



Updates

9/14/16

Virginia was recently selected as one of 10 states to receive Technical Assistance (TA) from Zero To Three on ***Aligning Policy and Practice: MH Assessment & Treatment of Infants, Young Children & Families***. This will be most beneficial to our work with Medicaid. We are required to bring a team of 5 people to Minnesota in October for a 2 day convening. One of the required members of the team is a high level administrator from our state's Medicaid Program. Cheryl Roberts, Deputy Director of DMAS has agreed to do this. Ashley Everette, Voices for Virginia's Children, Early Childhood Policy Analyst & 1in5kids Children's Mental Health Campaign Coordinator has agreed to co-facilitate this effort with Bonnie Grifa, State Early Childhood Mental Health Coordinator. The remaining team members are Daniela Lewy, Executive Director, Virginia Governor's Children's Cabinet and Janet Lung, DBHDS Child and Family Services Director. Virginia also has an extended implementation team for this effort of additional key stakeholders who have agreed to assist us to do the required activities including:

- Completing a survey of existing ECMH financing in VA, services, strengths and barriers;
- Participate in regularly scheduled TA calls; and
- Implement and carry out an Action Plan.

Our *Early Childhood Mental Health Virginia Advisory Board* and other key state representatives including the Virginia Association for Infant Mental Health's (VAIMH) Board of Directors and Virginia's State Pyramid Model Leadership Team will be meeting on ***September 27th*** for the annual ***ECMH VA Strategic Planning Day*** so we will include development of the required Zero To Three Action Plan as part of that process.

Project S.E.E.D. VA has been approved for another 1 year renewal with Virginia Department of Social Services. During the past year, training and coaching was provided on the new ASQ-SE screening tool as well as the top level of the Pyramid for developing individualized behavior support plans for children. In the renewal, the following are included: ASQ-3 and ASQ-SE2 webinars, a series of 9 additional webinars on a variety of infant & ECMH topics, continue Pyramid Model Module 1& 2 live training and ASQ-3 & ASQ-SE live training and train additional Trainers to train on both ASQ tools. Activities and registration information available at the Training/Events section @ www.ecmhva.org Project SEED VA will continue to fund up to 12 providers for Endorsement for this 1 year renewal including their Endorsement fees and Reflective Supervision. Project SEED VA has funded 50 infant/toddler providers seeking the Endorsement to date in all provider categories.

Virginia Association for Infant Mental Health Endorsement Update:

- 22 new endorsees were selected for the next Endorsement cycle that started June 1st of this year. Project SEED VA is funding 12 of them.
- ***LIII Reflective Supervision and IMH Training Group***. ECCS funding through the Virginia Department of Health paid for the development of a 1 year Training curriculum for Mental Health Clinicians and IMH Leaders applying for Endorsement at Levels III & IV. Can use the Training content developed for this initial group in Virginia for future groups which helps us ensure a solid foundation in IMH Principles and Practices supporting the competencies at those levels until a degree program or University program is established for IMH in VA. First group to begin the training this month. Will also receive Reflective Supervision which will be linked to the training content. This will grow Virginia's capacity to mentor future IMH Clinicians and Leaders who can in turn assist us by providing Reflective Supervision and support the Endorsement system by doing portfolio and exam review for Levels III and IV.

- **19 Reflective Supervision (RS) Scholarships are now available to any LI or LII previously endorsed professional who works in a childcare classroom setting, family home provider setting or Early Head Start setting to help cover ½ of cost of RS for 6 months to meet the 12 hour ongoing RS requirement for endorsement renewal.** This is funded as part of Project SEED Virginia with the funding provided by the Virginia Department of Social Services.
- Beginning this month, **to provide ongoing support for new Reflective Supervisors who went through the 2014-2015 Home Visiting Consortium's (HVC) Reflective Supervision and Training Collaboration.** This will be funded by Virginia's HVC. This begins on 9/23/16 for a 1.5 day training/RS event at the Boar's Head Inn, Charlottesville.
- **Dr. Bela Sood to begin endorsement process at Level IV (eligible for all 3 designations). Dr. Sood is also leading efforts for the establishment of an Attachment Clinic in Richmond. Per Dr. Sood:** *"The attachment clinic at VCUHS targets pregnant women who have been identified as high risk for abnormal maternal fetal attachment secondary to high ACE scores (and secondarily maternal depression and substance abuse). The attachment clinic will identify these high risk mothers in late second or third trimester of their pregnancy (referral from High Risk Ob clinics) and evaluate them on a variety of different parameters to measure their attachment to their unborn child including the Parental Bonding Instrument (PBI), the Maternal Fetal Attachment Scale (MFAS), the PTSD Checklist for DSM 5 (PCL-5) and general psychiatric distress on the Symptom Checklist SCL-27, the five minute story and will also include methylation sequences as biomarkers of stress. Evidence based Interventions will be used to a) reduce the maternal distress with treatment and 2) evidence based maternal infant intervention to enhance and strengthen the mother child bond both pre and post term. The mother child dyad will be followed at zero, 3, 6, 12, 18, and 24 months post birth for bonding behavior, infant socio- emotional and overall development".*

2017 Infant & ECMH Institute is tentatively planned for March 22nd at Kings Mill in Williamsburg. The contract is pending so can't send out an official Save the Date yet. It will also serve as a pre-conference day for the Virginia Association of Social Workers Conference at the same location. Keynotes Speakers will be Walter Gilliam Ph.D. and Gerard Costa, Ph.D. Will do 3 tracks again this year (IMH birth-3), ECMH (ages2-5) and Early Elementary (ages 5-8).

A Pyramid Model State Leadership Team was developed in December 2015 to coordinate efforts among agencies at the state and local level to ensure a continuum of social-emotional training and supports using the Pyramid Model for parents and providers of children birth to age 8 in VA. VA also became a Pyramid Model State Partner with the National Pyramid Model Consortium. Work of this group will be integrated into Virginia's Infant/ECMH Strategic Plan.

- The Head Start Training and Technical Assistance Network Regional Team met with Virginia's ECMH Coordinator. They will be training all Head Start programs in Virginia on implementing the Pyramid Model program-wide. One of the T/TA representatives will now serve on the Virginia Pyramid Model State Leadership Team.
- The Department of Education in Virginia has adopted a Multi-Tiered System of Supports (MTSS) which they have names (VTSS-Virginia Tiered System of Supports) similar to the Pyramid Model for children in Kindergarten and up. That network of trainers is partnering with the Early Childhood Special Education Training and Technical Assistance staff to extend it to ECSE preschool classes. As a result, the ECMH State Coordinator has been invited to participate in planning meetings.

Meeting held with Voices for Virginia's Children, VASW President, VA LPC Association President & 2 Lobbyists on June 15th. Provided packet of VAIMH & ECMH Initiative information and overview. Discussed vision, challenges and how we might partner. Outcomes:

- VA will be holding our Infant & ECMH Institute on March 22nd as a Pre-Conference day to the Virginia Association for Social Workers Conference (March 23-25) at Kings Mill in Williamsburg.
- Can contact NASW President (Debra Riggs) to apply for CEU credit for Social Workers attending our training or Institute.
- We will respond to VASW Conference Call for Papers to do a presentation at the SW Conference in March and the LPC conference in Oct/Nov.

For questions related to any of the above or to seek additional information, please contact Bonnie Grifa, Virginia's ECMH Coordinator/VAIMH Endorsement Coordinator, bgrifa@vcu.edu