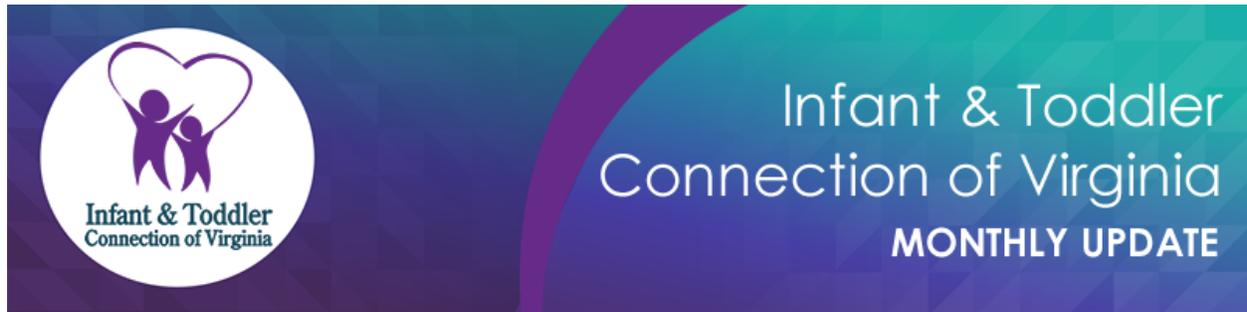


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April 2016

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### STATE SYSTEMIC IMPROVEMENT PLAN (SSIP)

We are excited to announce that we have submitted our SSIP to the Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) at the U.S. Department of Education! Thank you to everyone who has worked on this plan with us over the past two years. We are now moving into the implementation phase.

- An informational webinar about the SSIP plan was held on March 14, 2016. Participants included local system leaders, providers, and families. The purpose was to ensure consistent understanding of the steps and activities on the final SSIP and the impact of these planned activities. The webinar was also recorded and is available on the Virginia Early Intervention Professional Development website (at [http://www.veipd.org/main/sub\\_local\\_sys\\_mgt.html#webinar](http://www.veipd.org/main/sub_local_sys_mgt.html#webinar)) for those who were unable to participate in the live webinar.
- Our finalized SSIP and the related materials that were submitted to OSEP have been or will shortly be posted to the SSIP section of our website at <http://www.infantva.org/Sup-SSIP.htm>.

### **Interested in participating in a stakeholder group or volunteering to review proposed materials related to our SSIP steps and activities?**

We are looking for people to help us with the following SSIP steps that will be addressed over the next year:

- Revising the Child Indicators Booklet
- Testing an electronic version of the Child Indicators Booklet
- Reviewing proposed revisions to the EI Activity Note
- Reviewing proposed tools and requirements for measuring inter-rater reliability on the child outcome ratings

- Reviewing the proposed orientation package on coaching and natural learning environment practices
- Determining fidelity assessment tools and processes
- Reviewing draft information sheets about EI for families and physicians

If you're interested in participating, please send your name, your role in the EI system (service coordinator, service provider, parent, administrator, etc.), email address, and area of interest (from the list above) to [k.patterson@dbhds.virginia.gov](mailto:k.patterson@dbhds.virginia.gov) by **April 15, 2016**.

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## THE DECISION TREE--UNDERSTANDING CROSS-CULTURAL DIFFERENCES

### The Decision Tree

#### Child Indicator Seeds for Success

#### Why Culture Matters: Understanding Cross-Cultural Differences



The information provided here about various cultures is meant to assist providers by offering a general framework/understanding of cultural awareness. Keep in mind that we are purposefully generalizing each presented culture's values and practices, and that individual families may vary from their cultural norms for many reasons. There are no strict givens in any culture as that simply does not allow for the variation and diversity of individuals and their unique experiences.

That said, why have we decided to put so much emphasis on cultural awareness? We know memorizing lists of characteristics or do and don'ts per culture is impractical and leads to stereotyping. When we stereotype people we tend to apply characteristics too rigidly, as if to say that ALL people from a particular culture believe the same things and behave in the same ways. We know that's not true. However, we also know providing family-centered services are dependent on successful communication between families and their early intervention team. Developing an awareness of the values and beliefs of families from different cultures and how these may differ from ours helps minimize misconceptions, miscommunication and unfavorable outcomes.

Let's look at the Asian culture for instance. There are three distinct ethnicities that make up the "Asian" community: 1. Pacific Islanders, mostly from Hawaii, Samoan Islands and Guam; 2. Southeast Asians, mostly comprised of Vietnam, Thailand, Cambodia, Laos, Burmese and Philippine; 3. East Asians, including Chinese, Japanese, and Korean (Trueba, Chang, & Ima 1993). Each of these ethnicities differs in socio-cultural traits, as do the subgroups within each. Nonetheless, people belonging to "Asian" cultures are generally accustomed to communication styles that may be significantly different than other cultures.

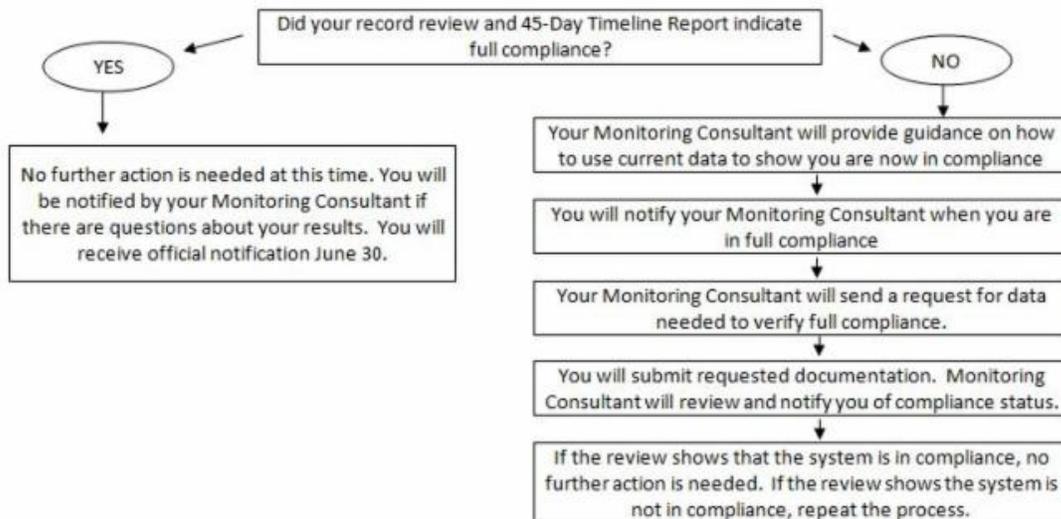
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## Annual Record Review -- Quick Reference Guide

### Annual Record Review Process – Correction Prior to Notification Quick Reference Guide

All local systems are required to complete and submit requested information annually to ensure 100% compliance with Indicators 1 (Timely Initiation of Services), 7 (45-Day Timeline) and 8 (Transition). The flow chart below provides a quick visual resource for required next steps based on results of the record reviews and the 45-Day Timeline as confirmed by your Monitor. Local System Managers should refer to the **Annual Local System Record Review: Correction of Noncompliance Prior to Notification** document for detailed instructions.



Months Available to Show Full Compliance		
	You review data for this month to determine compliance.	Corresponding Month for ITCVA to review documentation/verify compliance.
<b>Indicator 1: Timely Initiation of Services</b>	January	March
	February	April
	March	May
	April	Early June (Request must be submitted by June 1)
<b>Indicator 7: 45-Day Timeline</b>	January	April
	February	May
	March	Early June (Request must be submitted by June 1)
<b>Indicator 8: Transition</b>	January/ February	March
	March	April
	April	May
	May	Early June (Request must be submitted by June 1)

[Click Here to View Document](#)

### Early Intervention Permanent Regulations

The permanent Early Intervention regulations became final on February 27, 2016. Here is a link if you would like to review them:

<http://law.lis.virginia.gov/admincode/title12/agency35/chapter225/>

The changes from the Emergency Regulations to the Permanent regulations were minimal. There was some clarification of language that was non-substantive. Also, other non-substantive changes include conforming DBHDS Early Intervention Educator qualifications to the Dept. of Education licensing categories. This does not require persons currently certified as an EI Educator to do anything. It merely makes sure that DOE and DBHDS use the same language.

Also, language requiring DBHDS to notify practitioners of the expiration of their certification

and placement in inactive status was removed as DBHDS does not have the capacity to perform that function.

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### Practice Manual Revisions

Select revisions have been made in some Practice Manual chapters and those revised chapters have been or will soon be posted to the Infant & Toddler Connection of Virginia website ([www.infantva.org](http://www.infantva.org)). Changes include the following.

- **Chapter 7, pages 30-32 and Chapter 9, page 4:** Changes related to period over which service frequency can be planned and expected documentation when a longer period is used.
- **Chapter 11, pages 35-37:** Minor clarifications to wording in reimbursement tables
- **Chapter 5, page 12:** Clarification regarding articulation and eligibility
- **Chapter 8, page 32-33:** Clarification regarding exit assessment to support more complete child outcome data
- **Chapters 3 - 9 and Glossary:** Changed child indicators to child outcomes throughout to align Virginia's wording with national wording. Clarified that, in contrast, individualized outcomes for children identified in the IFSP are IFSP outcomes.

The Version Control Table at <http://www.infantva.org/Pr-PracticeManual-Forms.htm> will also be updated with links to Track Changes versions of each chapter (showing what changed) and a list of pages that will need to be reprinted in order to update any printed copy of the manual.

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### Part C Staff Directory

<a href="#">Catherine Hancock</a>	<i>Early Intervention Administrator</i>	<b>(804) 371-6592</b>
<a href="#">Anne Brager</a>	<i>Part C Technical Assistant Consultant</i>	<b>(434) 374-2120</b>
<a href="#">Richard Corbett</a>	<i>Part C Monitoring Consultant</i>	<b>(804) 786-9682</b>
<a href="#">Karen Durst</a>	<i>Part C Technical Assistant Consultant</i>	<b>(804) 786-9844</b>
<a href="#">Cori Hill</a>	<i>Part C Training Consultant</i>	<b>(540) 943-6776</b>
<a href="#">David Mills</a>	<i>Part C Data Manager</i>	<b>(804) 371-6593</b>
<a href="#">Sarah Moore</a>	<i>Part C Monitoring Consultant</i>	<b>(804) 371-5208</b>
<a href="#">Kyla Patterson</a>	<i>Part C Consultant</i>	<b>(860) 430-1160</b>
<a href="#">Irene Scott</a>	<i>Administrative &amp; Office Specialist III</i>	<b>(804) 786-4868</b>
<a href="#">Terri Strange-Boston</a>	<i>Part C Technical Assistant Consultant</i>	<b>(804) 786-0992</b>
<a href="#">Beth Tolley</a>	<i>Early Intervention Team Leader</i>	<b>(804) 371-6595</b>
<a href="#">LaKeisha White</a>	<i>Office Services Specialist</i>	<b>(804) 786-3710</b>

[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](mailto:irene.scott@dbhds.virginia.gov) | <http://infantva.org/>  
1220 Bank Street  
Richmond, VA 23219

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