

Interagency Committee on Autism

Final Meeting Minutes

March 15th, 2022

12:00-2:00 p.m.

ICA Representatives Present

Autism Delaware: Brian Hall

Parent Information Center of Delaware: Tina Andrews

Sussex County Parent Representative: Crystal Thawley

Center for Disabilities Studies: Beth Mineo

Delaware Department of Education: Mary Ann Mieczkowski

Parent Information Center: Tina Andrews

Division of Vocational Rehabilitation: LaShonta Mitchell

Division of Health and Social Services: Cory Nourie

Division of Prevention and Behavioral Health: Meredith Tavani

Nemours Swank Autism Center: Laura Dewey

ICA Representatives Absent:

Delaware Ability Network

Delaware Family Voices (DEFV)

Division of Public Health (DPH)

Delaware Office of Statewide Autism Programs (DOSAP)

Part C/Birth to 3 System

Division of Substance Abuse and Mental Health (DSAMH)

Additional Attendees:

ICA Administrative Chair and DNEA PI: Sarah Mallory

Director, Delaware Network for Excellence in Autism: Alisha Fletcher

Autism Delaware: Tomara Williams

Autism Delaware: Ivanka Carbajal

Autism Delaware: Dafne Carnright

Autism Delaware: Heidi Mizell

Parent: Deb Cordrey

DDOE: Maria Locuniak

I. Motion to approve agenda

A. Motion: Lashonta Mitchell

B. Second: Brian Hall

C. Motion carried to approve agenda

II. Motion to approve Sept 28th, 2021 minutes

A. Motion: Crystal Hawley

B. Second: Beth Mineo

C. Motion carried to approve minutes

III. ICA Co-Chair Nomination and Vote: Meredith Tavani

- A. Motion: Tina Andrews
- B. Second: Beth Mineo
- C. Motion carried to approve Meredith Tavani as ICA Co-Chair

IV. ICA Member Announcements

- A. Tina Andrews (PIC)
 - 1. Presenting at the Easterseals Caregiver Conference in April
- B. Brian Hall (Autism Delaware)
 - 1. Smart Cookie Day and a calendar of autism-related events for families is launching in April, including a new round of AD's Parent-to-Parent program
- C. LaShonta Mitchell
 - 1. Back in a face-to-face environment supporting students with transition services as they return to the workplace

V. DNEA Updates

- A. Relaunch of DNEA Activities (Alisha Fletcher)
 - 1. Webpage
 - a) Updated and made accessible
 - 2. Eventbrite
 - a) Updated and launched statewide trainings
 - 3. Mailchimp
 - a) Updated and used to message about DNEA statewide trainings and upcoming activities and available resources
 - 4. Statewide trainings
 - a) Four core trainings - Intro to ASD, Intro to EBP, Mental Health and ASD, Visual Supports
 - b) Recording and uploading them onto the webpage
 - c) Recording additional training topics
 - 5. Resource guides
 - a) Under development and will be posted on the DNEA webpage
 - b) Some will be shared with ICA members for review and feedback
 - 6. Meetings held with collaborating sectors to identify training priorities (e.g., vocational services, social services, healthcare, education)
 - a) Conducting additional needs assessment survey
 - b) Online and flexible training options highlighted as a priority across all sectors
- B. Funding (Sarah Mallory)
 - 1. Begins every fall with Health Fund Advisory Committee (HFAC)
 - a) HFAC approved DNEA proposal with a 15% increase
 - 2. DNEA currently included in Governor's Budget
 - a) Joint Finance Committee (JFC) did not raise any concerns with DNEA budget
- C. Potential training and technical assistance activities (Alisha Fletcher)
 - 1. Training that supports professionals in using the ADOS

- a) Discussion: DDOE shared that they collaborated with DOSAP to hold virtual ADOS training. Norman Geller provided the training. DNEA will follow up with DDOE, DOSAP, and others to potentially offer second training this year.
- 2. Resources for healthcare providers: Visual task analysis of common medical procedures to be distributed, with training/technical assistance resources, to medical providers
- 3. Resources for peer education: OAR offers Kits for Kids, which teaches peers about autism acceptance, while supporting inclusion
 - a) Discussion: Could organize ambassadors and distribute to after school programs. Potential programs include: YMCA, JCC, summer camps, Delaware Children's Museum, Delaware Art Museum
- 4. Guest Speaker to address ableism in professional work
- 5. Additional Areas of Need discussed by ICA
 - a) Transitioning out of the pandemic (Brian Hall)
 - b) Summer programs and child care settings that accept and know how to support children with autism (Tina Andrews)
 - (1) Focus on: Sussex County, Kent County
 - c) Child care centers that accept children who are 12-years-old or older
 - d) Resources/materials offered in other languages for families
 - e) Nursing shortage

VI. Discussion: Focus of ICA Workgroups and Subcommittees

A. ICA workgroups

- 1. ICA Subcommittees and Workgroups do not have a clear charge, meeting schedule or purpose
 - a) Discussion: Potentially shift so committees are workgroups, so they have a clear start/end and targeted outcome. Will send out a survey to ICA to determine:
 - (1) which committees should continue;
 - (2) who should serve on committees (ICA members and otherwise); and
 - (3) when/how they should meet.
- 2. Current committees
 - a) Childcare- workgroup
 - b) Mental health- subcommittee
 - c) Education- subcommittee
 - d) Adult services- workgroup
 - e) ASD diagnosis- subcommittee
 - f) ABA reimbursement- subcommittee

VII. Public comment

- A. No public comment