FAQs about Kaleidoscope I and Kaleidoscope II

1. Who should attend Kaleidoscope I (KI) and Kaleidoscope II (KII)?

KI training is specifically designed for service coordinators who have been on the job for less than three months. The content focuses on an orientation to the service coordinator's role in the Part C system. Training topics include: Guiding Principles of Early Intervention, Overview of IDEA, The Role of the Service Coordinator, Effective Partnerships, the Early Intervention Process (from referral through transition) and information about the financial aspects of the Part C system in Virginia. Although KI is designed for new service coordinators, many veteran service coordinators have attended and found the training to be a good refresher course.

KII training has been developed for service coordinators with at least six months of experience. Service coordinators must also complete all of the requirements for KI prior to attending KII. In KII, service coordinators will learn about: Family Systems, Developing Quality Outcomes, Empowerment and Advocacy, Early Intervention in Natural Environments and Lifelong Learning.

2. If I am a “veteran” Service Coordinator, why am I required to take KI before I participate in KII?

The curriculum of KII is built upon the knowledge that is gained during the three days that the participants spent together during KI. Many times the trainers will refer to activities that were completed or discussed during the KI training. This training technique is also a way to reinforce learning that occurred during the earlier training.

3. Why are the three days divided for KI instead of occurring consecutively?

During the piloting phase of Kaleidoscope, the training was four consecutive days. Feedback from participants consistently indicated that 1) the content was too much to cover for new service coordinators, 2) four days was too long to be away from the office, and 3) there needed to be some time to assimilate the information that was learned. Writers and trainers utilized this information and completely revamped the curriculum, and developed two levels of Kaleidoscope training. In Level I training, there is also a month built in between Days 1 and 2 and Day 3 to allow participants to go back to their localities and “practice” what they have learned. On Day 3 they can then return to ask any questions that may have arisen in the previous month.

4. I am interested in attending Kaleidoscope training but I cannot stay for the last two hours due to a previously scheduled appointment. Can I still plan to attend?

The content of the Kaleidoscope curriculum is built on each day that participants attend. Participants also make a commitment that they will attend for the entire length of time for all of the training days in order to receive their certificate of completion.
Trainers will certainly work with participants in extenuating circumstances but participants need to make arrangements for childcare, traffic, work matters, etc, in order to fully participate in all training activities.

5. I have heard that you make hats in KI. What if I’m not "artistic?"

The "hats" to which you refer is actually called, "The Many Hats of Service Coordination." Service Coordinators are asked to take a plain white bag, and using markers, stickers, glitter, and many other craft supplies, design a "hat" that describes all of the roles or "hats" they wear as a service coordinator. Service coordinators are asked to add something to their hat during the month while they are back in their locality that they learned from Days 1 and 2 and then on Day 3, everyone shares their hat.

This activity allows learners who enjoy having something to do with their hands while they attend to a lecture remain actively engaged. For those who are "less artistic," they may not make as fancy a hat, or they may choose to describe what their hat "would" look like. All KI and KII activities attempt to encourage a variety of learning styles including kinesthetic, visual, and auditory learners. No one is FORCED to do something that is out of their level of comfort.

6. How is it decided where or how often the Kaleidoscope trainings will be held?

The Kaleidoscope trainings are scheduled based on a grant through the Integrated Training Collaborative (ITC) from DMHMRASAS. The grant operates on a fiscal year from 6/30-7/1 each year.

The ITC makes an effort to rotate the KI and KII trainings around the Commonwealth. Funding and trainer availability may, at times limit the flexibility of these options. For example, in years where there are less training offered, the trainings will be offered in a central part of Virginia.

For info on where KI and KII trainings have been held, click (link to map)

7. How are KI and KII trainings advertised or announced?

Trainings are posted on the Part C website and on the Integrated Training Collaborative webpage under the KI and KII icons. Local System Managers will also receive e-mail notification.