

DRAFT Meeting Minutes May 2023

Interagency Committee on Autism

Meeting Minutes

May 16, 2023

11:00 – 12:30

ICA Representatives Present

Autism Delaware: Brian Hall

Center for Disabilities Studies: Beth Mineo

Delaware Autism Workgroup, Statewide Director: Mary Whitfield

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

C/Birth to 3 System: Kristina Horton

Parent Representative: Andrea Creed

Parent Representative: Crystal Thawley

Nemours Swank Autism Center: Brian Freedman

Division of Public

Health: Isabel Rivera-

Green

ICA Representatives Absent:

Delaware Department of Education: Dale Matusevich

Delaware Family Voices (DEFV)

Division of Public Health (DPH)

Division of Substance Abuse and Mental Health (DSAMH)

Ability Network

Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR)

DNEA Staff:

Sarah Mallory: ICA Administrative Chair

Alisha Fletcher: DNEA Director

Tracy Beird: DNEA Staff

Katie Booz: DNEA Staff

Ashley Steinbrecher: DNEA Staff

Additional Attendees:

Heidi Mizell

Ivanka Carbajal

Katina Demetriou

Tamara Williams

Agenda

- I. Motion to approve agenda
 - a. Motion: Andrea Creed
 - b. Second: Kristina Horton
 - c. Motion carried
- II. Motion to approve minutes
 - a. Motion: Brian Freedman
 - b. Second: Kristina Horton
 - c. Motion carried
- III. ICA Quick Reference Guide feedback
 - a. Put together by Sarah for new members and sent as draft for feedback
 - b. Discussion was open for feedback
 - Brian Freedman mentioned that workgroup meetings are able to happen outside ICA meetings if decided needed. DNEA staff will offer support.
 - Meredith Tavani mentioned that some of the workgroups are required as subcommittees and should be included
 - Brian Freedman mentioned to list organizations that are members of the ICA
 - Meredith Tavani mentioned that meetings should be held in person now that the state of emergency is over. Need anchor location. Hybrid option will be allowed.
- IV. ICA Annual Report
 - a. Brief survey sent
 - b. Have received some responses, for those who have not responded please do so
 - c. Brian Hall asked about the timeframe to return which was April, please submit as soon as possible within next two weeks
- V. Literacy advocacy updates
 - a. Meeting held January 31st
 - b. Purpose to make recommendations to ICA
 - c. Discovered not a specific workgroup addressing HB304
 - d. Andrea Creed stated experts are needed, GACEC has not taken the lead to have advocacy meetings
 - e. Beth Mineo reached out to Pam Weir and will see her at the GACEC meeting in the evening. Beth shared there are some staffing developments in the works

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for the SPEAKS team

VI. ICA Agency updates

- a. Kristina Horton shared currently following implementation LEAD agency.
- b. Brian Freedman shared 3 new psychologists are starting in the Fall. Remain small in terms of pediatric developmental physicians. Continue to expand services to primary care clinics.
- c. Katina Demetriou shared they have 16 individuals on the spectrum employed at Nemours and it's been positive
- d. Isabel Rivera-Green shared at beginning of working on the 2025 needs assessment

VII. DNEA updates

- a. New Staff as of 5/15 new Program Coordinator Katie Booz
- b. Funding – voted to include DNEA in budget. DNEA received a nice shoutout at GFA meeting.
- c. Autistic advocate – hard to fill due to many reasons. Establish an Autistic Advisory Group limited to autistic individuals over age 18.
 - Brian Freedman asked if there is a way to compensate them for their time. Sarah Mallory responded yes.
 - Brian Hall asked if this group would be only for CDS and DNEA or would they be engaged with outside organizations?
- d. New Partnership
 - DD Council reached out about wanting to collaborate due to lunchtime learning Decision Making. Summit with 2 parts 1st part panel discussion 2nd part mentoring to attendees.
- e. Training Activities
 - 1st Responder trainings March, May, June & September
 - Presenting at Criminal Justice Center
 - Children in Disasters working with autistic children in disasters
 - Facilitating Successful Pediatric Medical & Dental Visits for children with ASD held at Georgetown Library.
 - Project IMPACT training May 15-19. 15 clinicians completing training.
 - ADOS-2 Introductory/Clinical Training June 5-7.
- f. Autism Delaware
 - Brian Hall shared navigators have been busy with over 2000 contacts.
 - English language learners are a point of concern
 - Tomara Williams shared Autism Delaware added a new navigator, Brian Hall added that a new FT intake worker has also been added.
 - Katina Demetriou shared as there has been an increase to people reaching out to family division she is sharing information with navigators. Working closely with DDDS with a RBT training program.
 - Brian Hall shared that one of the goals is to extend the peer to peer service to adults to create more support within the community.
 - Celebrating 25th Anniversary.

VIII. Public comment

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IX. General meeting adjourned