



Infant & Toddler  
Connection of Virginia

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Department of Mental Health,  
Mental Retardation and Substance Abuse Services

1220 Bank Street, 9<sup>th</sup> Floor  
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(804) 786-3710

To: Local System Managers  
VICC Members

From: Mary Ann Discenza

Date: December 1, 2006

Subj: Public Comment on Virginia Part C Policies and Procedures

Virginia's Part C Policies and Procedures are available for public comment from December 1, 2006 through January 29, 2007. Copies of the revised policies and procedures are attached and are available on the Infant & Toddler Connection of Virginia website at [www.infantva.org](http://www.infantva.org). Please submit written comments through January 29, 2007 to:

Mary Ann Discenza, State Coordinator  
DMHMRSAS  
Part C Early Intervention, 9<sup>th</sup> Floor  
P. O. Box 1797  
Richmond, Virginia 23218-1797

Public hearings on the policies and procedures will be held at two locations:

- Richmond Area: January 11, 2007 from 1:00 PM-3:00 PM at the Henrico Area DMHMRSAS East Center (Room 23), 4825 South Laburnum Avenue, Richmond, Virginia; and
- Southwest Virginia: January 18, 2007 from 1:00 PM-3:00 PM at New River Valley Community Services (New River Room), 700 University City Boulevard, Blacksburg, Virginia.

The public comment version of the policies and procedures uses "track changes" to show where these policies and procedures differ from those developed in 2000. Please note that some additions/deletions actually reflect cutting and pasting of existing language. Substantive revisions to the policies and procedures are being proposed as result of the following:

1. Changes to Part C of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act as required by the 2004 Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act.
2. Changes in actual practice in Virginia since the current policies and procedures were written in 2000.
3. A desire to simplify the policies and procedures and ensure they are clear and functional.
  - Policies are almost exclusively federal language now, with existing State language in the policies either deleted or moved into procedures.

- The number of places where local systems must develop local policies and procedures has been significantly reduced (In addition, local systems will no longer be required to have a “full” set of local policies and procedures that repeats all State language and inserts specific local information where needed. Local systems will have policies and procedures only for those sections where that is indicated in the State policies and procedures as required. After being submitted to the Part C Office and approved, those local policies and procedures will only have to be submitted again if substantially revised).

I would appreciate your help in sharing the revised Part C policies and procedures widely with local stakeholders. I look forward to receiving your comments.