

Virginia Interagency Coordinating Council (VICC) Meeting
The Arc of Virginia
December 10, 2014
Final Minutes

The December 10, 2014 Virginia Interagency Coordinating Council Meeting was called to order by Kelly Hill. The roll was called by Karen Durst. There were nineteen (19) VICC members in attendance. Please see the attendance list following the minutes. The September 11, 2014 VICC minutes were approved with Allan Phillips making the motion to approve Catherine Cook seconding the motion. The new Governor appointed VICC members were discussed.

Agency Reports

The Arc of Virginia, New Path Program

The Arc of Virginia update was given by Angela Langrehr, Director of Family Support and Outreach. The following italicized report is verbatim from a written report that was provided.

VICC Family Report

Organizational Changes

The Arc of Virginia's New Path program has had organizational changes. [Angela Langrehr](#), Director of Family Support and Outreach will serve as lead staff for the New Path program and will work collaboratively with [Rebecca King](#), incoming Director of Advocacy to maximize parent participation in Part C advocacy, providing information and referral, and connecting families to resources and one another.

Webinar Series

The New Path Early Intervention Family Webinar Series being scheduled for the upcoming quarter will be announced soon with topics focusing on: an overview of the Part C System, parents' role in the coaching model, family cost share, I/DD waiver system, inclusive preschool, and the family survey. Specific dates and registration details will be announced through the New Path subscriber list and posted on the New Path's website and Facebook.

Advocacy

We are gearing up for Part C advocacy in the coming General Assembly Session. As you know, families can play a critical role in helping legislators and other policymakers understand the impact that Part C services have on child development and family supports. We are working with advocacy partners (DD Coalition, CSBs, etc.) to help spread the word about the importance of Early Intervention services and to advocate for needed funding. The Arc of Virginia's New Path team are working together to prepare and send out advocacy materials through our

subscriber lists, Facebook, and our website to help families engage in advocacy before and during the General Assembly session. Specifically, we hope to have families engaged in budget hearings on January 7th. We are available for presentations at local and regional levels to promote and support family advocacy.

Information and Referral

We continue to provide information and referral services to families seeking or receiving early intervention services from across the state. Key themes that have arisen from our recent work include private insurance, family cost share, EDCD waiver services, EPSDT, the coaching model, and transition to preschool. We are available to provide local/regional trainings to help build family support. We are in the process of building early intervention family support networks in areas where there isn't a local chapter of The Arc and have begun this work in the greater Emporia, Rappahannock, and Goochland-Powhatan regions.

Multicultural Family Support

The New Path program's Multicultural Family Support Initiative continues to recruit individuals who would be interested in providing support to families whose first language is not English. We seek volunteers who would be available on an as-needed basis to support families who may be better served in their native language. We will offer training to interested volunteers. Please feel free to direct any interested volunteers to [Angela Langrehr](#).

Workgroups and Committees

New Path staff continues to participate in committees and workgroups like the Virginia Council for Professional Development, COPA, WDAC, etc. We are actively involved in the Waiver Redesign process to ensure that new I/DD Waiver programs provide support needed by children receiving and transitioning out of Early Intervention Services. We view this as a critical opportunity to ensure that the needs of the younger I/DD population are identified and addressed in this process. Current information about the waiver redesign process can be found at The Arc of Virginia [website](#).

Advocacy Calendar

The Arc of Virginia's annual advocacy calendar is now available for order. This year's calendar features several recipients of Part C services, and other stories that highlight achievements of individuals being served in the I/DD services system. Order forms are available at The Arc of Virginia's office or [website](#).

VICC Family Representatives

We continue to recruit for family representation in the Southwest and Tidewater Regions.

Virginia Department for the Blind and Vision Impaired (VDBVI)

Glen Slonneger reported that unfortunately, the Virginia Department for the Blind and Vision Impaired was unable to fill the Education Coordinators position in the Fairfax regional office. The two current Education Coordinators, Lisa Alwater and Donna Cox from the Staunton office has split the region to ensure there is a continuation of services. Early Intervention is a priority for the VDBVI and they wanted to be sure services will still be provided. Lastly, Glen reminded the VICC that if anyone who is blind or visually impaired and is in need of services should contact the Fairfax office for a referral.

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

VA Department of Behavioral Health & Developmental Services (DBHDS)

Heather Norton reported that the Virginia Department of Behavioral Health & Developmental Services has started to provide Children's Crisis Services program across the state for children from early childhood to 18 years of age and will be collaborating with Bonnie Grifa on these efforts. Children's Crisis Services are currently active in Northern Virginia, Fairfax and New River Valley. Other regions are currently working to get the program up and running.

Virginia is redesigning its Medicaid Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS) Waivers for individuals with intellectual or developmental disabilities (I/DD). Waivers provide certain medical and non-medical services to people residing in the community who would otherwise be required to live in an institution in order to receive those same services. The current waivers for persons with I/DD do not fully support the variety of needs of individuals who rely on these waiver services. Moreover, the three I/DD waivers, the *Intellectual Disability (ID)*, *Developmental Disabilities (DD)*, and *Day Supports Waivers*, were constructed and enhanced over time without a rigorous comparison of the costs of providing services to rates paid. The need for services has far outpaced available funding, and the system has been unable to adapt to the changing needs of individuals and new requirements, resulting in very long waiting lists for waiver services and a shortage of providers.

December 10, 2014 marked the start of reinitiating some of the Autism workgroups. DBHDS will also be implementing a new plan to enhance statewide services and supports. The goal of the redesign is to add more flexibility and choice in services in the areas of community living, integrated day services, and employment, with funding available to support the level of supports needed. The new waivers are designed to meet the specific needs of persons with I/DD, with restructured payment and performance models, based on a sound methodology, to more equitably fund supports that are customized to individual needs.

Lastly, the new EPSDT regulations were published. The new regulations changed credentialing licenses and certification for Licensed Behavioral Analyst with Medicaid. LBA's no longer have to go through DBHDS to receive secondary licenses.

Virginia Department of Education (VDOE)

Phyllis Mondak was excited to report that Virginia received the expansion grant that was applied for through US Education. The Virginia Department of Education will receive \$17.5 million dollars a year for the next four years, 95% of those funds will go to the localities. The VDOE is also going to be working on Virginia Pre-school Initiatives. There are 11 school divisions that have Virginia Pre-school Initiatives. Phyllis is also working on teacher professional development and curriculum used in classrooms to make sure things are more consistent with helping kids, especially at risk kids. In addition, Phyllis is currently working on the APR.

The VA Cross Sector Professional Development Workgroup will be participating in the Creating Connections to Shining Stars Conference. 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. The 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. Lastly, the VDOE is now working with the Information Technology team on creating a web based data report to keep track of children referred to the local education agency.

Virginia Department of Education-Project HOPE-Virginia

Dr. Patricia Popp reported the preliminary numbers of children experiencing homelessness for the 2013 and the 2014 school year. There were 18,486 children from pre-school through the 12th grade; this is a 3% increase from the previous year. One of the challenges Project Hope continues to have is that the definition of Broad Education is very inclusive and looks at a lot of unstable housing situations, whereas the housing partners look at people on the street and people in shelters. A lot of shelters are closing and that causes families to double up. Because of this, Project Hope increases their double up numbers and the housing partners are reporting that their numbers are down.

Project Hope had its seminar on December 4th-5th, 2014 at the Hotel Roanoke. One of the highlights of the conference was the first keynote speaker, a NASA Rocket Scientist named Dr. Terry Morris who experienced homelessness and foster parenting as a young man. Dr. Popp stated that it was “very reaffirming to see where our children can go after experiencing homelessness”.

Lastly, as part of a interagency partnership to prevent and end youth homelessness, Project Hope has completed their strategic plan and presented it to the Governor’s Coordination Council for Homelessness. To much delight, the strategic plan was approved.

Virginia Department of Health

Dr. Bethany Geldmaker

Dr. Bethany Geldmaker informed the VICC that the Virginia Department of Health has hired two new Program Supervisors. Bethany also briefly spoke about the Early Head Start Partnership Grant and the Pre-school Partnership Grant for early childhood. What made the Early Head Start Partnership Grant different from the Pre-school Partnership Grant was that Head Start decided to step out of the normal mainstream to enable communities to be able to go after the opportunity to provide services for children as a partnership. There are over 500 grant applicants, 10 of which came from Virginia. The award announcement will go out sometime between January and March of 2015. The good news about both of these grants, particularly the Early Head Start Grant, is that they seek to improve the linkages with early intervention services to private providers, family day homes and church groups in a much better way.

Upon doing a needs assessment on the national and state level, Bethany and her staff had two areas of concern when it came to school health and early childhood health. The areas of concern were the lack of up-to-date health plans and issues with the school and providers transitioning. There has also been an issue with the boards of pharmacy, nursing and medicine around who can actually do the training. Bethany is working on clarifying this issue.

Katherine Gangeri

Katherine reported that the automated referral process has been in place since August 1, 2014. As of November 24, 2014, there have been 43 referrals. Twelve (12) of those referrals are being actively monitored for enrollment. This December, data from the hearing database is being transferred over to the VA Immunization and Information System. Lastly, Katherine reported that the Department of Health is currently recruiting for a Quality Improvement Coordinator.

Virginia Department of Medical Assistance Services (DMAS)

The Virginia Department of Medical Assistance Services update was given by Joanne Boise. The following report is verbatim from a written report that was provided.

- Provider manual update on Behavioral Therapy released
- December 2014-FAMIS MOMS returned with eligibility at 200% FPL
- January 2015-Plan First income eligibility will increase to 200% FPL
- January 2015-Currently uninsured dependents of state employees can enroll in FAMIS
- Cover Virginia
 - Central Processing Unit- eligibility, call center, website, mailroom
 - Call Center:
 - Systems enhancements to streamline eligibility
 - Includes an automated determination

- Telephonic modules for renewals and to report changes to status
- Website
 - Redesigned-more user friendly
 - Health Insurance Marketplace page
 - Find local “application assisters”
 - Pages for Veterans and Businesses

Since its re-launch on November 15th, the website has received almost 42,500 unique visits; during the week of December 1st, there were over 27,000 unique visits with an average of over 3,900 visits a day as compared with a pre-11/15 daily average of 591.

Virginia Department of Social Services- No Report

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

Part C Update

Catherine Hancock gave the VICC an update about the Early Intervention Conference that was held in October. The conference was very successful and very well attended. The keynote speakers for the conference spoke about coaching initiatives that have been endorsed in Virginia. All localities in the state have had an opportunity to attend their workshops. Some are in the process of completing six months of training and some have already completed the training.

The Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services is undergoing an analysis and review of all its services. The one that is of particular interest to Part C is the focus on children services for children from age 0-18. Commissioner Debra Ferguson initiated this review. A group of stakeholders from the community has been invited to help identify what the system needs are and what it needs for growth.

Governor Terry McAuliffe appointed a Commonwealth Council for Childhood Success. , The council has four subgroups. Among the four subgroups, one is the Health and Wellness Taskforce. Catherine Hancock co-chairs the taskforce with Lisa Spector-Dunaway, Commissioner Ferguson is also a member of the taskforce.

Catherine also informed the VICC about changes in staff and changes in Local System Manager Leadership. Both Margaret Jones of Arlington and Marilyn Hoexter of Loudon are retiring. Amy Hite is the new System Manager for Augusta/Highland, Janet McMillan is the new System Manager for Roanoke Valley, Jarek Murchowsky is the new System Manager for Chesterfield, Rebecca Thompson is the new System Manager for Highlands, and Erin Austin is the new System Manager for Richmond. Sadly, Part C has lost Mary Anne White to Crater. Mary Anne has taken a position with early childhood at Crater and will be missed.

Professional Development

Deana and Cori were not present for the VICC meeting, but please see the attached handout provided by Deana.

Public Comment

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

My name is Alison Standring, I am the Local System Manager for the Rappahannock Area serving the city of Fredericksburg and the counties of Caroline, King George, Stafford and Spotsylvania. These comments are on behalf of the CoCoA Steering Committee which represents all regions in the state. CoCoA is an organization of the 40 Local System Managers across the Commonwealth.

We collaborated again this year with Voices for Virginia's Children and other child-serving advocacy organizations to develop a Unified Early Childhood Agenda. Among its top priorities, the Unified Agenda calls for full funding for Part C early intervention. The Virginia Association of Community Services Boards also advocates for Part C early intervention funding. We appreciate the effort and support of these strong advocacy partners. It is anticipated that some local Part C systems will experience a shortfall this fiscal year. Continued advocacy for adequate funding for services is essential.

CoCoA would like to support the VICC in gathering information related to insurance billing, including the barriers to responding to the survey, to ensure that VICC has the information that it needs. We thank Kelly for taking the time to talk to Robin Crawley, CoCoA Steering Committee Chair, and we look forward to working with her and the VICC on this issue.

We appreciate the focus on services for children with autism, and we understand that the BCBA regulations should be finalized soon. We expect there will be an increase in requests for intensive services for these children, and we request an opportunity to discuss potential issues and to hear the expectations of the Part C office for local systems when it comes to services for children with autism.

Thank you, VICC members, for your continued support of Virginia's youngest citizens.

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

Thank you to Catherine and staff for taking the time to meet with me as an LSM to problem solve a specific issue related to ABA. I encourage the system to seek stakeholder feedback as we move towards addressing the service of children with autism.

Thank you to Kelly Hill for talking with Robin Crawley, CoCoA Steering Committee Chair, concerning the insurance questionnaire and how we address the next steps of private insurance reimbursement.

As an Early Intervention system provider, an Early Head Start provider, and a Head Start provider-we are seeing more children with behavioral concerns. These are children who are at-risk for school drop-outs, incarceration, and general challenges for success. I encourage all partners sitting around the table to embrace the need for collaboration. If we are to serve our communities and state successfully, we need everyone in our communities and in state systems engaged and ready to cooperate. Children are falling through the cracks as they don't perfectly present as eligible for an individual service or services are not communicating well to assure well-coordinated care. I urge us all to see with vision our place in assuring children in Virginia are successful.

Insurance Committee Update

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

Insurance Committee – At the last meeting we ran out of time to have a thorough discussion regarding action to be taken after the second survey was sent out in July and only 14 local systems responded. For those new members, to deal with the fiscal crisis of 2010-11 we developed an Insurance Committee. We determined in a 2012 survey that Local systems were having a great deal of difficulty billing private insurance and getting paid. A training priority was made at that time by Part C Staff to help with getting into networks, medical billing/coding/documentation, and developing and tracking budgets. We sent out a follow up survey in April of this year to determine progress and future needs. Only 17 local systems responded and some did not complete the survey. The survey was amended to simplify the questions, provide a cover letter explaining the VICC's purpose in gathering the information, and add comment boxes for people to indicate why they couldn't answer the questions or make comments. It was resent in July and only 14 responded.

The lack of information makes it hard to determine where future assistance & training is needed. There are obvious barriers that point to a serious concern in fiscal accountability, but what those barriers are is unknown. Therefore, it seems the next step would be for TA's to contact the LSM's individually that did not respond and determine what the barriers are. The information requested in the survey is a part of mandated reporting required by the Part C office. It is important for local systems to understand that Part C must account for spending when lobbying the General Assembly for an increase in funding.

State Performance Plan/Annual Performance Report and State Systemic Improvement Plan

Please see attached presented by Kyla Patterson

Quality Improvement Committee

Please see attached handouts presented by Allan Phillips.

Other VICC Business

The following December agenda items were identified:

Agenda Items

Insurance Committee Update
Agency Reports
Part C Update
Professional Development Update
Quality Improvement Committee Update

The next meeting of the VICC will be held March 11, 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:

Glen Slonneger
Kelly Hill
Joanne Boise
Allan Phillips
Dr. Patricia Popp
Jeannie Odachowski
Yolanda Tennyson
Katherine Gangeri for Ruth Frierson
Angela Leonard
Heather Norton
Bethany Geldmaker
Cathy Cook
Delegate Daun Hester
Bonnie Grifa
Wyvonne Harsley
Catherine Rey
Kerry White
Rick Beaman
Phyllis Mondak

VICC Members Absent:

Leslie Hutcheson Prince
Edwin Scott Moran
Ruth Frierson
Virginia Heuple
Sonia Lopez
Kate McCauley
Aleta Lawson
Sandra Woodward
Dr. Corey Herd Cassidy

Family Representatives Present:

Jamie Liban
Angela Langrehr
Rebecca King