

Interagency Committee on Autism (ICA)
Quarterly Meeting
3/4/2020
1-4 pm

- 1. Welcome and Introductions** **Please sign in*
- 2. Family Needs Report**
- 3. Exciting News and Upcoming Events**
 - a. Kristin Harvey, DDC Council, Partners in Policymaking
- 4. ICA Updates**
 - a. Policies and Procedures- Conflict of Interest Statement
 - b. ICA Co-Chair
 - c. ICA Subcommittee/Workgroup Vote
 - d. ICA Annual Report
- 5. Quarterly Strategic Plan Activities**
 - a. Improvement Area I: Identification, Diagnosis, and Classification
 - b. Improvement Area II: Training and Technical Assistance
 - c. Improvement Area III: Pre-Professional Training
 - d. Improvement Area IV: Self-Determination, Self-Advocacy and Social Network Development
 - e. Improvement Area V: Transition to Adult Life
 - f. Improvement Area VI: Family Support and Stakeholder Engagement
 - g. Improvement Area: VII: Systems Coordination
 - h. Other Activities
- 6. DNEA Updates**
 - a. Adjunct Instructors
 - b. New Trainings
 - c. Funding
- 7. Other**
- 8. Public Comment (3:50pm)**

Upcoming ICA Dates

- General Quarterly Meeting: June 3, 2020 @ 1:00 – 4:00 PM
 - Location: CDS (461 Wyoming Road Newark, DE 19716)

Interagency Committee on Autism (ICA) Quarterly Meeting Minutes

3.4.20

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ICA Representatives Present

Autism Delaware: Brian Hall

Center for Disabilities Studies: Beth Mineo

Delaware Autism Program (DAP), Statewide Director: Mary Whitfield

Division of Prevention and Behavioral Health Services (DPBHS): Meredith Tavani

Division of Substance Abuse and Mental Health (DSAMH): Wynne Hewitt

Division of Developmental Disabilities (DDDS): Cory Nourie

Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR): Dave Frye

Division of Public Health (DPH): Isabel Rivera-Green

Nemours Network: Laura Dewey

C/Birth to 3 System: Sue Gamel-McCormick

ICA Representatives Absent:

Ability Network: Thomas Cook

Delaware Family Voices (DEFV): Ann Phillips

Parent Information Center (PIC) of Delaware: Tina Andrews

Parent/Caregiver for New Castle County: Dawn Maloney

Parent/Caregiver for Kent County: Andrea Creed

ICA Representative Substitutions:

Department of Education (DOE): Maria Locuniak

C/Birth to 3 System: Sue Gamel-McCormick

Others Present:

Sarah Mallory (CDS/DNEA Interim Director)

Brian Freedman (CDS)

Kara Downey (CDS/DNEA)

Kellene Copeland (CDS/DNEA)

Dafne Carnright (Autism Delaware)

Heidi Mizell (Autism Delaware)

Brittany Powers (CDS)

Kristin Harvey (DD Council)

1. Welcome and Introductions

2. Family Needs Report

- a. The family needs report from Autism Delaware was shared with the committee. For questions, please contact Annalisa Ekbladh (Annalisa.Ekbladh@delautism.org).

3. Exciting News and Upcoming Community Events

- a. **Partners in Policymaking:** Kristin Harvey from the DD Council shared information about Partners in Policymaking. Partners in Policymaking is an 8-month advocacy and outreach training program (1 weekend a month), which begins in April.

Participants will learn about disability history, services, community resources, and network partners. It was developed by the Minnesota DD Council and updated for Delaware. Adults with disabilities or parents of children with disabilities can apply at ddc.delaware.gov.

- b. Employment Bootcamp: Dave Frye shared information about the upcoming Employment Bootcamp, facilitated by George Tilson. The Spring series is on March 23, March 24, and April 3. The third day is supported by the DNEA (via Autism Delaware) and focuses on job coaching. June dates will be released soon. The training is designed to help practitioners, state agency providers, job placement personnel to support employment for people with disabilities and engage with employers. For more information contact Dave Frye (david.frye@delaware.gov).

4. ICA Updates

- a. Vote on Revised Conflict of Interest Statement: ICA representatives voted to confirm the updated conflict of interest statement from the ICA bylaws. A majority vote was confirmed, and the revised statement passed. ICA bylaws will be updated with the revised statement.
- b. Nominations for ICA-Co Chair: ICA representatives were emailed an online ballot to nominate individuals to serve as the ICA co-chair. Kara Downey, DNEA Program Coordinator, will follow-up with nominees to confirm interest and obtain a short letter of interest.
- c. Vote on ICA Subcommittees/Workgroups: Per the new ICA bylaws, ICA representatives voted to confirm ICA subcommittees and workgroups moving forward. The following were confirmed through a majority vote.
 - i. Education Workgroup is now confirmed as a Subcommittee
 - ii. Adult Services Workgroup will continue operating as a Workgroup
 - iii. Mental Health Workgroup is now confirmed as a Subcommittee
 - iv. ABA Reimbursement Workgroup will continue operating as a Workgroup
 - v. ASD Diagnosis Workgroup is now confirmed as a Subcommittee
 - vi. Childcare Workgroup will continue operating as a Workgroup

Subcommittees and Workgroups may change in status through a majority vote by ICA Representatives.

- d. ICA Annual Report: The DNEA is currently finalizing a draft with information provided by ICA agencies. The draft will be sent out shortly with a 2-week review period. After feedback is received and incorporated the report will be submitted to the Delaware legislature.
- e. Other: Brittany Powers shared information related the Building Bridges grant. The Building Bridges Early Childhood Autism Stakeholder group involves a number of ICA agencies and has been meeting on a regular basis for several years. The group discusses best practices in early intervention, family supports, early screening and identification, and evaluation and assessment. As the grant is set to end August 31, 2020 it may be helpful to consider an early childhood subcommittee or workgroup as part of the ICA. For questions, please contact Brittany Powers (bblument@udel.edu).
 - i. The ICA determined it will vote on this issue at the next Quarterly Meeting in June 2020.

5. Quarterly Strategic Plan Activities- The Blueprint for Collective Action

Improvement Area I: Identification, Diagnosis, and Classification

Lead Organization/Agency	Activity
DOE	Maria Locuniak, Heather Caulkins, and Mary Whitfield met with Laurie Bauer, Suzanne Bauer, and Dr. Malhi from Christiana Care regarding their autism services. Laurie and Suzanne presented their services at the New Castle County Special Education Directors' meeting in February and handed out materials and brochures.

Improvement Area II: Training and Technical Assistance

Lead Organization/Agency	Activity
DOE	DOE has partnered with Christina School District and paid for 30 people to attend the one-day ADOS training in the fall and 30 people to attend the 2-day training
DOE	DOE is funding a one-day ADOS training for 30 people and then a 2-day training for 30 people to attend in April
PBH	Select employees from DPBHS' Assessment Unit will be trained to use the Autism Diagnostic Observation Schedule (ADOS), a highly specialized instrument for diagnosing and assessing Autism.
PBH	PBH is working with the DNEA to provide training for Terry Center and Silver Lake staff
PBH	Contracts are in the works with the DNEA to continue training with MRSS and begin training with PBH staff from the care coordination unit.
DVR	DVR is hosting an upcoming Employment Bootcamp Series. Participants can participate in 2 days or all 3 days. Another series will begin in June. Autism Delaware is helping to facilitate and train on the 3rd day.
Autism Delaware	Autism Delaware staff are going to Zimbabwe in April to train on peer to peer services and offer technical assistance.
DAP	Mary Whitfield is in the process of interviewing candidates for the professional development roles outlined in HB292. There are 2 candidates the group is strongly

	considering. The job description will be updated and posted again for additional candidates.
DAP/DNEA	Mary Whitfield and Sarah Mallory continue to collaborate on DNEA and DAP professional development activities
DNEA (CDS)	The DNEA released 3 new trainings for school professionals and received great feedback thus far. New trainings are being developed and/or revamped to include secondary examples. The DNEA is also working on trainings on topics including self-determination and visual supports. The Spring training calendar for school professionals will be release shortly.
DNEA (CDS)	The DNEA is continuing to work with school professionals from Appo. SD. 56 educators in various roles are receiving intensive training and coaching. The DNEA met with Mary Whitfield from DAP to discuss the next district to receive training (Indian River was the second district identified during the process last year). A package based on work done in Appo. will be generated and discussed with Indian River.
DNEA (CDS)	The Outside the Box Conference will be joining forces with the Inclusion Conference. DNEA is working on securing a speaker focused on ASD. More details regarding speakers and registration will be shared.
DNEA (CDS)	The DNEA is continuing its First Responder Initiative. 3 trainings in the community for law enforcement and Fire/EMS are scheduled in upcoming months.
DNEA (CDS)	The DNEA is hiring a part-time trainer/coach to support its mental health work. The job description will be shared with the ICA.
DNEA (CDS/Nemours)	The DNEA is finishing up its first ASD Didactic Series for clinicians. The 10-week series ends 3/27. The DNEA will explore topics for a future series.
DNEA (CDS)	The DNEA is developing an Autism 101 and Autism 102 trainings to be offered in-person and virtually to mixed disciplines.
DNEA (CDS)	The DNEA is in the process of hiring adjunct instructors to support its statewide trainings.

Improvement Area III: Pre-Professional Training

Lead Organization/Agency	Activity
CDS	LEND: The LEND School Psychologist trainee attended an ADOS training and continues to receive training at through the ASD diagnosis initiative at CDW that began out Building Bridges. This is a great opportunity for LEND to ensure school psych. trainees get access to autism specific training around diagnosis.

Improvement Area IV: Self-Determination, Self-Advocacy, and Social Network Development

Lead Organization/Agency	Activity
CDS	LEND: LEND is currently recruiting for its next cohort which will include a self-advocate track. Family members are also able to apply for family trainee positions or family mentors.
DNEA (CDS)	Sarah Mallory (DNEA) is currently working with LEND trainees to develop training around self-determination, abuse, and sexual health.

Improvement Area V: Transition to Adult Life

Lead Organization/Agency	Activity
CDS	<u>Spectrum Scholars</u> : Spectrum Scholars is well underway this year and started to expand services to support autistic students at UD (who are not part of spectrum scholars). Staff has started a PEERS group, run in conjunction with the UD counseling center and is offering workshops on executive functioning designed with UD Office of Academic Enrichment.

Improvement Area VI: Family Support and Stakeholder Engagement

Lead Organization/Agency	Activity
Autism Delawaree	Autism Delaware continue to expand local and community peer to peer supports and is looking to hire additional personnel to expand those efforts across the state.
Autism Delaware	Smart Cookie Day, Autism Delaware’s annual legislative advocacy day will be held

	on March 25, 2020. 80 people registered to attend.
Autism Delaware	Autism Delaware is serving on statewide committees to ensure relevant information to the autism community is being shared with leaders.

Improvement Area VII: Systems Coordination

Lead Organization/Agency	Activity
PBH	<p><u>System of Care Grant:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Foster Care Support Program will begin on Monday, March 9th. PBH's System of Care grant will support the funding of the program. Assessments will be provided as soon as a child enters foster care. The purpose is to identify any needs in order to reduce/eliminate displacement. If the child has needs, they will be referred to PBH services or to the grant team's Community Resource Specialists who can connect the families with informal and formal supports. • The installation and training for the Terry Center sensory has been built on hold but will hopefully be completed soon. • Autism Delaware contract for family peer support services is underway • Easterseals will be providing respite services for children with behavioral health concerns, including autism. PBH will be coordinating training for community providers (YMCA and Boys and Girls Club) so they can contract with Easterseals to provide respite in the community. • The PBH SOC gran team has also been collaborating with several providers regarding afterschool and summer programs for children with behavioral health challenges including those with intellectual and/or developmental disabilities. For example, Move and Inspire, an organization that targets leadership skills, self-awareness, conflict

	<p>resolution, and goal setting through education and dance, submitted a proposal for an afterschool program as well as a summer program for children with behavioral health issues. Similarly, Courageous Hearts proposed to initiate a curriculum-based equine therapy program that focuses on “soft skills” for this population of children. We are currently in the contract stage with each provider. The SOC Grant Team intends to contract with a music therapist and an art therapist to serve the Terry Psychiatric Center and Silver Lake Treatment Center due to the multitude of benefits of such therapies.</p>
DOE	<p>The regulations for MTSS and the eligibility criteria for the 13 disability categories (including Autism) went out for public comment on Feb. 3 for 60 days (eligibility criteria); 30 days (MTSS)</p>
CDS	<p>CDS is holding an ad hoc group from the Governor’s Advisory Council for Exceptional Citizen (GACEC) to discuss new regulations proposed by DOE.</p>
DDDS	<p>Inventory for Client and Agency Planning (ICAP)- pilot conducted for the past 6-8 months. Data clearly demonstrated people’s need for more intensive supports. Comprehensive needs assessment being conducted to better support and identify needs.</p>
DDDS	<p>Pathways- the age limit will be lifted starting on April. An announcement will be announced at provider meetings. The previous cut off was at 25 years old.</p>

6. DNEA Updates

- a. Adjunct Instructors: The DNEA is currently in the process of hiring adjunct instructors to deliver some of its statewide trainings. Seven individuals have applied thus far. Interviews will begin next week and continue for the next 6-8 weeks.
- b. Funding: A misunderstanding by the DE legislature regarding billing/DNEA spending has been corrected.