

Interagency Committee on Autism (ICA)
Quarterly Meeting
06/05/19
1-4pm

Agenda

1. Welcome & Introductions **Please sign in*
2. Family Needs Report
3. Quarterly Strategic Plan Activities
 - a. ICA members will be given an opportunity to share updates on contributions to the strategic plan improvement areas and outcomes. The Blueprint will be used as a guide for discussion.
 - b. DNEA priority plans and updates until June 30, 2019 will be included in under this activity.
4. Process for assessing proposals to the ICA
5. ICA/DNEA Priorities Discussion
 - a. Presentation of priority goals
 - b. FY20 priorities
6. ICA Updates
 - a. Policies/Procedures document
 - b. Additional workgroups
 - i. ABA Reimbursement
 - ii. Adult Services
7. DNEA Updates
 - a. DNEA Director
 - b. Funding
 - c. Website
8. Other
9. Public Comment (3:50pm)

Upcoming ICA Dates

- General Quarterly Meeting: September 4, 2019 @ 1:00 – 4:00 PM
 - Location: TBD

DNEA Trainings/Event Participation

*see calendar of DNEA training/events

I. FAMILY NEEDS REPORT (see attachment)

a. Family Contacts

- i. There has been a record number of families requesting and utilizing services
- ii. 30% increase on average in number of first-time contacts
- iii. Very few families are one touch- average about 3 or 4 contacts
- iv. Increase in referrals of younger children and an increase in general support
- v. Last quarter, education dominated; this quarter represented a greater balance in needs
- vi. New data collection system allows for Autism Delaware to hone in on the types of needs
 1. Connections and Support bucket: caller looking for info/to join other programs such as support group, online groups. etc.
 2. To better understand trends over the year: Annalisa will pull info. from the data and include in the report
- vii. Mental Health Calls: receive contacts generally if a child is somehow involved in the mental health system (i.e., calling in a time of crisis, in or out of care, having issues beyond the typical everyday behavioral concerns)
- viii. Annalisa to share information regarding mental health calls with the ICA workgroup

b. Capacity

- i. Capacity to serve families has increased
- ii. 5 new family support providers hired- starting caseload in May 2019
- iii. New family navigator in Sussex County
- iv. Received grant to support hiring another family navigator

II. QUARTERLY UPDATES

a. Prevention and Behavioral Health (PBH)

- i. PBH received a system of care grant with Meredith Tavani as the PI and a focus on children with IDD and transition age youth
 1. Currently in the process for hiring staff (Project Director, Peer Support Lead, Community Liaison, etc.)
 2. Partnering with Autism Delaware to provide peer support services
 3. Partnering with Easterseals to provide respite services (PBH does not currently offer this service)
 4. Plans for clinical coordination (1 per county, lead position works on expansion of peer support team)
 5. Grant timeline: 4 years with the possible extension to 5
- ii. Working with the DNEA for training needs

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1. Focus on training mobile crisis staff
- iii. General focus within PBH on incorporating system of care principles into the work and philosophy of the department
- iv. Meredith and Kara to get in touch and discuss how this fits into the blueprint

b. Department of Education (DOE)

- i. Update on the Office of Statewide Director (OSD)
 1. Several stakeholders met to discuss position description (desirable preferences & qualifications) & was brought to 3 PRC members
 2. Job description is almost complete
 3. Working on MOU with Christina SD and DOE due to additional funding and services (HB292)
 - a. MOU was last signed 2004

c. Center for Disabilities Studies (CDS)

- i. Building Bridges:
 1. Summary: 3 year, federal grant with a goal to improve access to services to children who or at risk for autism or have autism (birth to 3); collaboration across multiples agencies
 - a. providing training on screening; Nemours post docs at CDW doing diagnostic evaluations; connections with LEA; support being provided by new intensive services by autism care team, family navigation and bilingual services, looking at early intervention
 2. Grant is coming to an end: may have some carryover/no-cost extension and are still deciding what this will look like
- ii. New HRSA grant
 1. Applied for new HRSA grant with AD/CDS as co-leads
 - a. Offer more family navigation and will create communities of practice
 - b. Will start Sept. 1 if awarded
- iii. Project IMPACT
 1. Developers of Project IMPACT model came to train participants in April 2019 & assist in implementation planning meeting
 2. Scheduling additional follow up meetings with participating agencies
 3. CRESP is assisting in the evaluation process
 4. The DNEA (Kellene Copeland) was trained and will provide TA to participating agencies & is working on certification
 5. Brittany Powers established connection with UC Davis Mind Institute which has done a number of work in Project IMPACT
- iv. LEND
 1. Summary: Interdisciplinary training program; give definition; each year have 10-12; family member trainees and professionals;

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working on self-advocate track; Beth and Brian lead; co PI with Laura Dewey at Nemours; ending current cohort and 4th cohort will start

2. Opportunity to connect trainees with agencies (one time or intensive training opportunities or leadership project)
 - a. Possibility of connecting trainees to AD and family navigators
 - b. Always look for families who are willing to host trainees
- v. Spectrum Scholars
 1. Summary: comprehensive undergraduate program for incoming UD students with ASD undergraduate students from UD with ASD; focusing on majors including computer and information science & Electrical and Computer Engineering
 - a. Includes: weekly coaching, supporting career and other life goals, navigating services and supports at UD, training UD faculty and staff, workshops for students in the program & other UD students with ASD)
 - b. Hired program manager (started June 2019)
 - c. 1 spot is available for Fall 2019
 - i. Contact Brian Freedman (brianf@udel.edu)
- d. **Office of the Statewide Director (OSD)**
 - i. House Bill 292: Autism Supports
 1. Susan, Kellene, and Vince are assessing autism services in LEAs through readiness assessments and interviews
 - a. 80% readiness assessments returned; 50% interviewed
 - b. Conducted stakeholder meetings to review training plan
 - i. Sparking additional discussion around developing other trainings including administrator readiness
 1. Finding administrators lack a general awareness of ASD, how to implement professional PD, general buy-in
 - c. Working on developing and MOU and clarifying Districts who may be involved
 - d. Working to determine which LEA (including charters) will be identified for Fall 2019 start
 - e. ICA education workgroup- meeting in July
 - f. Determining funding, getting feedback on position description for training specialists & supporting logistics
- e. **Delaware Network for Excellence in Autism (DNEA)**
 - i. Education (see OSD update above)
 1. Offering summer training series (see DNEA training calendar)

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2. Working on getting PLC time for more intensive TA (instead of webinars)
3. PEERS for school-based professionals implementation training offered Fall 2019
 - a. LEND is bringing in the developer of PEERS (Sept. 2019) to train for certification
- ii. Mental Health & Crisis Supports
 1. Mobile Response and Stabilization Services (MRSS) plan
 - a. Develop comprehensive training and TA plan for crisis staff (under Delaware Guidance Services, contracted by PBH)
 - b. Implement Summer 2019-October 2019
 - c. Funded by PBH
 2. Delaware Guidance Services (DGS)
 - a. Developed comprehensive training and TA plan for DGS staff, based upon request
 - b. Trainings to occur in July and August; with TA to begin in the fall
 - c. Led by Emily Bernabe, Nemours
 3. Autism Law Enforcement Education Coalition (ALEC)
 - a. Partnered with ALEC to train first responders; 3 trainers identified from New Castle County PD and DE State Troopers
 - b. Training date: June 28th, 2019
 - c. Will work to identify other potential first responders to become trainers
 - i. Email Kara (kdowney@udel.edu) for contacts
- iii. Evaluation/Diagnosis
 1. ASD Diagnostic Evaluation Training- June 24, 2019
 - a. Goal is to educate on best practices and gold standard instruments in ASD screening and diagnosis; educate clinicians on the school process for educational classification
 - b. Need assistance from the ICA to disseminate information on the training
- iv. Outside the Box Conference
 1. Registration is up for professionals on the website (outsidetheboxconference.org)

III. DNEA Priorities- Work Plan

- a. Presentation of DNEA goals for current priorities
 - i. Mental Health
 - ii. Education
 - iii. ASD Diagnosis

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- iv. ASD Educational Classification
- b. Goals were developed from ICA Workgroups
- c. Any feedback on goals is due to leads on June 19th

IV. ICA Updates

- a. Received proposal from Peter D. regarding ICA and DNEA activities--- submitted to a few ICA members; need for a system for when items like this are submitted
 - i. What sort of system do we want for evaluating proposal: question of budget (I.e. do we have funding), does it fit with the priorities, who does it make sense to tackle (i.e. DNEA, ICA Agency?, Outside agency?)
 - ii. Discussion: send proposal to all members of the ICA; identify date for interested members to meet with the submitting individual and review the proposal; decision could be made if the ICA or DNEA wants to move forward
 - iii. What criteria do we want people to submit with a proposal: scope of work, general budget
 - 1. Could have preliminary overture- then if there is interest; person can submit more information (scope of work, general budget)
 - a. i.e. executive summary, letter of interest, etc.,
 - 2. Ask the person to identify ways in which the proposal fits into the blueprint
- b. Policies and procedures update from Jerry
 - i. would like opportunity to meet with small group; proposing meeting at the end of July with select ICA members and pull together draft to be sent out at the beginning of august to vote on sept 4.
- c. Additional workgroups
 - i. ABA reimbursements: number of folks are hearing different pathways for billing around ABA services and challenges; could be a relatively short-term workgroup; resonated as part of the building bridges meeting;
 - 1. Important to ensure someone from Medicaid could join the workgroup
 - 2. System is not currently family friendly and is confusing for both providers and families
 - 3. Beth: discuss the idea of creating the language and best practices (gathering knowledge from other states) and bringing it to Medicaid
 - ii. Adult Services
 - 1. Want to make sure that ICA members are working on adult services and want to bring all the partners together to discuss what's happening
 - 2. Discussion on the need to capture this information
 - 3. Discussion on doing a needs assessment

V. DNEA Updates

- a. Director: previous offers to 3 candidates with no success; position is still posted;
- b. Funding: DNEA will not be receiving new funding for next year. For a variety of reasons the DNEA has not spent down funding from the state and resulted in carryover and funding has always been less than the budget. Up until last week the DNEA was of the understanding we would be receiving funding (JFC did not put new money forward- indicated they expect to fund the DNEA next year (\$500,000))
 - i. Opportunity for advocacy and education efforts this month (budget ends June 30)
 - ii. Looking to the ICA around education and advocacy efforts as well as additional funding sources
- c. Discussion on pursuit of full-time director with limited DNEA funds
 - i. Potential option is to consider 50% director with CDS position
 1. Search committee is positively inclined to this option
 2. Need to determine role/responsibilities of a 50% director
 3. Director would remain interim with continued search for full time candidate
 - ii. Reassess resources to find potential funding
 - iii. There is general concern from ICA members over the lack of a full-time director
 1. how a 50% director would appear to legislators
 2. the roles/responsibilities- what would get cut?
 - iv. Brian to create scenarios of what could be the impact of cuts, 50% director, etc. and propose this as an interim plan in moving forward