- “Autism 101” will be presented & include a parent panel

Membership Report – review and vote on acceptance:

- ❖ 5 openings: 1 individual with ASD, 2 parents, 2 professionals
- ❖ 21 active members: 8 from Washington County, 8 from Chittenden, 1 from Rutland, 1 from Orleans, 2 from Bennington, 1 from Lamoille
- ❖ New member elections will happen only once a year in the spring from this point on

- Individual on the Spectrum: Todd Washburn
- Parents: Karin Hayes, Michael Ryan, Ann Barbano
- Professional: Mary Asper

Committee Updates:

Insurance Working Group: (Jim)

- Not much has transpired since the last very complete report
- **ACTION: Ron to contact Lisa E-D to make sure she sends the survey link to ATF to respond**

Competencies Committee: (Clare)

- Have downloaded documents off internet that relate to competencies for case managers in the areas of education, MH, and DD.
- We are looking at all these competencies from the point of view of Autism-specific skills and competencies
- Have made our way through a few of the documents already
- Additional responses will be sent to Clare
- **The committee will meet one more time this summer**
- After draft is completed, will send to constituencies for comments.

Workload Committee:

- Needed to get more time studies – not possible to get from DOE – auditors say this can't happen – Claire will continue to pursue to see if we can get it without identifying information
- Patty shared workload documents
 - Came up with tasks that CMs need to engage in
 - Looked at each of these from the point of view how much time is spent in each content area
- People have moved away from “caseload” to “workload” because number of students does not really relate to time worked
- Patty has done search on cost-benefit ratio
 - **ACTION: Patty will send these documents as PDFs**

Website & Toolkit Committee:

- No update at this meeting

Communicating who we are & what we do:

- Claudia and Holly opened this discussion. We have been asked to respond to several thoughtful and passionate opinions and needs from people in the Autism community about what we should be. A repeated question that has come up is, “What is the Autism Taskforce doing and just who is the Taskforce?” Below are our thoughts about this question. We feel that they can guide our responses.

- *We are a think tank – “a thinking group of people who are living Autism;” We share information and work on what is do-able in Vermont*
 - *Each of us represents a different entity*
 - *We provide advice and support to each other and to projects that are ongoing*
 - *We try not to duplicate work that is already being done elsewhere in the many and growing Autism-focused groups around Vermont.*
- *We endeavor to be a clearing house for information and a group that encourages work being done in the field of Autism. We come together to share information, to update ourselves and others, and to collaborate and support the current climate of research, treatment, and outreach for ASD*
- *We gather in a safe environment to support each other in our work and our lives related to ASD*
- Additional Questions and recommendations:
 - **Does our name create a challenge in terms of public perception**
 - **Our mission statement is clear about what we do and don't do**
- **ACTIONS:**
 - **Jessica and Claudia will be at parent pow-wow and can give some information to parents attending**
 - **We could do an “open house” meeting for Autism awareness month next year**
 - **Conversation to continue at Retreat re: name, perception, response to wider community**

Update on Vermont Autism Plan Advisory Committee:

- The committee has met once
- Second meeting set for 5/18
- Clare and Claire are not in charge of the committee and are looking to the members to let them know what the work is that needs to be done – advising them in the road they are taking
- MOU has been signed after many iterations with the Sec. of AHS and Commissioner of Education
- Information will be available on line on the Advisory Committee Website
- 50% of committee are individuals on the spectrum or parents and 50% are professionals
- Interested parties are there to listen and respond
- Patty asked about timeline for acting on the priorities, definition of what is currently being worked on, update on current work

- ACTION: **Clare will send the link to be included in our minutes**

RBI: = Research Behavior Intervention:

Claudia has been working on this for the past year. H400 has been introduced. Bill was place holder to put something in. Stakeholder meeting in March – outcome was excellent – good news is that everyone wants to move forward with some legislation – Karen Edwards is supportive. Three areas:

- Positive behavior intervention
- Records and data
- Restraints and seclusion

Agenda Setting for Retreat – probably on September 18

- Who we are
- Ongoing committee work
- Charting new work for coming year

Processing:

Lots of things in a couple of hours, 8 great applications for membership, adding 5 new members, others will be kept in line. Committee reports, good conversation about how to get work out, brief information on RBI and future legislation, update on APAC, date for retreat and agenda

Wellness:

Snow has melted, Notch Road open, Voice and Choices Conference, Most beautiful spring in a long time