

**Integrated Training Collaborative  
Meeting Minutes  
October 27, 2009**

**Members Present:**

Cheri Beverly  
Lynn Blythe  
Deana Buck  
Carol Burke

Terry Erlichman  
Heidi Faustini  
Adrienne Frank  
Cori Hill

Dianne Koontz Lowman  
Lynn Wiley

**1. Welcome, Announcements, and Celebrations-**Members introduced themselves.

- ❖ Lynne B. reported that she has started a “Second Sundays Social Club” in her area. She and her son have been bowling, picnicking, and hiking with friends from their community. A big Halloween party is planned for this weekend.
- ❖ Cheri reported that JMU is offering an interdisciplinary early intervention course and it has been well-received by the first pilot group. The group includes students from nursing, early childhood, early childhood special education, psychology, etc with a focus on family centered practices and collaboration.
- ❖ Adrienne reported that the interdisciplinary group from JMU, led by Anne Stewart, observed at CDR. They videotaped an assessment and IFSP meeting. Members discussed that this type of videoing is frequently requested by professors and it is our hope that we can work to build the library of resources.

**2. Interagency Updates**

- ❖ Dianne reported that the Quality Rating Improvement Scales (QRIS) work has been very active. She recently trained a large group to observe in toddler settings and will soon be doing an infant training. Dianne noted that she wants to ensure that we are collaborating on these inclusion and quality efforts. Deana reported that she and a colleague recently conducted a webinar on basic inclusion skills that might be beneficial to others.
- ❖ Cori reported that SpecialQuest held a training of trainers event at the end of September in Staunton. Approximately 40 new people were trained to use the SQ materials. A meeting will be held on 10/29 to discuss the action plans that these new trainers developed and to determine how to focus our efforts in Virginia.
- ❖ A Smart Beginnings Summit will be held on 11/12/09 in Glen Allen. If people are interested in more information about the work of this group, please visit the Smart Beginnings website or contact Cori.

**3. ITC Current Work**

**A. Module Updates-**Cori reported that 1327 people are registered users. She provided the following information regarding the number of people who have successfully passed each module

- ❖ Child Development-1116
- ❖ Family Centered Practices-1081
- ❖ Service Pathway-1008
- ❖ Practitioner Requirements-970
- ❖ Supervision-390

Cori noted that the 10/1/09 System Transformation progressed fairly smoothly given the massive undertaking. Terry, Lynne and Carol concurred. It is anticipated

that in approximately 6 months, Part C staff will review questions, comments, and concerns and modifications to the process may be implemented.

A question arose as to whether interpreters should complete the modules and apply to become Early Intervention Assistants. It was discussed that while anyone is welcome and encouraged to take the modules, interpreters would be interacting with a credentialed Part C provider so this did not seem to be necessary or required.

- B. CoPA-Cori** reported that the CoPAs are continuing and it is a “growing process.” We have worked hard to dispel the notion that the CoPAs are training workshops and the leadership team is modeling interactions as a community of practice. Travel to meetings has been a concern so some leaders have been creative with a local wiki and e-mail sharing/collaboration. Adrienne and Lynne shared that attendance has been lower than they would like to see but the discussions and topics have been very interesting. Lynne is collaborating with Commonwealth Autism to develop a local Autism Action Group that would be linked to the CoPA. Dianne reported that the Valley CoPA did an initial needs assessment and she would like to see another needs assessment completed. The CoPA Quarterly meeting will be held 11/5/09. The new CoPA year begins in 1/10.
- C. Leadership Academy-Cori** informed the group that since the Creating Connections conference was cancelled, Mary Ann Discenza has asked the ITC to develop a Leadership Academy. This will be planned with a planning committee of stakeholders. The Academy will be for LSMs and Infant Program Directors and is tentatively scheduled for spring, 2010. More information will be provided as the planning committee gets underway.
- D. Videotaping-Cori** reported that she and Dana Childress have been working on a video at the request of faculty from the Institute of Higher Education (IHE) of an initial visit to prepare for assessment. A family in Richmond agreed to participate in the videotaping and Dana is also preparing a guidance document. It is important to note that some of the work was completed prior to the system transformation (and therefore the word “evaluation” is used) but the content is still very well done. We hope to have it available for IHE members in the near future. Cori reminded ITC members that if they have a chance to video various EI activities that this would be most helpful in expanding available resources for students and other providers.

**4. ARRA Funding Training Initiatives-Cori** reported that Mary Ann Discenza has designated a portion of the ARRA funding for training. This is a two-year initiative to enhance Virginia’s Comprehensive System of Personnel Development (CSPD) with a goal of sustainability for all training initiatives. A draft plan was developed including a rubric of potential training topics and methodologies for training. A stakeholders group met on 11/26/09 to strategize and prioritize the topics. Part C staff also had the opportunity to review and prioritize the topics. Cori sent the information to ITC members but the turnaround time was very brief so she will re-send with the expectation that all ITC will share their opinions on the plans. Following the prioritization, a survey will be sent to the field to gather demographic info, info about their technology skills and their training priorities. Members discussed the materials and questions for the survey. It was noted that we do not want to “lose” information about autism given the emphasis on this topic from the JLARC (Joint

Legislative Audit Review Committee) Study. This is a wonderful opportunity for the ITC to play a key role in Virginia's CSPD. Please contact Cori if you have any questions.

## **5. Other Business-none**

Next meeting will be in January 2010. Cori will send a meeting wizard to schedule.

**Thanks for all of your input. Please don't forget to respond to the ARRA prioritization survey! Thanks!**