

Virginia Interagency Coordinating Council (VICC) Meeting
VACSB
March 14, 2012

The March 14, 2012 Virginia Interagency Coordinating Council Meeting was called to order by the Chair, Lissa Power de-Fur. The role was called by Karen Durst. There were seventeen (17) VICC members in attendance. Please see the attendance list following the minutes.

The December 14, 2011 VICC minutes were corrected and approved with Katy McCullough making the motion to approve and Phyllis Mondak seconding the motion.

Lissa Power de-Fur introduced Catherine Hancock, the new State Part C Administrator. She officially began working in the Part C Office on December 19, 2011. Catherine has previously worked with the Department of Medical Assistance in the area of policy development.

Agency Reports

Virginia Department for the Blind and Vision Impaired (VDBVI)-No Report

Virginia Department of Behavioral Health & Developmental Services (VDBHDS)

Catherine Hancock reported that The Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) will be suspending verification visits for next year. Catherine also reported that many local systems have requested additional funding. Catherine added that some additional funds are available but the amount requested exceeds the amount the department has. These requests are being reviewed. Lastly, Catherine will be sending out a request for a list of private providers from the local systems.

Beth Tolley gave an update on the EI System Transformation Task Force. Beth reported that the positive impact of the Medicaid EI Initiative was that there are more providers in the system and there are many more children being serviced. Beth also noted the negatives as being insurance reimbursement challenges, challenges managing independent contractors, and billing issues. Beth also noted that on April 1, 2012, billing policies will change.

Janet Lung wanted everyone to know that May is Mental Health Month and May 9, 2012 is Children's Awareness Day.

Virginia Department of Education (VDOE)

Phyllis Mondak reported that combined with The Virginia Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services, The Virginia Department of Education is sponsoring a Creating Connections to Shining Stars: Virginia's Collaborative Early Childhood Birth through Five Conference. This conference is a collaborative effort between early intervention providers and early childhood special educators in Virginia. It will be held for three full days from 8:00 am - 4:30 pm on July 16, 17, and 18, 2012. The conference will focus on evidence-based practices that connect the dots to quality early childhood practices, birth to age five. Topics will include issues such as transition, assistive technology, autism, coaching, curriculum framework, the impact of prematurity, the primary provider model, behavior,

assessment, and inclusive practices. The event is designed for early childhood special educators, early childhood educators, early intervention providers, paraprofessionals, Head Start, Early Head Start, Even Start, and Title 1 personnel, related service providers, administrators and supervisors, and families. The conference will be held at The Cavalier Hotel in Virginia Beach, VA. More information on the conference can be found at WWW.TTACONLINE.ORG.

Virginia Department of Education-Project HOPE-Virginia

Dr. Patricia Popp reported that there are over 15,000 homeless children in Virginia. She also stated that the initial mailing of the New Parent Packs that include information on school contacts, a developmental wheel, books, resources and guidance information has been completed and the data collection has started for children Pre K and up.

Phyllis Mondak pointed out that the link to the definition of “homelessness” can be found on the Project Hope website.

Virginia Department of Health (VDH) -No Report

Virginia Department of Medical Assistance Services (DMAS)-No Report

Virginia Department of Social Services (VDSS)

Nancy Perkins reported that April is Child Abuse Prevention Month and on April 2nd the Every Child Counts Conference will be held. Chaka and Mya Smart are keynote speakers for the conference. Registration for the conference will be on the Department of Social Services website.

Nancy Perkins added that information on Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder can be obtained from the Policy Specialist, Mary Walter. Mary can be reached at (804) 726-7755 or at MARY.WALTER@DSS.VIRGINIA.GOV.

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

Virginia Department for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (VDDHH)

Leslie Hutchenson Prince informed us that the delivery of direct services in Early Intervention is limited but Sign Language interpreters can be requested for a fee. If Sign Language interpreters are needed, please contact Leslie as soon as possible because interpreters take a while to find.

Leslie also let us know that there is a Technology Assistance Program (TAP) offered that provides adaptive telecommunication equipment to qualified applicants whose hearing loss or disabilities prevent them from using a standard telephone. This is a limited resource. Applicants must be a resident of Virginia and meet current financial guidelines.

The Virginia Department for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing’s Virginia Relay service is running very smooth. Virginia Relay enables people who are deaf, hard of hearing, deaf-blind, or with

speech disabilities to communicate by TTY (text telephone) or another assistive telephone device with anyone who uses a standard phone. The Department also has a Quality Assurance program for interpreters designed to assist developing professionals identify their strengths and weaknesses in their knowledge and skills of interpreting in order to promote growth in interpreting competence.

Early Childhood Mental Health (ECMH)

Bonnie Grifa informed us that she has changed positions as of February and now serves as the State ECMH Coordinator. She is located at Virginia Commonwealth University's Partnership for People with Disabilities under the supervision of Deana Buck.

Bonnie went on to report on The *Infant & Child Mental Health Committee of Virginia*:

Practices

- After researching several options as well as what other states were doing and recommendations by national technical assistance and early childhood organizations, the Committee recommended that Virginia adopt The Center on the Social and Emotional Foundations for Early Learning (CSEFEL) *Pyramid Model*.
- Training at the base of the pyramid, teaches providers to learn and utilize techniques for ALL children to promote healthy social-emotional development.
- Establishing a link between CSEFEL and Virginia.
- CSEFEL is assisting the ECMH with developing materials and training for VA using the Pyramid Model and the CSEFEL materials;
 - A Faculty Institute was held in February 2011 where a CSEFEL National Consultant worked with the professors from Virginia community colleges and universities that train students for a degree in Early Childhood Special Education.
 - The participants learned how to infuse their university or college curriculum with the CSEFEL materials and Pyramid model framework.
 - There are plans to do this type of training with the universities and community colleges that train students in other related degrees such as Social Work, Early Childhood Education, PT, OT, Speech, etc.

In addition:

ECMH's first Train the Trainer event was held last fall and presented by a CSEFEL National Trainer. One hundred early childhood professionals participated from a variety of settings and programs. The ECMH Committee is planning to provide this type of training on an ongoing basis. The purpose is to train early childhood professionals that can train others in their region on the Pyramid model and the CSEFEL materials. With the guidance of the state leadership team for professional development of all early childhood providers in VA, the VA Cross Sector Professional Development Committee, CSEFEL trainers will be identified in 5 designated regions or hubs in the state (Fairfax, Norfolk, Richmond, Blacksburg and Harrisonburg) to be part of regional professional development teams.

The ECMH Committee Plan to provide additional CSEFEL training including:

- *Coaching training related to using the CSEFEL Pyramid model and materials;*
- *Parent training using the Parent modules;*
- *Training on use of the CSEFEL observation tools;*
- *Training on Developing Positive Behavior Support Plans;*
- *Leadership training for individual sites that want to fully implement the Pyramid Model within their setting; and*
- *Additional support for those trained as CSEFEL trainers.*

Competency & Endorsement

- VA purchased a license agreement with Michigan using American Recovery & Reinvestment Act (ARRA) funding from the Part C Early Intervention program "Infant & Toddler Connection of Virginia" to use Michigan's competency & endorsement system and materials in Virginia.
- VA is now a part of a network or league of fourteen (14) states that have done this.
- A person endorsed in any of these states is recognized as having reciprocity and recognized as being endorsed in any of these 14 states.
- Monthly calls are held with the other 14 states as well as with Michigan and representatives from VA attend an annual "League of States" conference.
- Virginia is able to learn from the other states since they are further along with their endorsement...
- Michigan's materials includes a set of competencies for each level of the endorsement. This enables Virginia to ensure that anyone endorsed in Virginia at each of the 4 levels has the necessary knowledge, skills and abilities for that level to work with children birth to three in supporting their social-emotional needs.

- 1st VA Endorsement Cohort of Nine Candidates
 - VA’s first endorsement cohort of nine candidates was identified in March 2011 and is currently completing the endorsement process with Michigan on behalf of VA.
 - They will then serve as the “seed” to grow the endorsement in Virginia.
 - They will mentor future endorsement candidates and assist in effectively implementing the endorsement in Virginia.
 - Four (4) of the nine (9) initial candidates for VA are from Part C!!!
 - Terry Erlichman from Prince William;
 - Laura O’Neal from Norfolk; and
 - Jennifer Wolff and Laurie Feldman from Virginia Beach.
 - One of the key requirements for those being endorsed is reflective supervision.
 - We have contracted with a national expert in reflective supervision, Doug Davies, to do this for this first cohort.
 - It is anticipated that the application process will be opened for future endorsement candidates in VA in January of 2013.

Relationship with DBHDS

As the state Early Childhood Mental Health Coordinator, Bonnie is included in meetings with the DBHDS’s Office of Child and Family Services related to children’s mental health. The Coordinator of DBHDS’s new Children’s System of Care Grant, Pam Fisher, is now a member of the Infant & Child Mental Health Committee of Virginia (ICMHC) and Policy work group and Bonnie is now serving on several DBHDS children’s mental health committees to bridge their work.

Bonnie is planning to do a joint event with DBHDS on May 9th. More information to follow, this event is currently in the beginning planning phase.

Relationship to Part C

Catherine Hancock, Part C Administrator, is representing Part C/DBHDS on both the *Infant & Child Mental Health Committee of VA* and the *Early Childhood Advisory Council’s Family Wellness Task Force*.

There is also Part C staff, provider and parent representation including Local System Managers (Karen Davis from DELENOWISCO; Stacie Jackson from Staunton-Waynesboro), Infant Program Supervisor (Terry Erlichman, Prince William), Provider

agency (Tracy Miller, Rehab Associates), Parent (ARC-FIP, Debra Holloway) as well as several VICC members (Phyllis Mondak, VDOE, Tammy Whitlock, DMAS).

Requirements from OESP/IDEA Part C

OSEP requires states to demonstrate that children served by IDEA are benefiting from those services. For young children, birth through five, served under Part C and B/619 of IDEA, those child outcomes include:

- Positive social-emotional skills (including social relationships);
- Acquisition and use of knowledge and skills (including early language/communication), and
- Use of appropriate behavior to meet needs.

Specifically, states are required to monitor and report the percent of infants and toddlers with IFSPs who demonstrate improvements in those three areas. Two out of the three child outcomes to which states are accountable for child progress are directly related to social, emotional and behavioral development. Also, both the reauthorization of IDEA (2004) and the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (CAPTA, 2002), require the referral of children birth to three to Part C when there is substantiated abuse or neglect.

Position Paper

The purpose of the Infant & Toddler Coordinator's Association (ITCA) position paper is to define and support the appropriate application of infant mental health approaches through early intervention supports and services under IDEA Part C. The ITCA Position Paper recommends the following:

- Train early intervention personnel in the areas of early social and emotional development including attachment theory and parent-child interactions;
- Utilize appropriate screening tools and procedures that specifically address early social and emotional development as part of state's child find efforts;
- Include mental health / infant mental health professionals on evaluation teams, especially when evaluating children who are homeless, wards of the state, who have experienced traumatic separations from their primary caregivers, or who may have been traumatized by domestic violence, child abuse or neglect;

- Use the Diagnostic Classification of Mental Health and Other Developmental Disorders in Infancy and Early Childhood (DC:0-3) as diagnostic processes and codes for Medicaid and private health insurance plan reimbursement;
- Promote reimbursement by Medicaid of the full range of early intervention services that include family counseling, psychological and social work services, if listed on the Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP);
- Use of relationship-based and family-focused intervention strategies by early intervention personnel, regardless of professional discipline or the service being provided;
- Partner with state's infant mental health / children's mental health efforts to effectively utilize resources, coordinate efforts, and enhance the knowledge and practice base of all professionals interacting with families of infants and toddlers;
- Work across state agencies and service systems to increase the pool of counselors, social workers, psychologists and other clinical staff who are trained and competent in infant mental health intervention practices.
- Make available mental health consultation to early intervention teams in order to support their intervention with specific children and families, as well as to promote the capacity of personnel to use appropriate infant mental health approaches; and
- Promote reflective supervision opportunities for direct early intervention staff.

What Can You Do?

The Early Childhood Mental Health Committee would like to partner with the VICC to help support their efforts.

Next Steps???

Bonnie suggests that we think about how we might collaborate to look at how the State Early Childhood Mental Health position and the work of the ICMHC of VA & VAIMH can support Part C in strengthening training and support for Part C providers, children and families.

For Example:

Could we use the “*Position Paper*” which identifies provider skills & strategies and makes specific recommendations for Part C as the framework to develop a guidance document for the Infant & Toddler Connection of VA and to guide training efforts for Part C in this area?

- Would like to see what local systems currently have in place for identifying, evaluating and linking children to appropriate services in their area and what they think would be helpful to assist them in doing this as effectively as possible;

Bonnie is planning to submit a proposal for a session at Shining Stars to go over the recommendations in the Position Paper, what's happening at the state level to support this and then have examples of local systems talking about how they applied this information in their local system so others may get some ideas to strengthen this in their area if this sounds like something that might be helpful to Part C.

Public Comment

Public Comment was then provided by Alison Standring on behalf of the Infant and Toddler Connection of the Rappahannock Area and the Rappahannock Area Community Services Board.

The following italicized report is verbatim from a written report that was provided.

My name is Alison Standring. I am the Part C System Manager for the Rappahannock Area. On behalf of the Infant and Toddler Connection of the Rappahannock Area and the Rappahannock Area Community Services Board I would like to recognize Jill Donaldson, the Parent Education - Infant Development (PE-ID) Program Coordinator and Speech Language Pathologist. Mrs. Donaldson is retiring from the Rappahannock Area Community Services Board (RACSB) following a distinguished career. Her last day is March 30, 2012.

Mrs. Donaldson has worked with infants and children for more than 35 years. In 2011, she celebrated 15 years of service with RACSB. As PE-ID coordinator, Mrs. Donaldson supervised a staff of nearly 20 therapists and educators as well as provided direct services to children and families enrolled in the PE-ID program. As a Speech Language Pathologist, Mrs. Donaldson worked with children to develop oral-motor and feeding skills in addition to language development.

Mrs. Donaldson has positively impacted the lives of the children she served throughout her tenure at RACSB. As the program coordinator, she improved our community and early intervention services throughout Virginia. Mrs. Donaldson's outreach and education efforts to families, physicians, hospitals and school systems helped the program grow from less than 200 families to nearly 600 families served annually by the PE-ID program.

Prior to joining RACSB, Mrs. Donaldson was the program coordinator for the Parent-Infant Education Program through the Prince William County Community Services Board. Mrs. Donaldson also held positions in public school systems in California and Connecticut and private practice.

In 2007, Mrs. Donaldson received the Virginia Early Intervention Leadership Award presented by the Infant & Toddler Connection of Virginia. The annual award is presented to an outstanding individual for his/her significant contributions to the field of early intervention at the local, state, and national level that have improved or will improve the lives of young children with delays and disabilities and their families in Virginia.

According to her 2007 award nomination, Mrs. Donaldson “is sensitive to the child as an integral part of the family unit and is dedicated to the parent training model. Jill Donaldson’s knowledge and enthusiasm for early intervention services is appreciated not only by her colleagues but by the hundreds of children and families in our community who have benefited from her leadership.”

Professional Development

Deana Buck and Cori Hill provided information related to professional development and the Integrated Training Collaborative. The Annual Conference –*Creating Connections to Shining Stars 2012 conference will be held in Virginia Beach July 16th-18th*. Information is being disseminated about the conference via email list, monthly update, and at regional meetings. Debra Hollaway is also assisting Deana with connecting with families.

Deana informed us that there has been a curriculum created to reach physicians. There will also be a presentation at the VA Association of Childhood Education and Speech-Language- Hearing Association of Virginia to share professional development and encourage Speech Pathologists to join.

Short professional development videos are being developed with assistance from Alexandria and Fairfax.

Family Involvement Project Report:

Debra Holloway then provided the following report on behalf of the Family Involvement Project. The italicized report is verbatim from a written report provided.

Our staff continues to participate in committees and work groups as requested. Including the Virginia Autism Council, ITC, EI Task Force, EI TCM workgroup and Regulations Workgroup to name some. We hosted a webinar My Turn! Your Turn! Interactive Play Strategies for Young Families with Autism Spectrum Disorders presented by Dana Childress. Over 45 people participated including families and providers. Some providers scheduled their home visits with families during the webinar so the provider and family could participate together. The Arc of Virginia staff continues to provide technical assistance for families this quarter including assisting families with referral to services, transition and request about waiver information. We continue in development of the Early Intervention Family Support Network and met twice this quarter. This network is made up of families and VICC parent representatives and they will be our local connection as we are identifying one parent or board member of each of our 25 local Arc Chapters to be a part of this network. This network of families will be able to provide

support to local families, provide quality assurance feedback and participate on workgroups and committees. The Arc of Virginia staff was able to participate with an Advocacy Day at the White House with many senior white house officials and the President about disability policies. The Arc of Virginia also participated in advocacy events such as the Coalition Rally, Chapter Days, and educating families and local chapters about advocating for Early Intervention Targeted Case Management. The Arc of Virginia has three Medicaid Waiver webinars scheduled in the next few weeks as part of local systems staff meetings, please contact us if this is something your system would be interested in. The Arc of Virginia staff participated in a resource fair in Franklin VA. A webinar on SSI/SSDI is scheduled for April 30th. The Partnership for People with Disabilities and The Arc are working on a Medicaid Waiver Webinar; look for details to come out soon.

Insurance Issues/ Health Insurance Subcommittee Report

Beth Tolley reported follow-up information related to insurance issues and concerns:

- Who's in the network?
- Who's not in the network?
- Who are the private providers?

Beth also reported that once a clear idea of in-network and out-of network providers has been determined, it will be decided on how to get the out-of network providers in-network.

Beth has asked Kelly Hill to present at the Shining Stars Conference regarding "Everything you need to know about paying for things with insurance".

Beth introduced Althelia Battle from the Virginia State Corporation Commission's Bureau of Insurance who reported that it is the duty of the Bureau of Insurance to make sure that the EI benefit is being followed and to maintain network adequacy in the Department. Ms. Battle also stated that The Bureau licenses, regulates, investigates and examines insurance companies, agencies and agents on behalf of the citizens of the Commonwealth of Virginia.

Discussion was also held related to the need for an update to the Early Intervention Insurance Rider in order to ensure that the Early Intervention Personnel Regulations are connected. The Insurance Committee will work on possible legislative wording to present as a recommendation for change.

VA School for the Deaf and Blind

Sarah Shreckhise, Early Intervention and Outreach Coordinator, reported that the goal of the VA School for the Deaf and Blind is to work with families to connect them with Early Intervention providers and offer opportunities for family networking and socialization with other families

who may share similar experiences. Sarah also informed us that the following services are offered:

- Home-based service provision delivered in accordance with the Individual Family Service Plan;
- Speech-Language Pathology evaluation and treatment;
- No charge hearing testing for the agencies they are working with;
- Free monthly classes to learn sign language;
- Monitoring of children with a family history of hearing loss or middle ear pathology; and
- Opportunities for family networking and socialization.

Child Find and Public Awareness Subgroup

Data was provided and the following discussion occurred:

- There has been a growth in the number of children birth to one being served resulting in Virginia's target being met.
 - The inclusion of prematurity guidelines for eligibility has had an impact.
- The overall child count for children served has shown growth.
- Funding sources have been from the following:
 - American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) dollars which is no longer being received;
 - Federal and State; and
 - Medicaid which has grown from \$2 million to \$18 million.
- Concerns exist related to current and future funding.
 - Catherine shared that a meeting has been scheduled with the DBHDS Commissioner.
 - The Commissioner plans to meet with the Secretary of Health and Human Resources to make him aware of the financial needs. Information will be reported back to VICC regarding the meeting.
 - It is anticipated that there will be a small increase in Federal funds.
 - There is no indication of an increase in State funding.
 - Would it be helpful for the VICC to send a letter to the Governor related to the funding concerns?
 - A motion was made by Barbara Barrett to authorize the VICC Chair to send a letter of concern to the Governor, Secretary of Health and Human Resources and the DBHDS Commissioner related to the funding concerns. Allan Phillips seconded the motion and the motion was approved.
 - Allan agreed to work on the development of the letter.
- It is not anticipated that there will be any change in Medicaid funding.
 - Approximately 53% of the children being served are receiving Medicaid.
 - The VICC Chair will send a letter to Tammy Whitlock, the VICC representative from DMAS, thanking her for her commitment and dedication in ensuring the success of the Medicaid Initiative.

Related to Child Find, it was asked if the group needed to continue considering the successful increase in the number of children being served. It was decided that Allan will speak with David Mills and Kyla Patterson as to whether there is a need to continue the group. He will report back at the June meeting.

Karen Durst reported on the progress of the Lead Task Force. She reported the following:

- Brian Campbell from DMAS, Dr. Colleen Kraft, Bonnie Grifa from ECMH, and Nancy Van Voorhis from VDH have agreed to serve on the task force.
- The members will meet with the goal of providing information to VICC on whether to recommend the inclusion of elevated lead levels as eligibility criteria for Part C services and to include guidance on implementing this inclusion if so determined.
- VICC members Phyllis Mondak and Dr. Patricia Popp agreed to participate on the taskforce.
- Karen will make arrangements for the group to begin meeting with the goal of reporting the recommendations to VICC at the June meeting.

VICC Vacancies and Reappointments

It was reported by Karen Durst that nothing further has been received from the Governor's Office related to VICC appointments or reappointments. Karen shared that an individual from the Fairfax area was interested in serving as a Head Start representative and was to submit an application to the Appointment Secretary's Office.

Barbara Barrett agreed to speak with someone from the Virginia Office of Protection and Advocacy (VOPA) regarding appointing a representative to serve on the VICC.

The following Action Items were identified:

- Allan will work on a letter from the VICC to the Governor, Secretary and Commissioner regarding financial concerns with the Part C System.
- Lissa will send a letter of appreciation to Tammy Whitlock thanking her for her many contributions to the success of the Medicaid Initiative.
- Karen will bring together the Lead Task Force to begin their work.
- Insurance Committee will work on legislative language for a recommended update to the Early Intervention Rider.

The following are agenda items for the June VICC meeting:

- Update on whether there is a need for the Child Find Committee to continue;
- Insurance Committee Update;
- VICC Appointments and Reappointments;
- Information on the letter to the Governor, Secretary and Commissioner on funding; and
- Recommendations by the Lead Task Force.

The next meeting of the VICC will be held June 13, 2012. The location is the Virginia Community Services Board Office. (Please note that this has since changed with the meeting being held at the Hanover Areas DSS Office.)

The meeting was adjourned.

VICC Members Present:

Barbara Barrett
Jeff Beard for Tammy Whitlock
Catherine Cook
Virginia Heuple
Kelly Hill
Leslie Hutcheson Prince
Sonia Lopez
Janet Lung
Kathleen McCauley
Edwin Scott Moran
Phyllis Mondak
Jeannie Odachowski
Nancy Perkins for Rita Katzman
Allan Phillips
Dr. Patricia Popp
Dr. Lissa Power-de Fur
Yolanda Tennyson for Jackie Cunningham

VICC Members Absent:

Frederick Beaman
Joanne Boise
Delegate Anne B. Crockett-Stark
Dr. Corey Herd
Angela Leonard
Glen Slonneger
Sandra Woodward

Family Representative

Debra Holloway