

Virginia Interagency Coordinating Council (VICC) Meeting
The Arc of Virginia
June 10, 2015
Final Minutes

The June 10, 2015 Virginia Interagency Coordinating Council Meeting was called to order by Kelly Hill. The roll was called by Karen Durst. There were fifteen (15) VICC members in attendance. Please see the attendance list following the minutes. The March 11, 2015 VICC minutes were approved with Allan Phillips making the motion to approve and Kristen Jamison seconding the motion.

Agency Reports

The Arc of Virginia, New Path Program

Angela Langrehr reported that the ARC of Virginia has selected a new Administrative Coordinator who will be joining the team soon. Angela was excited to have been invited to the The Early Childhood Personnel Center (ECPC) Leadership Conference that was hosted by UCONN. ECPC provides national leadership and coordination relative to early childhood CSPD through extensive participation and collaboration with relevant national membership organizations, technical assistance and information dissemination programs, and administrative entities. An ongoing part of the Arc of Virginia's mission is information and referrals. Parents have a lot of concerns about how to get their children involved and a lot of questions about accessing the EDCD waiver. The ARC of Virginia has identified and nominated parents to serve on the SSIP Leadership team.

Lastly, registration is open for the ARC of Virginia's 2015 State Convention that will take place on August 10th – 12th at the Wyndham Virginia Beach Oceanfront. The keynote speakers are Torrie Dunlap, CPLP and Dan Habib. Catherine Hancock is also on a panel presentation and will speak about Early Childhood. Registration is also open offering Early Intervention scholarships. Please contact Angela Langrehr for details about the scholarships.

Virginia Department for the Blind and Vision Impaired (VDBVI)

Lisa Autwarter and Caren Phipps both reported that the agency is currently focused on life span transitions. More information regarding transitions will be forthcoming. Because of the Education Coordinator vacancy in Roanoke, the agency has been trying to figure out how to cover that area. There are only three and a half Education Coordinators throughout the state.

Virginia Department for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (VDDHH) -No Report

VA Department of Behavioral Health & Developmental Services (DBHDS)-No Report

Virginia Department of Education (VDOE)

Dr. Patricia Abrams informed the VICC that the agency is currently in the process of interviewing for the recently vacated Early Childhood Special Education Specialist position. The department welcomes Dr. Debbie Pfeiffer. Dr. Pfeiffer will provide more outreach to schools for the inclusion of children that are deaf or blind. In funding news, Virginia has received a Virginia Preschool Initiative Plus Grant (VPI) for \$17.5 million dollars. The VPI Grant will be dispersed to 11 school divisions throughout Virginia to help increase their preschool initiative slots. The Virginia Department of Education provided an \$11,000.00 supplement to schools to support Preschool Special Education Programs. 48 school divisions applied and funds were awarded.

Lastly, Pat reminded the VICC that the Creating Connections to Shining Stars Conference will be held at the Wyndham Beachfront Hotel in Virginia Beach, VA. The pre-conference will be held on July 8, 2015 and the full conference will be July 9-10, 2015. The Creating Connections to Shining Stars (CCSS) is a collaborative effort between many state agencies and early childhood programs in Virginia. The conference will focus on promoting and supporting the implementation of evidence-based practices in inclusive settings for young children, both with and without disabilities.

Virginia Department of Education-Project HOPE-Virginia-No Report

Virginia Department of Health (VDH)

Dr. Bethany Geldmaker updated the VICC on summer safety tips for children. Extreme heat is the leading cause of weather-related deaths in the United States, 6 to 8 children will die from being left in vehicles. Heat stress ranges from milder conditions like heat rash and heat cramps to the most common, heat exhaustion. The most serious heat-related illness is heat stroke. Your best defense against heat-related illness is prevention. Staying cool and making simple changes in your fluid intake, activities, and clothing during hot weather can help you remain safe and healthy. Here are some tips to avoid heat-related illness during the summer:

Drink water When the temperature rises, it is important to drink plenty of water. Drinks that contain caffeine, large amounts of sugar or alcohol should be avoided because they can cause you to become dehydrated.

Keep cool indoors On hot days, prevent illness by keeping cool indoors. If your home is not air conditioned, try to spend the hottest hours of the day in a cool public place such as a library, movie theater, or store.

Dress for the heat Wear lightweight, light-colored clothing. Light colors will reflect away some of the sun's energy. It is also a good idea to wear hats or to use an umbrella. Always apply sunscreen to exposed skin.

Limit physical activity Avoid excessive physical exertion in hot temperatures, especially in the middle of the day. If you must work outdoors, stay hydrated by drinking 2-4

glasses of water each hour and take frequent breaks in a cool place. Even a few hours in an air-conditioned environment reduces the danger of heat-related illness.

Do not keep children or pets in cars Temperatures inside a car with windows up can reach over 150 degrees quickly, resulting in heat stroke and death.

Check on your neighbors Although anyone can suffer heat-related illness, some people are at greater risk than others. People aged 65 or older are particularly susceptible to heat-related illnesses and complications that can result during periods of high temperatures and humidity.

Dr. Bethany Geldmaker is currently working on writing grants with the focus on healthy nutrition and physical activity in summer programs. She is also working with the University of North Carolina to test pilot an online nutrition and physical activity program.

Lastly, Dr. Geldmaker informed the VICC that the Virginia Department of Health (VDH) is on top of and aware of the viral threat in South Korea (MERS). Although there has been no report of the virus in the United States, the VDH will continue to stay abreast of the situation.

Virginia Department of Medical Assistance Services (DMAS)

The following DMAS Update was given by Joanne Boise.

Maternal and Child Health Unit staff met with Virginia Commonwealth University (VCU) Partnership for People with Disabilities staff on June 1, 2015 to discuss the VCU-sponsored infant and early childhood mental health workgroups efforts to address early childhood mental health under EPSDT and Early Intervention. Staff recommended VCU consulting with the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services (DBHDS) to discuss applicability with Early Intervention for birth to age 3.

In an effort to expand FAMIS to children of state employees, as requested by Governor McAuliffe, the Department of Medical Assistance Services provided open enrollment for FAMIS and FAMIS MOMS coverage. There have been about 550 children of state employees enrolled in FAMIS, 10 enrolled in FAMIS MOMS, and an additional 300 in Medicaid.

The Department of Medical Assistance is ramping up for their yearly Back to School Campaign. Television and radio spots are being developed and for the first time in a long while, funding is being provided for public relations and marketing.

Lastly, Joanne shared the following statistics:

Early Intervention and Medicaid		
Enrollment	# Enrolled as of 5/1/15	# Enrolled as of 6/1/15
Early Intervention FAMIS	224	220
Early Intervention Medicaid	3,935	4,051
Total Children Enrolled	4,159	4,271

# of Claims May 2015	Total Paid Amount May 2015	# of Claims SFY 2015 to Date	Total Paid Amount SFY 2015 to Date
2,891	\$416,735	117,647	\$ 16,117,483

Virginia Department of Social Services- No Report

State Corporation Commission (CSS), Bureau of Insurance-No Report

Part C Update Including SSIP

The following SSIP Update was given by Catherine Hancock.

SSIP Update – State Leadership Teams

Functional Assessment

- *Broad Improvement Strategy:* Identify and/or develop and implement the professional development resources and mechanisms for ongoing support necessary to ensure early intervention service providers, including service coordinators, consistently conduct initial and ongoing functional assessment that leads to consistent and accurate determination of entry/exit ratings in the area of children using appropriate behaviors to meet their needs.
- Priority Activities
 - Define functional assessment, related terms and evidence-based practices
 - Define a consistent process that must be used to determine the child indicator ratings to improve our statewide inter-rater reliability
 - Improve communication and transparency with families about assessment and child indicator ratings
 - Ensure all providers have a solid knowledge of typical child development and how it relates to each of the three child indicators

Coaching and Natural Learning Environment Practices

- *Broad Improvement Strategy:* Identify and/or develop and implement the professional development resources and mechanisms for ongoing support necessary to ensure early intervention service providers, including service coordinators, consistently use coaching and natural learning environment practices when planning and delivering early intervention services.
- Main barriers/challenges to address
 - Orientation and training of new staff
 - Educating families about coaching and natural learning environment practices
 - Collaborating with child care providers to deliver evidence-based practices in child care settings
 - Practice issues (variability of knowledge and skills across providers; using the practices while managing challenges during visits)

Local System Capacity

- *Broad Improvement Strategy:* Increase local system capacity to determine the extent and fidelity of provider use of evidence-based practices, including the ability to identify and address fiscal and other local system issues that support or hinder full implementation of these practices and the ability to assess the impact of evidence-based practices on results for children and families
- Still in the process of identifying priority improvement activities. Some being considered are:
 - Supervision module
 - Additional support and training for local system managers given complexity of job
 - Better definition of terms and practices to ensure common understanding
 - More “packaged” materials and defined practices for initial orientation of new providers and ongoing support for continued professional growth and development

Data System Capacity

- *Broad Improvement Strategy:* Enhance the capacity of the statewide early intervention data system to efficiently collect and report comprehensive data on child indicator results that helps in evaluation and improvement planning at the state and local levels
- This team will hold its first meeting in June
- Until now, internal work has occurred at DBHDS to determine realistic options for addressing the current limitations of ITOTS so the leadership team can plan accordingly.
- We are in the process of exploring existing programs/software that may better meet the expanding needs of Virginia’s early intervention system—and ultimately provide an online electronic health record/case management-type system.

The state leadership team will look at how localities can best collect and use data within our current system until a replacement is identified and launched and will work collaboratively with DBHDS IT to identify our future data needs/wants and assist with evaluating potential replacement systems as they are identified.

Public Comment

The following Italicized Public Comment was submitted verbatim by Susan Shaw on behalf of CoCoA.

Thank you for this opportunity to speak. I am speaking today on behalf of the CoCoA Steering Committee, and Carol Burke, Chair who could not be here today. CoCoA is the local system manager association, and the steering committee includes two local system managers from each of the six regions of the state.

We look forward to the results of the insurance form recently completed by local systems. We appreciate the efforts of the VICC’s Insurance Committee in addressing Part C private

insurance billing issues, and the steering committee was glad to support the VICC's efforts to obtain insurance data from all systems.

We also look forward to the work of the four state Leadership Teams. Please let us know if CoCoA can be of any assistance. Through the steering committee CoCoA can quickly reach out to the six regions to collect input. We are willing to compile any feedback so there is one response per region, and forward to the Leadership Teams the information collected.

Again, thank you for the opportunity to speak today.

Professional Development

Please see the attached Professional Development handout provided.

Insurance Committee Update

The following Italicized Insurance Committee report was given verbatim by Kelly Hill.

There was a very good response to the Survey sent out on 4/15/15. It was kept open until 5/15/15 at the request of some Local System Managers. Only one did not respond. Four or five need follow up for missing information or clarifications. The committee has not had a chance to complete a thorough review of all data, but preliminary observations are that more Local Systems are in networks or using Providers that are in network compared to 2012.

Data supports there is still an inconsistent process for getting into some networks; reimbursement rates are low; authorizations are time intensive; and Tricare's high rate of denials for speech under 18 months. Our plan is to complete a detailed review of the survey information and provide a summary at next VICC meeting. Overall, we were pleased with the response and appreciate the effort made by all of the LSM's to gather the information.

Early Childhood Mental Health

Bonnie Grifa, State Early Childhood Mental Health Coordinator shared information about the Early Childhood Mental Health Virginia initiative. Please review the attached handout.

Quality Improvement Committee

Please see attached handouts presented by Allan Phillips.

Vacant Officer Positions

Due to the recent retirement of Phyllis Mondak, the position of VICC Vice-Chair became vacant. Joanne Boise has agreed to serve as Vice-Chair. Additionally, with the change of appointments,

the Secretary's seat also became vacant. Catherine Cook agreed to serve as Secretary. A motion to approve was made by Kelly Hill and seconded by Allan Phillips. The motion was carried. The officers will complete the remainder of this Federal Fiscal Year.

VICC Officers

The topic of election of VICC officers for the upcoming two years was discussed. VICC By-laws state that an election of VICC officers is to be held on an odd year cycle. The Chair, Vice-Chair and Secretary are to be elected and will serve a two-year term of office. A committee was formed to develop a slate of members who are willing to serve as VICC officers. Those names must be presented to the VICC in writing one month prior to the September meeting. A vote for the officers will be held at the September 09, 2015 VICC meeting. Those serving on the Nominating Committee are Allan Phillips, Jeannie Odachowski and Angela Leonard.

Action Items

- Invite Commissioner Ferguson to attend the September 09, 2015 VICC Meeting.
- Analysis of the information by the Insurance Committee of the Insurance Forms completed by Local System Managers.

Agenda Items

- Introduction and welcome of DBHDS Commissioner Debra Ferguson (tentative)
- State Systemic Improvement Plan Update
- Detailed report by the Insurance Committee on the Insurance Forms information
- Professional Development
- Agency Reports
- Election of VICC Officers

The next meeting of the VICC will be held September 9, 2015. The location is:

The Arc of Virginia
2147 Staples Mill Road
Richmond, VA 23230
(804) 649-8481

The meeting was adjourned.

VICC Members Present:

Lisa Autwarter
Kelly Hill
Catherine Rey
Kristen Jamison
Allan Phillips
Caren Phipps
Jeannie Odachowski

VICC Members Absent:

Leslie Hutcheson Prince
Aleta Lawson
Kerry White
Heather Norton
Delegate Daun Hester
Cathy Cook

Yolanda Tennyson
Sandra Woodward
Angela Leonard
Wyvonne Harsley
Bonnie Grifa
Bethany Geldmaker
Dr. Patricia Abrams
Joanne Boise
Kate McCauley

Family Representatives Present:
Angela Langrehr
Rebecca King