

Interagency Committee on Autism

Meeting Minutes

November 28, 2023

11:00 - 12:30

This meeting will be conducted virtually and in-person

Virtual meeting link: <https://udel.zoom.us/j/98400100497>

In-person location: Center for Disabilities Studies, Room 101,

461 Wyoming Rd, Newark DE 19716

ICA Representatives Present:

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

Center for Disabilities Studies: Beth Mineo

Parent Representative: Crystal Thawley

Parent Representative: Andrea Creed

Nemours Swank Autism Center: Brian Freedman

Autism Delaware: Brian Hall

Division of Public Health: Isabel Rivera-Green

C/Birth to 3 System: Kristina Horton

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

ICA Representatives Absent:

Delaware Autism Workgroup, Statewide Director

Delaware Department of Education

Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR)

Parent Information Center of Delaware

Delaware Family Voices (DEFV)

Division of Substance Abuse and Mental Health (DSAMH)

Ability Network

DNEA Staff:

Sarah Mallory: ICA Administrative Chair

Katie Booz: DNEA Program Coordinator

Alisha Fletcher: DNEA Director

Ashley Steinbrecher: DNEA Staff

Emily Curtin: DNEA Implementation Coach

Additional Attendees:

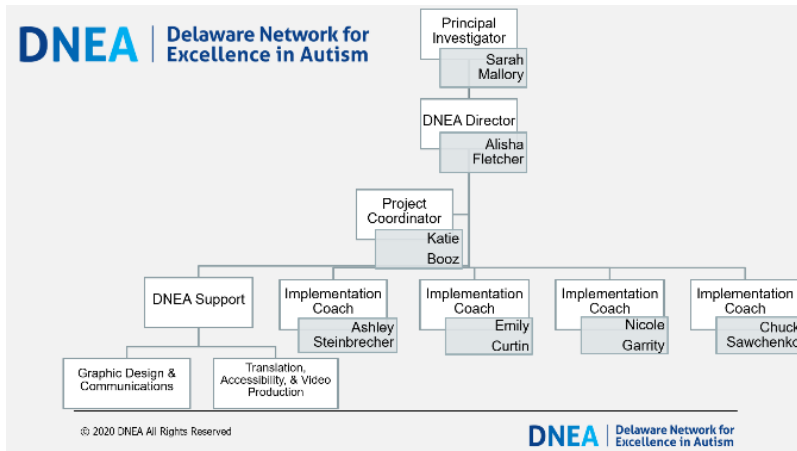
Nicole Topper

Agenda

- I. Motion to Approve Agenda
 - a. Motion:
 - b. Second: Kristina Horton

- II. Motion to Approve Minutes
 - a. Motion: Crystal Thawley
 - b. Second: Isabel Rivera-Green

- III. DNEA Funding and Staffing Update
 - a. Funding Update
 - i. Health Fund Advisory Committee (HFAC) meetings conducted in October
 - ii. Letters of support shared with committee
 - iii. DNEA included in HFAC's proposed budget - stable funding: \$575,000
 1. Next step: Governor's proposed budget
 - b. Staffing Update
 - i. DNEA Implementation Coach – Emily Curtin
 1. Background in secondary transition and strategies for supporting adolescent mental health
 2. Passion for promoting self-determination in autistic individuals, supporting their families, and educating professionals
 3. Before joining the DNEA, Emily worked as a school psychologist in the Red Clay Consolidated School District
 4. M.A. and Ed.S. in School Psychology from the University of Delaware
 - a. Graduate assistant for the DNEA
 - b. Delaware LEND (Leadership Education in Neurodevelopmental and Related Disabilities) trainee
 - ii. The DNEA is now fully staffed as defined by our legislation. Here is a breakdown of each member of staff by position:



- iii. Across all of the DNEA, we have different areas of expertise. Including, but not limited to:
1. Healthcare and health promotion
 2. Mental health
 3. Adult services and supports
 4. Early childhood services and supports
 5. First responders
 6. Crisis response
 7. Social services

IV. ICA Meeting Schedule Moving Forward

- a. All ICA meeting invites (Zoom and calendar) will come from Katie Booz moving forward
 - i. Please note: Outlook accounts do not always play nice with Zoom calendar invites!
 - ii. Delete all 2024 meetings from your calendar
- b. Workgroups and subcommittees are being conducted separately
 - i. DNEA staff member is assigned to each group and will support the chair with organizing meetings and satisfying public meeting requirements
 - ii. ICA members are welcome to join multiple committees OR recommend staff from their organization for a given committee
 1. If you would like to be added to another workgroup or subcommittee, reach out to Katie Booz to have her add you to the corresponding Listserv
 - iii. Workgroup and subcommittee meetings will begin in the new year
- c. Current Workgroups/Subcommittees
 - i. Education
 - ii. Mental Health
 - iii. Diagnosis

- iv. ABA Reimbursement
- v. Adult Services

V. ICA Member Announcements & Updates

- a. Brian Hall – Autism Delaware
 - i. Acknowledged those who came to the Gala – Thank you for attending!
 - ii. They have hired a new associate director. They will be starting in December. Will not be announcing their name until they officially start.
- b. Isabel Rivera-Green – Division of Public Health
 - i. Just submitted their early detection and intervention for a 5-year grant. They are just waiting on a response now.
 - ii. They are also planning the Family Shade Summit for next fall. She will be reaching out about vendor tables, etc. soon.
- c. Ashley Steinbrecher - DNEA
 - i. My Life My Decisions: A Supported Decision-Making Summit
 - 1. DDC
 - 2. Hoping to provide individuals in the community some tangible resources on self-determination.
 - 3. March 7, 2024, from 1-4 p.m. at the University of Delaware STAR Tower Audion
 - 4. There will be a panel discussion to open up the summit. We plan to conclude the summit with more of a tailored small group mentoring discussion.
 - 5. Registration page - <https://www.cds.udel.edu/mylife>
 - 6. All of these resources are located on the DNEA website - <https://www.delawareautismnetwork.org/resources/supported-decision-making/>
 - a. What is Supported Decision Making
 - b. Promotional materials
 - c. Jonathan Martinez training videos
 - d. Supported Decision-Making Resource Guide
- d. Brian Freedman – Nemours Swank Autism Center
 - i. Nemours has received federal funding for IMPACT. They are excited to incorporate this training into their work moving forward.
 - ii. They have also strengthened their services based on need. They have different tracks depending on the child’s need.
 - iii. Now have a neurologist seeing patients at the Swank Autism Center.
 - iv. Now offering a sensory friendly flu shot clinic specifically for Swank Autism Center patients. This clinic is being held on December 11th from 4:30-7 p.m. You can email Brian for more details.
 - v. Currently conducting interviews for next summer’s interns.
- e. Kristina Horton - C/Birth to 3 System

- i. They have recently finalized a contract with Hunting Consulting LLC to review funding. Have two Part-C subject matter specialists helping now.
 - ii. The Interagency Coordinating Council is soliciting feedback from people.
 - iii. Kristina’s goal moving forward is to ensure that the special health care needs populations are included in discussions regarding transition. They want to make sure their staff is well-versed in what these groups with special health care needs need and that these needs are being met.
 - f. Andrea Creed – Parent Representative
 - i. The DDC is working to meet more non-English speaking people and some help would be great.
 - ii. On January 24th is the DDC LIFE conference
 - 1. <https://lifeconferencede.org/>
 - 2. Sarah Mallory and Brian Freedman will be speaking on mental health.
 - iii. Also, the Camp ALEC conference is in April 2024
 - 1. Registration for this conference is now open - <https://campalec.regfox.com/comprehensive-literacy-april-2024>

VI. Public Comment

- a. None

VII. Motion to Adjourn

- a. Motion: Kristina Horton
- b. Second: Brian Hall and Brian Freedman