

State of Vermont
Autism Task Force Meeting
MEETING MINUTES
October 10th 2008, 11:00 am –1:15 pm
Chittenden Bank Meeting Room
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 WHO HAVE SENT THEIR REGRETS: Lisa Lowler, Susan Engles, Doug Smith, Stan Baker, Clare McFadden, Claire Bruno, Angela Timpone, Tim Fox, Claudia Pringles, Jim Caffry, Ron Marcellus & Amy Cohen

MEMBERS WHO WERE PRESENT: Lisa Erwin-Davidson, Marie-Christine Potvin, Jessica Levi, Pascal Cheng, Patty Prelock, Steve Contompasis, Hillary Melton, Joy Wilcox, Terry Holden, and Holly Betit.

ROLES:	Facilitator:	Patty Prelock
	Recorder:	Marie-Christine Potvin
	Timekeeper:	Hillary Melton
	Rudder Keeper:	Jessica Levi
	Processor:	Lisa Erwin-Davidson
	Wellness:	Holly Betit
	Equalizer:	Steve Contompasis

Members Updates:

- ⇒ Bennington has developed an Autism Task Force locally
- ⇒ The Autism Walk is Saturday October 11, 2008 in Burlington – registration at noon; walk starts at 1pm
- ⇒ HEC is starting a series of trainings on November 11th, 2008 (on VIT) – 50\$ for parents and 75\$ for professionals per workshop.
- ⇒ Camp Kaleidoscope will have another camp next summer

- ⇒ VT ILEHP was granted additional funds (LEND network) to expand leadership and training opportunities for professionals working with children with ASD and their families. Focus is on diagnosis and early intervention for children, birth-six.
- ⇒ The Learn'ed Horse Project is underway. Contact Terry Holden at (802) 644-2759 or horseinvt@vmlink.net for additional information.
- ⇒ Study about recreation in children with HFA and AD compared to neurotypical children is continuing. More children are being recruited. Contact Marie-Christine Potvin (802) 318-0603 or marie.potvi@uvm.edu for more information
- ⇒ Claire and Clare Updates (given by Patty):
 - AHS has sent the funds for the ATF website and will continue to provide yearly grant for website maintenance as funding is available.
 - Toolkit: the intervention section of the toolkit may not need to be updated at this time as the National Standards Project document that reviews and rates the available evidence for ASD interventions is thorough and will be available soon
 - TEACCH training around employment occurred last week. Parents were welcome to attend for free.
 - A memo was sent from Cindy Laware, Secretary of Agency of Human Services and Bill Talbott, acting DOE commissioner to the Education and Human Services legislative committees outlining the priorities for the state autism plan. Clare will send a copy of this with additional details about next steps over the listserv in a few days

Website:

- Hillary provided an update on website statistics (number of hits, etc.) and tasks to be done.
- What should we do with the event page? Brainstorming...
 - Put a link to all the other calendar of events (from other organizations) on our website event page.
 - A person could check all the Vermont organization websites weekly for important events that could be posted to the ATF website event page.
 - **ACTION:** ATF decided to have our web manager, Chris peruse the targeted websites for events to post on our site
- Add a webpage for Vermont ASD Resources
 - Link to all Vermont websites that can be resources for families and providers
 - Link to ASA
- Add a webpage for parent support group – Next Step document has an updated list
- Add ATF meeting minutes on the ATF website for 2007-2008 and 2008-2009 as secured PDF
 - **ACTION:** Patty will send minutes as secured PDFs to Hilary to post
- Add an agenda item for ATF meetings about Events that need to go on the website.
 - **ACTION:** Stan & Patty will remember to add agenda item for events to post on the website
- Marie-Christine and Amy will work on the toolkit (all sections except the intervention section)

Committee Updates:

Three Committees for 2008-2009

1. Competencies for ASD case managers (broader than educational case manager)
 - a. MEMBERS: Clare, Steve, Terry, Stan and Pascal
2. Workload for ASD case managers
 - a. MEMBERS: Patty, Joy, Claire, Holly, and Jessica (and Linda by email)
3. Insurance coverage for ASD intervention
 - a. MEMBERS: Lisa E., Claudia, Jim, Angela

Standing committees: Membership committee, Website committee and Toolkit committee

Insurance Committee Update:

- Jim has sent 2 documents summarizing what has been done in other states.
- Vermont does not expressly mandate insurance to cover services for individuals with ASD
- Began to define the goal of this committee => will make suggestions and recommendations for parents to bring to legislature.

Competencies Committee Update:

- HEC has developed competencies for educational case managers
- Committee began to review minutes from last meeting, HEC competencies and other documents; once drafted, competencies will be shared with case managers for their feedback.

Workload Committee Update:

- Defined purpose
- Brainstormed guidelines for workload
- Brainstormed all tasks educational case managers are involved in to determine task requirements
- Consider criteria that would influence workload (e.g., severity of child's autism & related needs)
- Looking for ways to assess validity by sending committee work to other case managers for review

Processing:

The ATF meeting got a lot done. Good meeting and thank you for new members who have joined us.

Wellness:

Holly shared a story.

Next meeting:

- ⇒ Membership update
- ⇒ Toolkit update
- ⇒ Website update
- ⇒ Committee updates