

Regulations Task Force 4/25/12, 1:00 – 1:30

Minutes

Participants: Rosalind Cutchins, Mary Lou Hutton, Carol Burke, Sandra Church, Kendall Lee, Debra Holloway, Mary Anne White, Bev Crouse, Kyla Patterson

“Multidisciplinary” for eligibility determination and assessment for service planning:

- This discussion was continued from the previous 2 meetings.
- Tidewater – Supportive across the board of allowing one dually-qualified person to determine a child eligible, though there was some frustration expressed about the eligibility determination process as a whole. Some concern about 1 person determining a child ineligible, but want the greatest flexibility possible especially given budget allocations that came out yesterday.
- Richmond/Central – Kendall received responses from 1 local system and 1 provider. The provider has no one dually qualified. The local system was fine with it but wanted to be sure considerations were made for meeting the needs of the child and family.
- Northern Virginia – All local system managers are okay with one dually-qualified person determining eligibility and doing assessment, per the federal regulations
- Debra got feedback from the EI Family Support Network - Most families liked the idea of 2 people doing eligibility determination when possible, especially if the child is found ineligible. A number of the families have had or are having trouble accessing other services (like waiver services) in some localities whereas children with similar situations are able to access those services in other areas of the state. Although these experiences are outside of EI, families wanted to be sure that having only 1 person determining eligibility wouldn't make access to EI services any less consistent and equitable across local systems.
- The group discussed whether to differentiate between allowing one dually qualified person to determine a child eligible vs. ineligible, but decided that it was just as important to be sure we're making accurate decisions that a child is eligible as it is when determining a child is ineligible.
- **Task force recommendation for implementation in Virginia** – Our state regulations will mirror the federal regulations and allow one individual who is dually qualified in more than 1 discipline to serve as the multidisciplinary team for eligibility determination and/or assessment for service planning. The Practice Manual will provide guidelines/considerations for the appropriate use of this option.

Next Meeting:

- Our next meeting date has changed to May 10, 10:15 – 11:45. The May 9 meeting is cancelled.