

**Interagency Committee on Autism**  
**DRAFT Meeting Minutes**  
**November 15, 2022**  
**11:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.**

**ICA Representatives Present:**

Autism Delaware: Brian Hall  
Nemours Swank Autism Center: Brian Freedman  
Sussex County Parent Representative: Crystal Thawley  
Delaware Department of Education: Dale Matusevich  
Division of Vocational Rehabilitation: LaShonta Mitchell  
Kent County Parent Representative: Andrea Hurst  
Division of Prevention and Behavioral Health: Meredith Tavani (ICA Co-Chair)  
Delaware Office of Statewide Autism Programs: Mary Whitfield  
Delaware Health and Social Services: Saniquah Salaam-Hardrick  
University of Delaware Center for Disabilities Studies: Beth Mineo  
Division of Developmental Disabilities Services (DDDS): MaryCarol Beard  
Delaware Division of Public Health: Isabel Rivera-Green

**ICA Representatives Absent:**

New Castle County parent representative  
Delaware Ability Network Delaware Family Voices (DEFV)  
Part C/Birth to 3 System

**DNEA Staff Present:**

ICA Administrative Chair and DNEA PI: Sarah Mallory  
Director: Alisha Fletcher  
Program Coordinator: Karen Oosterhous  
Coordinator: Katie Booz

**Additional Attendees:**

Autism Delaware: Ivanka Carbajal  
Autism Delaware: Dafne Carnright  
Autism Delaware: Katina Demetriou  
Autism Delaware: Heidi Mizell  
Autism Delaware: Tomara Williams  
DHSS: Desiree Fisher  
DOE OEL Part B IDEA 619 Coordinator: Carol Brown  
Capital School District Administrator: Ryan Matthews  
Megan Tomkinson, BCBA

- I. Workgroups: Workgroups convened to begin identifying Blueprint improvement areas that can be an area of focus for the ICA workplan.
- A. Mental Health - Alisha Fletcher
  - B. Diagnosis - Brian Freedman
  - C. Adult Services - Brian Hall
  - D. Education - Mary Whitfield
  - E. ABA - Meredith Tavani

## II. DNEA Update:

1. Funding update from Sarah Mallory, who reported that HFAC has approved \$575K in funding for the next calendar year, representing an increase in funding from the DNEA's application two years ago.
  1. Erin Mitchell from Trauma Matters Delaware gave public comment on the DNEA's behalf.
2. Upcoming statewide trainings: Social skills instruction training remains popular. Also offering *Learn the Signs. Act Early. Child Care Provider Training* in partnership with OEL on a monthly basis.
3. In partnership with Trauma Matters Delaware the DNEA is re-offering Supporting your Child with Autism During the Holidays.
4. DNEA team attended the Annual Health Care Forum event and gave a brief overview of a new project for medical and dental providers. Project focuses on "Communicating Visually in Pediatrics" tool. Offers visual task analyses of common medical and dental procedures in order to explain them to children with complex communication needs, such as children with autism, who benefit from visual communication. DNEA developed additional resource: instructional sticker to be included with each book. Instructions are in English and Spanish. Providing copies to Delaware libraries so that families can access and utilize. Offering webinars on using visuals to support autistic people in medical setting.
5. Held first First Responder training with Lt. Chuck Sawchenko, who also has a daughter with autism. Two sessions; very well-received by participants; received coverage from multiple news outlets.
6. New pilot partnership with OEL providing intensive training in child care settings. Taking this training to Latin Center to include coaching, technical assistance and case consultation for children with autism. DIEEC quality approved trainings and they will be offered for continuing education credits for providers.
7. NASW training supporting social skills in school setting; two hour recorded training offers continuing education for social workers.
8. ADOS training coming in January
9. Questions for Sarah Mallory:
  1. Q: Is First Responder training open to police departments? A: Yes
  2. Q: Can we request personal trainings? A: Complete a training request via website.
  3. Q: Are there flyers or other information we can leave behind? A: Yes, please sign up for our listserv to receive updated training information. Informational cards are available, as well.

## III. Autism Delaware: Dafne Carnright presented the Family Needs report

Date Range: July 1, 2022 through October 31, 2022

### A. Family Support Services:

- a. Central Intake Department, Number of New Requests for Family Support: 341
- b. Total Number of Family Navigation Contacts: 995; 275 hours of direct 1:1 support
- c. Number of ACT Clients Enrolled at present: 67
- d. Top 3 Needs for from Families Requesting Services:
  1. Support & Connection
  2. Educational Issues
  3. Information & Referral

- B. Family Support Services continues to receive a high volume of calls and emails from parents requesting support and information. The state's changes to respite go into effect January 2023, with educationally based respite ending, and respite being an offered service through Medicaid.
- C. Autism Delaware virtual parent coffee hours resumed, as did several committees our staff participate in around the state. The Parent-to-Parent workshop series continued and is planning dates for the new year.
- D. Brian Hall: Beginning in January, Autism Delaware will add services in partnership with ABC consulting, will begin providing services next fiscal year, will allow us to serve more people in the community.
- E. Next year is Autism Delaware's 25th anniversary
- F. Beginning in January, Autism Delaware will have a new logo and branding; the new logo does not include the puzzle piece and includes a different array of colors.
- G. Staff is doing a tremendous job. Numbers are incredible; there continues to be a great need for services.

IV. Literacy - Pam Weir (GACEC) will be helping the literacy group organize going forward. Andrea Hurst has requested a meeting with the governor's office to raise awareness and has made some progress. Document about literacy advocacy was circulated to ICA members. The education workgroup is also interested in this issue and will be bringing some ideas forward at the next ICA meeting. It would be helpful if ICA members would review the Karen Erickson CDS lunchtime learning video before the next meeting. Please come to the next meeting with ideas around literacy advocacy on behalf of complex learners.

V. Did not maintain quorum so will postpone the vote on September meeting minutes until the January meeting.