

**Virginia Interagency Coordinating Council (VICC) Meeting**  
**The Arc of Virginia**  
March 9, 2016  
**Draft Minutes**

The March 09, 2016 Virginia Interagency Coordinating Council Meeting was called to order by Kelly Hill. There were seventeen (17) VICC members in attendance. Please see the attendance list following the minutes. The December 9, 2015 VICC minutes were approved with Bonnie Grifa making the motion to approve and Allan Phillips seconding the motion.

**Agency Reports**

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

Jamie Liban reported that she is very actively involved in helping Early Intervention families. Jamie has also been reaching out to family support organizations to make sure they are informed on the status of Part C services throughout Virginia. Last quarter, the ARC of Virginia's focus was on the General Assembly session and keeping families informed of what was being proposed. The General Assembly funded 300 additional Family Support waivers.

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

**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)**

The following is from a written report that was provided by Dawn Hendricks.

At the last meeting, I shared that the Virginia Department of Education (VDOE) is engaging in federal level technical assistance from the IDEA Early Childhood Data Center (DaSY).

We originally had identified Indicator 7 (early childhood outcomes) and Indicator 12 (transition from C to B) as our goals. With Indicator 12, we identified it as a goal so we could focus on integrating the EI data into VA Longitudinal Data System. After data review and much discussion, we have changed our focus. We are now focusing on Indicator 7 (early childhood outcomes) and Indicator 6 (preschool placement, least restrictive environment). There are several reasons for this change. Primary reasons include: We want to increase inclusive placements for our children and this is a priority, our Indicator 6 data is not where we want it to be, and we need to do more work on integrating our preschool data into the VLDS prior to integrating EI data.

**Virginia Department of Education-Project HOPE-Virginia**

Dr. Popp informed the VICC that the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), formerly known as the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA), has been reauthorized. The ESSA which is a federal law that includes all Title 1 homeless students along with a number of other Initiatives. Title I

Part A provide homeless students with protections and services to ensure they can enroll in and attend school, complete their high school education, and continue on to higher education- their best hope of avoiding poverty and homelessness as adults. The ESSA strengthens and improve these programs and the education of over 1.3 million children and youth experiencing homelessness, with a larger emphasis on young children and a very strong emphasis on tracking release data of high school graduates.

Lastly, Dr. Popp stated that with the new childcare grants and new legislation, there is a specific interest on homeless families. Dr. Popp has been reviewing the childcare waivers to determine who is considered homeless so that she can reach out to those families.

### Virginia Department of Health (VDH)

Bethany Geldmaker reminded everyone that the Flu season is coming to an end and allergy season is rapidly approaching. School enrollment starts at the beginning of April and there are concerns for the families that do not have health insurance. Because of the lack of health insurance, families may have issues filling out forms, getting vaccines and transitioning.

There are mosquito borne illnesses on the rise. When the mosquito season begins in May, there is potential for our local Yellow fever mosquitoes and Asian tiger mosquitoes to become infected with the Zika virus by biting infected persons who have returned from areas of Zika activity. These two mosquito species are different from most other mosquito species in Virginia because they fly and bite during daylight hours and will enter homes through any open door or window and bite indoors. These two species are also different from other species because they lay their eggs exclusively in containers of water (i.e. containers made of plastic, ceramic, glass, metal, concrete, wood or stone) and they do not lay their eggs in “ground” bodies of water such as puddles, flooded ditches, ponds or streams. Please prepare yourself and children with insect repellent. It is also a good idea to find and eliminate, dump, or treat the containers of water that these mosquito species lay their eggs in.

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

### Virginia Department of Social Services

Aleta Lawson reported that the announcement should be made at anytime now about what the final regulations will be for the Head Start Program Performance Standards proposed revisions that was submitted in June of 2015. The Early Head Start Child Care Partnership Grants are at various stages of implementation.

On February 19, 2016 there was a forecast funding announcement that another \$135 million is being awarded to the new Early Head Start Child Care Partnership Grant. The funds could be used for early head start partnerships with childcare providers, or early head start expansion grants. Lastly, the Annual State Conference is being held in Fredericksburg, VA on April 5<sup>th</sup>-7<sup>th</sup>, more information regarding the conference will be forthcoming.

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

## **Early Childhood Mental Health Virginia**

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

## **Part C Update**

Catherine Hancock reported that Part C continues to work on SSIP; the plan will be submitted to the Office of Special Education (OSEP) by April 1, 2016. The Governor's budget includes the following additional funding for Early Intervention:

- a. \$959,057 for the current year (SFY 16)
- b. For SFY 2017 - \$757,904 above SFY 16 (including the amount added in the Caboose Bill)
- c. For SFY 2018 - \$757,904 above SFY 17

Lastly, Catherine reported that the Infant and Toddler Connection of Virginia is participating in national technical assistance to help with implementing our SSIP:

- a. Fiscal will be looking at allocation methodologies and managing available funds
- b. Local Data Use
- c. Developing an electronic IFSP

## **SSIP Updates and Input**

Please see the attached State Systemic Improvement Plan handouts that Kyla Patterson presented to the VICC.

## **Public Comment**

There was no Public Comment presented.

## **Head Start Parents Travel to Capitol Hill**

The following is from a written report that was provided by Wyvonne Harsley regarding the Virginia Head Start Association Parent Advocacy Trip to Washington, DC.

The parent representatives to the VAHSA Board of Directors boarded an Amtrak with Executive Director, Dawn Ault. It was an exciting trip as some had never been on a train, Metro, or in a cab before! Coming from Hillsville, Roanoke, and Jarratt, the parents each represented a different region in our VA Head Start community, therefore each representing a



different Congressional District.

Our group with Yasmina Vinci, NHA Executive Director



Tywanda Smith responds to a group question.

They attended the NHA Winter Leadership Institute for a variety of workshops related to Head Start, including workshops focused on the themes of: Today's Political Climate, Leadership Through Change, Standing Up for Parents in the Revised Performance Standards, What to Expect from Your Congressional Visits, and a Parent Advocacy "Meet Up" session, just to name a few.



(Right) Alex Payne, Legislative Assistant to Rep Bobby Scott (D-03) started the day with insightful conversations about Head Start and the NPRM.

They were able to meet with many legislators and thank them for the bipartisan support for Head Start funding, especially referring to the FY16 Omnibus Appropriations Bill that was passed in December 2015 awarding Head Start with a \$570 million increase. Parents told their personal stories of how Head Start has impacted their families' lives. Congressmen were able to hear from Cathlene, from Rooftop of VA CAP, about the importance of her home-based model for services, while also sharing some of her goals outlined in the Family Partnership Agreement. Head Start's mission and wonderful, caring staff from her local agency, Total Action for Progress (TAP), were credited for helping Pam become a first-time homebuyer. Tywanda shared how she became very engaged in Policy Council and ended up being hired by her agency, The Improvement Association. They also shared success stories of early identification of special needs or vision impairments of their children due to Head Start's comprehensive screenings. The list of important ways that Head Start has impacted children and families goes on! It was an impactful experience to talk with legislators personally, to answer their questions, and to thank them for their continued support for funding.



(Left) Cathlene Hernandez from Rooftop with her district's representative, Congressman Griffith (R-09). (Center) Pam Borders from TAP with her district's representative, Congressman Goodlatte (R-06). (Right) Tywanda Smith with her district's representative, Congressman Forbes (R-04).

After a whirlwind trip, with a little sightseeing too, the group talked during the Parent “Meet Up” session so they could process all that had been experienced. Everyone agreed, after attending conference workshops and speaking directly one-on-one with legislators, this was a beneficial



A group picture after a great conversation with Congressman Forbes and his Legislative Assistant Chris Maneval.

experience. “It was uplifting to know that so many people advocate on behalf of others in need.” “This makes me want to become even more involved.” “Head Start has been successfully working with children and families for 51 years, and I want to help make sure that the funding will be there for generations to come.” Dawn Ault would especially like to thank the Board of Directors for approving this expenditure in VAHSA’s annual budget. “There is no price tag for up-close-and personal conversations with parents and legislators. We were able to have real dialogue about what really matters for children and families.”

## **Professional Development**

Please see the attached Professional Development update handout Deana Buck presented to the VICC.

## **Child Find Trends**

Allan Phillips shared information about Child Find Trends. Please review the attached handouts.

## **VICC Summary of Insurance Committee Work**

Kelly Hill reported that the VICC Insurance Committee has explored all the outreach, projects and training available to help benefit the local systems. Until more data becomes available, the VICC Insurance Committee will be put on hold.

## **VICC Membership**

With the recent Governor appointments and reappointments, the VICC has a full roster of members. The position of Legislative Representative expired September 30, 2015 however, the by-laws allow for the current representative to continue for up to one year until either that individual is reappointed or another individual is appointed. The Governor’s Appointment Office is addressing the Legislative position. Additionally, the VICC currently meets the requirement that 20% of the members be parents. However, there is not a representative from the far Southwest. Members were asked to please share this information with any parent who may be interested in applying.

## **Open Forum**

Catherine Rey shared news of a podcast titled, *Bringing Up Betty*. Catherine thought the podcast was very informative. Launched in 2015, *Bringing Up Betty* is a podcast for parents, caregivers and anyone else who loves someone with special needs. *Bringing Up Betty* is a companion for these folks, allowing them to connect with one another and share their stories. It focuses on the unique stories and struggles that come with raising kids with special needs. *Bringing Up Betty* is thought of as a means to shed some light on the truth about special needs parenting.

To listen to the podcasts, visit [www.itunes.com](http://www.itunes.com) and type *Bringing Up Betty, True Tales of Special Needs Parenting* in the search bar.

## **Action and Agenda Items**

- State Systemic Improvement Plan Follow-up
- VICC Member Introduction Letter
- New Member Packet Revisions

**The next meeting of the VICC will be held June 9, 2016. The location is:**

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

The meeting was adjourned.

### **VICC Members Present:**

Cathy Cook  
Aleta Lawson  
Kate McCauley  
Allan Phillips  
Dr. Patricia Popp  
Yolanda Tennyson  
Wyvonne Harsley  
Bonnie Grifa  
Bethany Geldmaker  
Kerry White  
Kelly Hill  
Lynn Wolfe  
Sandra Woodward  
Jeannie Odachowski  
Catherine Rey  
Kristine Caalim  
Joy Spencer

### **VICC Members Absent:**

Leslie Hutcheson Prince  
Dawn Hendricks  
Lisa Autwarter  
Joanne Boise  
Delegate Daun Hester  
Kristen Jamison  
Heather Norton  
Angela Leonard

### **Family Representatives Present:**

Jamie Liban