

**Virginia Interagency Coordinating Council (VICC) Meeting**  
**The Arc of Virginia**  
March 11, 2015  
FINAL Minutes

The March 11, 2015 Virginia Interagency Coordinating Council Meeting was called to order by Kelly Hill. The roll was called by Karen Durst. There were twenty (20) VICC members in attendance. Please see the attendance list following the minutes. The December 10, 2014 VICC minutes were approved with Allan Phillips making the motion to approve Catherine Cook seconding the motion.

### **Agency Reports**

#### **The Arc of Virginia, New Path Program**

Angela Langrehr reported that the ARC of Virginia has incorporated most of their energy into closing the funding gaps. There were a lot of parent advocates to attend the regional budget hearings and a lot of parental involvement in the General Assembly session. An ongoing part of our mission is information referrals. The ARC of Virginia continues to work on a number of workgroups and committees to ensure that the younger population are considered in conversations. The ARC of Virginia has identified and nominated a couple of people to serve on the SSIP Leadership team.

Lastly, Angela informed the VICC that the ARC of Virginia's State Convention will be held on August 10, 2015 through August 12, 2015 and are looking for presenters interested in providing input from the Early Intervention perspective for the attending families.

#### **Virginia Department for the Blind and Vision Impaired (VDBVI)**

Lisa Auwarter reported that Glen Slonneger will be retiring as of April 1, 2015 and that there has been a lot of changes in policies and eligibility guidelines for the Virginia Department for the Blind and Vision Impaired. More information about these policies will be forthcoming.

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

#### **VA Department of Behavioral Health & Developmental Services (DBHDS)**

On behalf of Heather Norton, Catherine Hancock informed the VICC that the Commissioner of the Virginia Department of Behavioral Health & Developmental Services was invited to attend the VICC meeting, but because of a prior commitment out of town, Dr. Ferguson was not able to attend. Dr. Ferguson will be invited to attend a future VICC meeting.

## Virginia Department of Education (VDOE)

Phyllis Mondak informed the VICC that 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.

The Virginia Department of Education has started working with the University of Connecticut's Early Childhood Personnel Center and are acquiring Technical Assistance from them. The VDOE will be working on personnel development and looking at what's going on in the field in regards to their professional development system or the lack of systems for Early Childhood.

The VDOE are also getting some intense technical assistance from DaSy regarding sharing data between Part C and Part B. The department is working on making recommendations to the Governor on how to have quality childcare accessible and affordable for everyone and how to provide quality in the workforce. Lastly, Phyllis reported that as of March 27, 2015 she will be retiring.

## Virginia Department of Education-Project HOPE-Virginia

Dr. Patricia Popp reported that Project Hope is working on an interagency partnership to prevent and end youth homelessness. The interagency partnership is one of the Governor's initiatives that focus on youth ages 14 to 24 who have aged out of foster care juvenile justice, and school children who meet the definition of homelessness and try to build strategies to support them. The completed strategic plan was presented to the Governor's Coordination Council for Homelessness and the strategic plan was approved.

## Virginia Department of Health

### General Assembly

Dr. Bethany Geldmaker informed the VICC that the General Assembly activity for the 2015 session passed a breast feeding bill that will allow mothers the right to breastfeed in public places and in any place where the mother is lawfully present. Current law allows breastfeeding on any property owned, leased, or controlled by the Commonwealth. Another bill passed during the General Assembly was the regulations governing restaurants; training in food safety and food allergy awareness and safety. Requires the State Board of Health to include training standards, including training standards that address food safety and food allergy awareness and safety, in its regulations governing restaurants. The bill also requires the State Health Commissioner to provide written materials on food safety and food allergy awareness and safety for the training of restaurant personnel.

## Infectious Disease

- Each month the effectiveness of the flu vaccines drops and is now at 20%. The Department of Health still recommends a flu vaccination each year; it is the best line of defense.
- Ebola has come and gone. Virginia has been very lucky to not have been impacted.
- Virginia has also not been impacted by measles, in part because Virginia has the strongest vaccine regulations and laws in the country.

## Virginia Department of Health-Early Hearing Detection and Intervention

Ruth Frierson reported that as of August 1, 2014, the Early Hearing Detection Intervention Program visit system that hospitals and audiologists report into has made 100 referrals in the last six months to Early Intervention through the automated system. The program will continue to monitor the web based system to see what can be done to enhance it.

Ruth was excited to report that Cover VA information is now being included in all public awareness material. The department is reaching out to the WICC local systems to provide education to WICC families which are the highest risk population because they have the least percentage for hearing screening follow-up.

This past December, data from the hearing database is being transferred over to the VA Immunization and Information System. Lastly, Ruth informed the VICC that the Department of Health has hired a Quality Improvement Coordinator.

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

## Virginia Department of Social Services- No Report

Aleta Lawson reported regarding the Virginia Early Head Start-Child Care Partnership. Please review the attached handout.

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

## **Part C Update Including SSIP**

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.

## **Public Comment**

There was no Public Comment Submitted

## **Professional Development**

Deana and Cori presented a video titled “Brandon’s Story: A Mother’s Voice”. In the video you will meet Brandon’s mother as she talks about the importance and impact of early intervention on her son’s life. You’ll also hear from Brandon, who is a teenager and talented musician.

The video can be viewed on the [VEIPD Videos YouTube Channel](https://www.youtube.com/user/veipd) (<https://www.youtube.com/user/veipd>). In addition to the video Deana and Cori also gave an update on Professional Development, please see the attached handout provided.

## **Insurance Committee Update**

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. Kelly is taking general suggestions on whether or not the survey should be sent out again, or should the survey be revised.

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.

### **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 handouts.

### **Quality Improvement Committee**

Please see attached handouts presented by Allan Phillips.

### **Other VICC Business**

#### **Action Items and Agenda Items**

SSIP Update

Local System Manager Meeting Update

Follow up on Head Start

**The next meeting of the VICC will be held June 10, 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:**

Aleta Lawson  
Kelly Hill  
Catherine Rey  
Ruth Frierson  
Allan Phillips  
Dr. Patricia Popp  
Jeannie Odachowski  
Yolanda Tennyson  
Kristen Jamison  
Angela Leonard  
Phyllis Mondak  
Kerry White  
Bethany Geldmaker  
Cathy Cook  
Sandra Woodward  
Bonnie Grifa  
Wyvonne Harsley

**VICC Members Absent:**

Leslie Hutcheson Prince  
Edwin Scott Moran  
Joanne Boise  
Glen Slonneger  
Virginia Heuple  
Sonia Lopez  
Kate McCauley  
Heather Norton  
Delegate Daun Hester  
Rick Beaman  
Dr. Corey Herd Cassidy

**Family Representatives Present:**

Jamie Liban  
Angela Langrehr  
Rebecca King