

**Interagency Committee on Autism  
Meeting 03/28/2018**

**Agenda**

- 1) Welcome & Introductions *\*Please sign in*
- 2) Family Needs Report
- 3) Committee Updates
- 4) DNEA Updates
  - a) Annual Report
  - b) Staffing
  - c) Marketing/Website
  - d) Upcoming Trainings
    - i) Making A Difference
    - ii) Communication Training Series
    - iii) Visual Supports in Early Intervention
    - iv) Autism Assessment and Classroom-based Consultation (DASP Annual Meeting)
    - v) Cognitive Behavior Therapy (TBD)
- 5) Agency Updates
- 6) **DNEA Director Candidate Presentation**  
**2:30 – 3:30 PM**  
**Room 132A**  
Cassie Wells, M.Ed.
- 7) Discussion and Wrap-up

*Next meeting: Wednesday, June 6, 2018 @ 1:00 – 4:00 PM*  
*Troop 3 Community Room*  
*3759 S State St, Camden, DE 19934*

**ICA Priorities**

- ❖ All medical professionals charged with diagnosing “autism” will use empirically-supported evaluation protocols.
- ❖ All LEAs have the skills and ability to provide high quality and equitable services and supports for individuals with ASD.
- ❖ All students with ASD who are eligible for special education will be classified for the provision of appropriate educational services and support including and beyond the academic assessment areas.
- ❖ All individuals with ASD will receive appropriate mental health services and crisis support services when they need them and where they need them.

## ICA Meeting Minutes: 3/28/18

**Attendance:** Brian Freedman (CDS), Brittany Powers (CDS), Kellene Copeland (CDS), Dick Lytton (CDS), Bill Doolittle (Advocate), Vince Winterling (DAP), Annalisa Ekbladh (Autism DE), Thomas Cook (Ability Network DE), HarrietAnn Litwin (DOL/DVR), Emily Bernabe (Nemours), Laura Dewey (Nemours), Vanessa Rodriguez (DEFV), Maria Locuniak (DOE), Maryann Mieczkowski (DOE), Brian Hall (Autism DE), Shebra Hall (DHSS/B23), Dawn Maloney (Parent Advocate), Cindy Brown (DOE/OEL), Dafne Carnright (Autism DE)

### Family Needs Report (Autism DE):

- In the past quarter, have seen a significant impact on family support staff in terms of educational advocacy, particularly around IEPs in non-DAP districts
- See significant challenges in districts that are trying to start their own autism programs or keep kids in district
- More than doubled the number of IEPs attended to support kids in non-DAP districts in past quarter
  - Appo, Red Clay – family challenges & challenges in serving their kids
- Need for resources and training in our schools that are non-DAP programs
- Challenges around evaluations all the way through services – need for coaching, especially for teachers to have reasonable standards for the students
  - Behavioral supports
  - Restraint (repeated restraint and using it incorrectly)
  - Overemphasis on behavior and not enough focus on functional skill building
    - Very low expectations of students (especially in Appo and Milford)
- Concerns and challenges with the push back from districts on taking outside ASD evaluations
  - Seeing these trends downstate and gathering data now on issues in districts and kids who are being rejected
  - DOE/OEL (Dept. of Edu./Office of Early Learning) is promoting within the transition process from Part C to Part B for districts to do their own evaluations – can accept Part C evaluation if it's helpful, but districts should be doing their own evals
    - Concerns around capacity to complete those evals
- Higher functioning older kids still being rejected for the evaluations and services
- Older kids with dual-diagnosis (mental health and autism) are being bounced around different systems and families getting caught between the systems
- Autism DE did case coordination for a child in Red Clay – got all agencies and school involved
  - Mapped out services, created a matrix with responsibilities, accountability of service provision
  - Autism DE will be exploring this more and supporting more families in this area
    - Finding there are care coordinators within each agency but they are not coordinating across agencies
- Kids getting rejected for services from PBH (Prevention & Behavioral Health) because they have autism and are bouncing family to DDDS (Div. of Developmental Disabilities Services) – this is against Medicaid policy

- Brian F. has been in touch with a PBH representative to serve on the ICA's Mental Health Subcommittee
- What services are offered by PBH?
  - Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA); family therapy; no specific evidence-based practice (EBP) autism intervention, but can get other interventions

**Autism DE Smart Cookie Day: 4/19/2018 at 12:30 PM, Legislative Hall**

Advocating for three main bills & proclamation of Autism Awareness month

- House Bill 292 – increase resources and supports to DAP to serve schools and districts statewide
- House Bill 104 – rate increase for direct support professionals
- House Bill 12 – K-3 basic special education funding

**Committee Updates:**

***Mental Health subcommittee***

- Div. of Substance Abuse & Mental Health (DSAMH) & PBH have been contacted but were not able to participate in the meetings so far
- Talked about the needs that we're seeing (Dafne, Autism DE, also present to share about needs seen in community/from families)
- Training outpatient and inpatient clinicians around mental health
- Have been in contact with Rockford and Beebe Healthcare about their psychiatric and behavioral health units
  - Kellene/Brian will be doing a more in-depth needs assessment
  - Identify where within the DNEA network there are resources to support these sorts of trainings and coaching
- Brian joining the Sussex County Health Coalition's Behavioral Health Committee
  - Connecting with providers
- Annalisa shared that the director of the Terry Center expressed interest in training
- Identified a need for providing training to outpatient mental health clinicians – there are different EBP's available – first looking at cognitive behavior therapy (CBT) for anxiety, depression, anger management
  - Identified a potential speaker – Dr. Judy Reaven, UColorado – “Facing Your Fears” intervention using CBT for anxiety
  - Want to identify an individual training and establish a method for follow-up with those attending providers and use in-state resources for follow-through (experts at Nemours)
    - Fleshing out what that follow through will look like – office hours, office visits and case consultation from Nemours, ongoing support
    - Would be a subcontracted service between DNEA and Nemours
- Reports of outpatient clinicians turning away families of individuals with autism
  - Misunderstandings around how to support them, not educated on supporting them
- Need to dive into working with kids who are nonverbal –big area that families have expressed struggle
- Capacity issues around clinical needs for individuals with ASD
  - Clinicians have a preconception of what people with ASD “look like”

- Clinicians struggling to understand the deeper skill development needed rather than just looking at symptomology
  - Goal will be to expand this to school psychologists, as well

### ***Child Care subcommittee***

- March meeting rescheduled for April
- Previous meeting went really well
  - Focused on fixing the problem, talked about developing a pilot program for rating child care centers
    - Idea of having “Gold Puzzle Piece” certified centers
  - Individuals from DE STARS, Childhood Mental Health, HMG, and others will be joining

### **DNEA Updates:**

#### ***Annual Report***

- Report is completed and will be passed on to legislature
- Who is interested in reviewing the report?
  - Maryann M.
  - Laura Dewey
  - Others – email Brian to review report
- Background on DNEA & ICA, descriptions of trainings and supports offered through DNEA and partner projects connected to DNEA
- Submitted to all 62 legislators and the library and division of research
  - Doesn’t hurt to also share with Attorney General’s office
  - Governor Carney
  - Mike Jackson (placing blame on growing special education numbers for increasing expenditures)

#### ***Staffing***

- Kellene Copeland – DNEA Coach
- Susan Veenema – DNEA/PBS Trainer, will lead the school-based trainings (6/1/18)
- Have interviewed one candidate, have another coming up for a DNEA Trainer who can lead adult services trainings
  - Will reach out to Tom and Harriett-Ann regarding recruitment and dissemination of job description
- Need for focus on higher education services and supports for our kids
  - Things going on within UD and CDS that will be shared

#### ***Marketing/Website***

- DNEA table at Inclusion Conference and Sussex County Early Educator Conference
- Will use Crowdspring for DNEA logo creation
- 3 different web developers who we have initiated contact with
  - In the meantime, CDS new website has launched –there is a DNEA page, but DNEA will be transferred over – will send link to ICA for review

## ***Upcoming Trainings***

- **Making A Difference Conference**
  - Del Tech Community College, Terry Campus
  - Session: 4/13/2018 @ 12:45-4:00PM
  - Many Faces of Autism Training – facilitated discussion targeting early childhood professionals
  - Presenters: Kellene Copeland, Brittany Powers, Heidi Mizell
- **Communication Training Series**
  - Three training sessions, offered both in Newark and Dover, varying times of day – flyer attached with more information & registration link – **please distribute**
  - Presenters: Dick Lytton, Kellene Copeland
    - Will look into offering CEU's for future trainings
    - Maryann will distribute training flyer to directors
- **Visual Supports in Early Intervention**
  - Collaboration between Building Bridges (HRSA Autism grant) and DNEA
  - Training for early intervention providers throughout the state on the use of visual supports
  - 5/31/2018 @ 9:00AM-3:30PM; Dover, DE
  - Flyer with more information & registration link to follow – please distribute
  - CEU's will be offered
- **Autism Assessment and Classroom-based Consultation (DASP Annual Meeting)**
- **Cognitive Behavior Therapy (TBD)**