

Interagency Committee on Autism

Meeting Agenda

September 17, 2024

11:00 – 12:30

This meeting will be conducted virtually and in-person

Virtual meeting link: <https://udel.zoom.us/j/97657860612>

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

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:

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

Parent Representative: Dawn Maloney

Parent Representative: Crystal Thawley

Autism Delaware: Taylor Young

Parent Representative: Andrea Creed

Delaware Autism Workgroup: Mary Whitfield

Delaware Department of Education: Meghan Mezhoudi

Nemours Swank Autism Center: Brian Freedman

Division of Public Health: Isabel Rivera-Green

ICA Representatives Absent:

Center for Disabilities Studies

Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR)

Division of Developmental Disabilities Services (DDDS)

C/Birth to 3 System

Parent Information Center of Delaware

Delaware Family Voices (DEFV)

Division of Substance Abuse and Mental Health (DSAMH)

Ability Network

DNEA Staff:

Alisha Fletcher: DNEA Director

Katie Booz: Program Coordinator

Nicole Ferrara: Implementation Coach

Additional Attendees:

Tomara Williams – Autism Delaware

Ivanka Carbajal – Autism Delaware

Jodi Karabin – JMK Behavior

Heidi Mizell – Autism Delaware

Mia Wilson – Autism Delaware

- I. Motion to Approve Agenda
 - a. Motion: Mary Whitfield
 - b. Second: Crystal Thawley
 - c. Motion carried.

- II. Motion to Approve Minutes
 - a. Motion: Andrea Creed
 - b. Second: Crystal Thawley
 - c. Isabel Rivera-Green abstained.
 - d. Motion carried.

- III. DNEA Training Update
 - a. New DNEA Implementation Coach
 - i. Nicole Ferrara – comes from the state of NY where she was a teacher.
 - ii. Nicole Garrity, who was an implementation coach at the DNEA, has accepted a faculty position within the School of Education at UD and is leaving the DNEA.
 - b. Practice Traffic Stop program
 - i. The first event was held in July at Lums Pond State Park in partnership the Delaware Natural Resource Police, Delaware State Parks, and New Castle City Police Departments.
 1. The program was well-received, with around 20 participants and positive feedback from attendees.
 2. Dawn Maloney commented: “Wonderful event - my son attended and it was invaluable. Would recommend for typical and neurodivergent new drivers alike.”
 - ii. The next offering will be on October 22 from 3-7pm at Cape Henlopen State Park.
 1. This opportunity is in partnership with the Delaware Natural Resource Police, Delaware State Parks, and New Castle City Police Departments.
 2. Crystal Thawley asked who could participate in the program. Alisha Fletcher confirmed that autistic drivers and passengers of all ages are welcome to participate.
 - iii. Find out more here: <https://www.delawareautismnetwork.org/practice-traffic-stop/>
 - iv. If you would like more information, please reach out to Katie Booz (boozkp@udel.edu).
 - c. Autism Delaware Update
 - i. Have a high volume of cases right now. The FSPs and Navigators are working really hard.
 - ii. Dafne Carnright will be on the ICA Diagnosis subcommittee.

IV. ICA Membership

- a. DOE seats
 - i. The Department of Education currently has 2 seats on the ICA. Mary Whitfield is going to take one seat and Meghan Mezhoudi will take over the second seat from Dale Matusevich.
- b. Agencies not attending
 - i. Meredith Tavani raised concerns about irregular agency attendance affecting quorum.
 - ii. Alisha Fletcher suggested finding ICA representatives who have better availability for ICA meetings.
 - 1. The DNEA will be looking at agencies who are not regularly attending and see if there is a solution.
 - iii. Crystal Thawley recommended we contact John Eirdosh at DDDS about their seat on the ICA.
 - iv. Isabel Rivera-Green asked for a list of the subcommittees so that she can participate more.
 - v. Two workgroups are meeting currently
 - 1. Education
 - a. Meets monthly on the second Tuesday of each month.
 - b. The next meeting is Tuesday, October 8th @ 11:45.
 - c. Mary Whitfield is the ICA lead.
 - d. Andrea Creed and Mia Wilson would like to join this workgroup.
 - 2. Diagnosis
 - a. Brian Freedman & Laura Dewey are the ICA leads.
 - b. Starting on September 27th @ 11am.
 - 3. If you are interested in joining any of the subcommittees or workgroups, please reach out to Katie Booz (boozkp@udel.edu) or Alisha Fletcher (fletcha@udel.edu).
 - 4. The DNEA is aiming to get the Mental Health and ABA workgroups up and running next.

V. Blueprint for Collective Action: Improvement Area 1

- a. Questions posed:
 - i. Please review the five outcomes and respective goals and provide feedback on our current standing. Which are still relevant? Which have been met? Which still needs work? What is missing?
 - ii. In reviewing this improvement area, what immediate goal would you set for the ICA for the upcoming year? The DNEA?
- b. Review of outcomes
 - i. Outcome A
 - 1. The DNEA accomplished part 1. However, this is outdated as it was created a while ago.
 - a. <https://www.delawareautismnetwork.org/resources/educational-eligibility-and-medical-diagnosis-of-asd/>

- c. Mary Whitfield proposed that the subcommittees could look at the objectives in smaller groups to provide more in-depth analysis.
- d. The idea of assigning specific areas to subcommittees and using the logic model to identify responsibilities was discussed.
- e. Isabel River Green brought up the topic of the timeline for the Blueprint, noting that it had been created 11 years ago.
- f. Dawn Maloney questioned what the objectives are, and how do we cross collaborate across agencies? Where do we stand as a state now?
- g. Isabel Rivera Green shared that the Maternal Child Health Title V -CYSHCN has introduced Blueprint for Change for the CYSHCN. This may be something that can be looked at and meet or reach gaps.
- h. The importance of cross-agency collaboration and the need to challenge ourselves to address big objectives was discussed.
- i. Katie, Meredith, and Alisha are going to meet and discuss what the next steps are going to be. They will then email the ICA members about where we go from here.
- j. Mary Whitfield made a motion to create a document so all agencies have access and can make updates, allow access to update and edit, and to share the Blueprint.
 - i. Second: Andrea Creed
 - ii. Motion carried.

VI. ICA Member Announcements & Updates

- a. Division of Public Health: Isabel Rivera-Green
 - i. Family SHADE is holding a summit on October 3rd at the Modern Maturity Center. Check out the [details here](#).
- b. Autism Delaware: Taylor Young
 - i. Parent coffee hours are being held in English and in Spanish. Both virtual and in person options are available.
 - ii. Snowflake Soiree will be on November 15, 2024.
 - iii. Check out the events page of Autism Delaware website for more details: <https://www.autismdelaware.org/events/>
- c. Nemours Swank Autism Center: Brian Freedman
 - i. They had another psychologist start. That now makes 3 bilingual Spanish speaking psychologists.
- d. Parent Representative: Andrea Creed
 - i. DDC LIFE Conference registration is open for 2025.

VII. Public Comment

VIII. Motion to Adjourn Meeting

- a. Motion: Brian Freedman
- b. Second – Mary Whitfield
- c. Motion carried.