

Early Intervention Prematurity Workgroup Meeting 10/25/2010

Attendance: See Attendance Log

Participants introduced themselves and new members were welcomed.

Communication with Stakeholder Groups about Eligibility Criteria Recommendations

The group discussed what the message should include and to whom it should be sent. Pros and cons about requesting input versus informing stakeholders of the group's recommendation about the addition of three automatic criteria for Part C eligibility were discussed. The group also discussed the fact that there have been invitations to stakeholder groups to have representatives on the workgroup; and the meeting notes are posted on the web (<http://infantva.org/wkg-Prematur.htm>). Part of the challenge is figuring out effective mechanisms to reach all of the potential stakeholders. The group decided to inform stakeholders of the workgroup's recommendation and to open the door for wider participation through increased communication as the work progresses.

The message to stakeholders will include:

- The recommendation about the addition of the three automatic criteria for Part C eligibility, including the evidence supporting this recommendation
- The process for acting on this recommendation (presentation to the Virginia Interagency Coordinating Council, which is the Governor appointed council responsible for providing advice and assistance to the Infant & Toddler Connection of Virginia Lead Agency (DBHDS)..
- The workgroup's plans for developing and implementing education and training, including an invitation to provide input into this as well as to participate in planning and implementation
- An invitation to add stakeholder representatives to the workgroup
- Information about where to find information, including list of participants with their email addresses (to facilitate communication and input)

Stakeholder groups to provide this message to include:

- Pediatrix (which is a collaborative of Neonatologists across the United States, including Virginia.
- Virginia Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics
- Virginia Family Physicians

Communication mechanisms already in place include:

- Posting the meeting notes on the Infant & Toddler Connection of Virginia website
- Information included in the Infant & Toddler Connection of Virginia TA Updates
- Informal communication between workgroup members and the constituents they represent
- Dissemination of information to the participating practices in the Medical Home Learning Collaborative

Plans:

- Beth will start the draft message. Kim and Sandi will assist. Mary Ann and Kathleen will review and provide input.
- Amy will communicate with Dr. Peregrino about the work of the EI Prematurity Workgroup and possible representation and communication with members about the workgroup work. Kathleen also has a contact with Pediatrix.

Process for Implementation of Changes in the Eligibility Criteria

The recommendation for changes in the eligibility criteria will be presented to the Virginia Interagency Coordinating Council, which is the Governor appointed body responsible for advising and assisting the Part C Lead Agency (Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental services). The next step is presentation to the Office of Special Education Services. Mary Ann will check to see if OSEP approval (as opposed to informing) is required in order to change Virginia's eligibility criteria.

Education and Training

Target groups for education and training

- Physicians (including those in NICUs, Follow Up Clinics and Communities)
- Early Intervention Providers
- Families

Training Content was discussed briefly

- Physician training should include the benefit of early intervention and when, where and how to make a referral
- Parent education and training should include information and guidance about caring for their child when the child is discharged home, as well as information about red flags
- Early Intervention providers need education and training to identify when babies are eligible, to identify issues that can be addressed through parent education and to provide appropriate intervention

The need for trained personnel in each local system was discussed. It was recommended that individuals be identified in each local system who will focus on this population in order to increase their knowledge and skills, since so much is learned through experience.

Participants shared their mechanisms for attaining their knowledge and skills. For those with knowledge, skills and experience in the NICU, the mechanisms included an optional internship in the NICU, mentoring, continuing education courses, on the job training. For those involved with NICU follow up, the training included mentoring and on the job training/experience.

The following training content was identified:

- Understanding terminology (understanding what diagnoses are indicative of potential developmental issues). Possible resources for this include:
 - Physician training session with EI staff (Dr. Brown provided this for the Henrico staff)
 - Contact the NICU nurse or MD for information/clarification

- Development of a training module on terminology. The Partnership for people with Disabilities could be asked to develop this. Dr. Brown and Tammy offered to assist with content.
- Typical/Atypical development including recognition that “typical for a preemie” is not “typical”
- States, arousal, responsiveness
- Infant massage
- Positioning
- Feeding
- Sensory processing, sensory integration
- Early communication
- Prelinguistics

Training mechanisms discussed included:

- Development of a document that has pictures of infant positions, including undesirable positioning and correct or appropriate positioning
- Videos of physician, nurse, therapist providing parent education

Available education materials and processes currently available include the following:

- The March of Dimes has developed educational information about babies born prematurely. Dr. Brown said that these materials need to be reformatted to make them more accessible to people and she is working with representatives to see if these can be made more accessible.
- Information sheet developed by Tina Hough
- Powerpoint developed by Nancy Brockway and Cara Kiernan
- Orientation guides
- Mentoring provided by experienced therapists for new staff
- Visits to NICU and/or to NICU follow up clinics

The following people are willing to participate in development of training materials:

Kim Geissenger and her colleague

Amy Kageals

Tina Hough

Susan Brown

Tammy Torocsik

Linda Lindsey Hoy

Cara Kiernan, Nancy Brockway, and Patricia Hine

Deatrice Williams

Theresa Ziembra was also recommended to be included in this group

Mary Ann will ask Deana Buck to facilitate getting the group together to develop training materials.

Next Meeting: November 16 from 2:00 PM to 4:00 PM at Henrico Doctors