

Interagency Committee on Autism

Meeting Agenda

September 19, 2023

11:00 - 12:30

This meeting will be conducted virtually and in-person

Virtual meeting link: <https://udel.zoom.us/j/9071794180>

In-person location: Milford Wellness Village, Conference Room,

21 W. Clarke Ave., Milford, DE 19963

Use Conference Entrance off Kings Highway. Parking available in lot off Kings Highway. Enter building, walk up the ramp, conference room at the end of the ramp on the right.

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

Division of Public Health: Isabel Rivera-Green

Delaware Department of Education: Dale Matusevich

Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR): Leanne Thomas

Division of Developmental Disabilities Services (DDDS): Mary Carol Beard

Parent Information Center of Delaware: Jennifer Aaron

Parent Representative: Crystal Thawley

Parent Representative: Dawn Maloney

ICA Representatives Absent:

Nemours Swank Autism Center: Brian Freedman

Delaware Family Voices (DEFV)

Division of Substance Abuse and Mental Health (DSAMH)

Ability Network

DNEA Staff:

Sarah Mallory: ICA Administrative Chair

Alisha Fletcher: DNEA Director

Katie Booz: DNEA Staff

Ashley Steinbrecher: DNEA Staff

Additional Attendees:

Annie Slease

Heidi Mizell

Dafne Carnright

Agenda

I. Motion to approve agenda

1. Motion: Crystal Thawley
2. Second: Mary Whitfield
3. Motion carried

II. Motion to approve minutes

1. Motion: Kristina Horton
2. Second: Mary Whitfield
3. Motion carried

III. DNEA Updates

1. CDS Team

- Funding update
- Supported decision making efforts
- DNEA training numbers were reported by training tier and by county across the state.
- First responder work
 - Autism first responder trainings, mock driving program (new initiative they are working on), and disaster preparedness were mentioned.
- Questions/comments:
 - Isabel Rivera-Green stated that the DMV and driving guides created for the First Responder work are very good ideas. She asked if they will be accessible on the DNEA website.
 - Sarah Mallory said yes, once it is ready it will be published on the DNEA website.
 - Jennifer Aaron asked for the mock driving program where it will be held and who do they contact to participate.
 - Alisha Fletcher answered that hopefully it will be available in each county across the state. There will be a sign-up for this part on the webpage for the program and updates will be in the DNEA email.
 - Mary Whitfield asked if the DNEA statewide trainings are being offered to k-12 educators.
 - Sarah Mallory answered and said that she and Mary can meet separately to discuss further.
 - Jennifer Aaron asked if the mock driving training can be done in the schools for the driving programs they have.
 - Sarah Mallory answered that the DNEA doesn't have a firm plan, the school districts usually have their own person on staff for the driving programs. However, once the accompanying resources are completed, it would be a good conversation to have.

2. Autism Delaware Team

- Currently hiring 3 FSPs and a program manager
- Parent and grandparent coffee hours, in-person groups have restarted and virtual are still available
- 25th anniversary gala on November 11th from 6-10pm
 - Please share the invitation with others
- Brian Hall shared about the training through HRSA that happened in June 2023 around navigation models happening across the country.
 - Learned that Delaware is leagues ahead of a lot of places at

the moment and that some other states only have a very small staff that runs family supports. It came up that different states refer to family support and navigation differently

- It was alluded to that there is the potential for new funding.



IV. ICA Workgroup/Subcommittee Discussion

1. Holding and conducting workgroups and subcommittees at the end of meetings is difficult. There is not enough time and some people can't attend
 - We want to have a discussion about changing when the workgroups/subcommittees meet. These meetings would be posted to public meeting calendar with an agenda and meeting minutes.
2. Proposed - Maintain 1 ½ hour meetings every other month with workgroup meetings separately
3. Brian Hall mentioned the following.
 - It probably makes sense, for the adult committee, they need a restart. After making sure that we have everyone's emails, it makes sense to use this big meeting as just time to report out.
 - If we agree to make this shift, can workgroup leads be provided with the list of workgroup members?
 - Sarah Mallory, Meredith Tavani, and Katie Booz will meet with the leads of the workgroups to discuss moving forward. We need to follow public meeting laws and we want to keep a framework across all workgroups. Anything that is official ICA business needs to be published on the public meeting calendar. The workgroups would only need to meet quarterly.
4. It was mentioned in previous meeting minutes that Brian Freedman liked the idea of having his workgroup meet outside of the general meeting
5. Official Vote on this proposal:
 - Motion: Move to hold workgroups and subcommittees outside the normal meeting the bi-monthly ICA meetings – Brian Hall
 - Second: Crystal Thawley
 - Against: none
 - Abstentions: none
 - In favor: The rest of the voting members
6. The DNEA team will get ahold of the leads to begin this orchestration and begin next steps.
7. Brian Hall asked if we want to have a timeframe for when to meet by this first time.
 - Sarah Mallory responded that for the timelining on the DNEA's end, Katie Booz will disseminate meeting minutes within a week. Once we get them out, Katie will reach out the leads for each workgroup to organize an initial meeting. We have 2 months until our next ICA meeting, should we add this to the agenda? Or have a workgroup meeting before then?
 - The DNEA will share the proposal timeline at next ICA meeting.
 - If it would be helpful, and if it's agreeable to everyone, the DNEA can provide administrative support for workgroups. Please give the DNEA time to look at calendars and get an idea.

V. ICA Member Announcements & Updates

1. Leanne Thomas shared for the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR) –
 - They have a new statewide transition coordinator Brenda Rodriguez

(brenda.rodriquez@delaware.gov)

2. Brian Hall shared for Autism Delaware–
 - The coming up events include annual walks, Fall fest, train rides, in-person coffee hours, 25th anniversary gala, holiday parties.
 - Autism Delaware is also hiring.
3. Kristina Horton shared for C/Birth to 3 System –
 - The DOE is undergoing the transfer of IDEA C/Birth program. Also, the early childhood supports workgroup created new office and the early childhood intervention (director Cindy Brown).
4. Andrea Hurst, a parent representative, provided the ICA with the following documents which Katie Booz shared out
 -  [Comprehensive Literacy for All Family and Community Book Study.pdf](#)
 -  [Comprehensive Literacy for All Leaders of Special Education Book Study.pdf](#)
 - <https://i-asc.org/event/presuming-competence/>
5. Beth Mineo shared for The Center for Disabilities Studies –
 - The next step in the process starting October 1 is for statewide educators to complete a survey. They really hope to hear back from prek-12 space about experiences with assistive technology. There will be a random drawing of all who participate for 3 - \$100 gift cards.
 - The question was asked if there will there be a social media post? –Beth answered yes. She will share it with the ICA once it is sent out.
6. Isabel Rivera-Green shared for the Division of Public Health –
 - They are int heir second round of mini grantees (3 new ones and 1 who came back). For more information you can find this on Family Shade’s page and the new PIC site.

VI. Public Comment

1. none

VII. Adjourned

1. Motion: Mary Whitfield
2. Second: Brian Hall