



Infant & Toddler Connection of Virginia

MONTHLY UPDATE

February 2016

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STATE SYSTEMIC IMPROVEMENT PLAN (SSIP)

As part of the State Performance Plan /Annual Performance Report, each state is required to develop and submit to the U.S. Department of Education, Office of Special Education Programs, a State Systemic Improvement Plan (SSIP). We are in the second year, Phase II, of developing the plan.

The measurable result that will be the focus of Virginia's SSIP is increasing the statewide percentage of infants and toddlers with IFSPs (exiting early intervention at age level) who demonstrate improved use of appropriate behaviors to meet their needs.

The following steps are underway in order to finalize Phase II of the SSIP for submission to OSEP by April 1, 2016:

- The draft improvement plan was posted in the SSIP section of the state website in early December, and stakeholders were invited to review and provide input on the draft plan through January 7, 2016.
- We received input from 6 individuals and 2 groups. A summary of the input received has been posted in the SSIP section of our website, <http://www.infantva.org/Sup-SSIP.htm> under Stakeholder Feedback.
- State Leadership Teams will consider this stakeholder input during their January meetings.
- In February, State staff then will consider all stakeholder input as well as

feedback from national technical assistance providers as we finalize the SSIP for submission.

- An information webinar, which will be recorded and archived, will be held in March to ensure consistent understanding of the steps and activities on the final SSIP and what these will mean for local systems and providers.

If you have any questions about the SSIP, please feel free to contact [Kyla Patterson](#).

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THE DECISION TREE

The Decision Tree



Child Indicator Seeds for Success

Why Culture Matters: The Influence Migration & Acculturation on Arab-American Families

Recently there has been much media attention focused on the migration of Syrian refugees to the United States. For the 2016 fiscal year, it is expected that the United States will be increasing the number of Syrian refugees. In addition, the Infant & Toddler Connection of Virginia has seen an increase in the numbers of children served from Middle Eastern Countries over the last few years.

Currently there are approximately 3.5 million Arab-Americans residing in the United States. The U.S. Census Bureau considers anyone who reported being Algerian, Bahraini, Egyptian, Emirati, Iraqi, Jordanian, Kuwaiti, Lebanese, Libyan, Moroccan, Omani, Palestinian, Qatari, Saudi Arabian, Syrian, Tunisian, and Yemeni to be of Arab ancestry. Arab Americans are found in every state, but more than two thirds live in just ten states, one of which is Virginia. The five top "Arabic" languages are Arabic, Persian, Turkish, Berber, and Kurdish. While many native Arab-Americans are well integrated into American society, many newcomers are just beginning to adapt to American life.

Moving to another country and raising children in a new culture, such as the U.S., with different cultural values can be complicated, challenging, and stressful. The influences and pressures of acculturation affect every family member and operate in every facet of family life including child bearing, parenting young children, school functioning, adolescence, marriage, the couple relationship and the health and well being of family members. The process of acculturation to the U.S. can be impacted by several factors, for instance, the country of origin, length of stay in the U.S., reasons for immigration, the ability to return or visit the home country, the long-term plans for

staying in the U.S., and language issues among others (Al-Subaie & Alhamad, 2000).

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ITOTS Version 3.1.16 Changes

This deployment includes:

1. Addition of a contacts module
 - a. Collects information regarding the child's custodians
 - b. Provides source for collection of Family Survey names and addresses
2. Email notifications regarding practitioner certification status
 - a. Practitioners and their associated managers receive notice when the practitioners discipline specific qualifications:
 - i. are about to expire
 - ii. have expired and their EI certification is now inactive
 - b. Practitioners and their associated managers receive 90, 60 and 30-day notice when the practitioners Early Intervention Certification:
 - i. is about to expire
 - ii. has expired
3. Eliminates six month limit on Child Outcomes data entry and restricts data entry for exit data so that exit assessment date may not be later than the child's Date of Closure.
4. Add date of closure of the selection criterion of the Ad Hoc report.
5. Adds two new cumulative reports to the OSEP Reports to meet federal reporting requirements:
 - a. Cumulative Child Count by Age and Race/Ethnicity in Range
 - b. Cumulative Child County by Gender in Range

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Did You Know? Physician Certifications

Lately the State office has been asked several questions about back dating physician certifications. So what does DMAS say about all this, to backdate or not to backdate?

DMAS Provider Manual, Early Intervention Services. Chapter 4, p. 8 states:
"Physician, physician assistant, or nurse practitioner certification is required for services listed on the initial IFSP, annual IFSPs and any time services change (as

determined through the IFSP Review process). Service changes include a change in the frequency, length, intensity, duration, or type of EI service and/or discipline. The IFSP must be certified by the physician, physician assistant, or nurse practitioner as a whole (i.e. it is not acceptable to have more than one individual or agency obtain certification for individual services on the IFSP). If the IFSP (including initial, annual, IFSP Reviews) is not certified by a physician, physician assistant or nurse practitioner signature within 30 days of the date of the first visit for the service(s) listed on the IFSP, services provided prior to the certification date are not eligible for DMAS reimbursement. This includes changes in services as determined through the IFSP review process. The certification of the IFSP is important for the health and welfare of the EI member. While the responsibility of obtaining the physician, physician assistant, or nurse practitioner certification may be delegated to one individual/agency, all practitioners involved in the care of the child must ensure that the certification is obtained within the required timeline."

Conclusion: Though the DMAS Early Intervention Services Manual does not specifically address "backdating", the language is clear that the physician, physician assistant or nurse practitioner certification must be obtained within the specified timeline. Communications with DMAS, as well as results of QMR appeals have confirmed that 'backdating' is not permitted.

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Virginia Department of Education Teacher Licensure Renewals

DOE teacher licenses expire on June 30th of each year. If your DOE license expires on June 30, 2016, now is the time to send all appropriate documentation for renewal to Faye Hopkins, Licensure Specialist, Virginia Department of Education, Division of Teacher Education and Licensure, P.O. Box 2120, Richmond, VA 23218-2120. In order to expedite your review, be sure to include in a neatly organized packet, all required documentation listed in the DOE licensure manual http://www.doe.virginia.gov/teaching/licensure/licensure_renewal_manual.pdf.

Initial DOE licensure applications should continue to be sent to Terri Strange-Boston, Technical Assistance Consultant, I&TC of Virginia, DBHDS, 1220 Bank Street, Richmond, VA 23219, (terri.strange-boston@dbhds.virginia.gov).

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Part C Staff Directory

Catherine Hancock	<i>Early Intervention Administrator</i>	(804) 371-6592
Anne Brager	<i>Part C Technical Assistant Consultant</i>	(434) 374-2120
Richard Corbett	<i>Part C Monitoring Consultant</i>	(804) 786-9682

Karen Durst	Part C Technical Assistant Consultant	(804) 786-9844
Cori Hill	Part C Training Consultant	(540) 943-6776
David Mills	Part C Data Manager	(804) 371-6593
Sarah Moore	Part C Monitoring Consultant	(804) 371-5208
Kyla Patterson	Part C Consultant	(860) 430-1160
Irene Scott	Administrative & Office Specialist III	(804) 786-4868
Terri Strange-Boston	Part C Technical Assistant Consultant	(804) 786-0992
Beth Tolley	Early Intervention Team Leader	(804) 371-6595
LaKeisha White	Office Services Specialist	(804) 786-3710
Telisha Woodfin	Part C Monitoring Consultant	(804) 786-1522

Note about This Update:

This Update is prepared by the Infant & Toddler Connection of Virginia State Team at the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services as a means of sharing current information from the DBHDS/Part C Office.

Enrollment of Children in the Medicaid Data System (VAMMIS)

Please note the following contact information for questions about enrollment of children in the Medicaid Data System (VAMMIS).

- [Irene Scott](#) * 804-786-4868
- [Beth Tolley](#) * 804-371-6595

Early Intervention Certification

For questions about certification of practitioners, contact [Irene Scott](#) * 804-786-4868

For questions related to completing the online application, contact [David Mills](#) * 804-371-6593

Infant & Toddler Connection of Virginia | (804) 786-3710 |

irene.scott@dbhds.virginia.gov | <http://infantva.org/>

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