

Virginia Interagency Coordinating Council (VICC) Meeting
Hanover Area Department of Social Services
September 14, 2011
APPROVED MINUTES

The September 14, 2011 Virginia Interagency Coordinating Council Meeting was called to order by the Chairman, Rick Beaman. The role was called by Karen Durst. There were twenty (20) VICC members in attendance. Please see the attendance list following the minutes.

The June 08, 2011 VICC Minutes were approved with Barbara Barrett making the motion to approve and Allan Phillips seconding the motion.

Agency Reports

Virginia Department for the Blind and Vision Impaired (VDBVI)

Glen Slonneger reported that the VDBVI will be hiring three (3) education coordinators. The positions will be in Fairfax, Richmond and Roanoke. The education coordinators will be available to assist with Part C children with vision impairments.

Virginia Department of Behavioral Health & Developmental Services (VDBHDS)

Janet Lung, Director of the Office of Child and Family Services, reported that the recruitment process for a State Part C Coordinator is ongoing. There have been two recruitments to date. A recommended finalist from the first round of interviews withdrew from the process. The position will remain open until filled. The salary is negotiable.

Early Intervention Targeted Case Management (EI TCM) will begin October 01, 2011. Janet reported that training has been occurring. Changes are also being made to the Infant & Toddler On-Line Tracking System (ITOTS) in order to coincide with the EI TCM.

Information has been received that the Federal Part C Regulations have been issued. A Part C team will be going to Washington, DC in November to attend an Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) sponsored training on the regulations. A side-by-side comparison documenting the changes being made in the regulations is being developed. It was asked if the VICC could be sent a list of the changes.

The State Part C Office has been awaiting the Federal Regulations in order to develop the State Regulations. Virginia has been operating on policies and procedures but has been directed by the Office of the Attorney General (OAG) to develop regulations which are more enforceable. Mary Anne White and Kyla Patterson will be taking the lead related to the regulations.

Part C has been undergoing an American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) audit by OSEP. All Part C States and Territories must be audited by December 31, 2011. The process is being completed as a desk audit. Numerous forms, documents and verifying information must be sent to OSEP. Phone conferences are included as part of the information sharing and verification process. Written results will be provided by OSEP.

Department of Education (VDOE)

Phyllis Mondak reported that her office has been working on the Annual Performance Report (ARP) for Part B. She added that a close look is being taken of the Part C Regulations in order to determine if any changes impact Part B such as transition.

A Parent Guide related to Social/Emotion Issues has been developed and is available in IPAD.

Department of Education-Project HOPE-Virginia

Dr. Patricia Popp reported that her office has completed work on sub-grants related to homeless children. Thirty three (33) schools have been involved. She stated the number of homeless children continues to increase.

The Task Force on Homelessness is ready for the first mailing of informational materials that have been developed. These include bookmarkers with a summary of preschool information. Children's books have also been purchased.

Virginia Department of Health (VDH)

Joanne Boise reported that work at the Department of Health has continued to focus on regulatory activities and grant proposals. Materials about their new regulations have been disseminated and are posted on the Government Town Hall site. Additionally, Joanne reported that two (2) new grants have been received.

Virginia Department of Social Services (VDSS)

Rita Katzman reported that the Department of Social Services (DSS) has been interviewing for a policy specialist. Numerous applications have been received but a qualified candidate has not been identified. Two rounds of interviews have been completed with a 3rd round being planned.

A Request for Proposals (RFP) has been developed related to a grant for community-based child abuse prevention. The grant would fund 18-19 programs and would include parent support, leadership, etc.

Rita reported that her agency has provided 55 training sessions for Child Protective Services workers. A total of 1,200 workers and supervisors have participated in the trainings.

Virginia Department of Medical Assistance Services (DMAS)

Tammy Whitlock shared that a new director has been hired at DMAS. Cindy Jones will fill the position. She is the previous Chief Deputy Director and is a strong advocate of Part C.

Tammy reported that the Early Intervention Targeted Case Management (EI TCM) process is on target. The DMAS manual will be posted October 01, 2011. The manual will be sent to a few individuals to review prior to this date. A presentation on EI TCM was given to the DMAS Board. It was well received.

Tammy also participated in a National Early Childhood Technical Assistance Center (NECTAC) webinar, along with Beth Tolley, related to the Medicaid/Early Intervention collaboration. Information had on the

Medicaid/Part C Initiative had previously been provided to other states. Tammy will be going to New Mexico to the National Alliance for Education to present information on the Initiative. Virginia is seen as a leader related to the Medicaid and Part C collaborative process.

Tammy was thanked by the VICC and Part C staff for her support in making this collaboration successful.

Family Involvement Project Report:

Debra Holloway then provided the following report on behalf of the Family Involvement Project. The italicized report is verbatim from a written report provided.

Our staff continues to participate in committees and work groups as requested including the EI Targeted Case Management Workgroup and the EI NICU workgroup. Two Medicaid Waivers webinar trainings have been hosted since our last meeting. "An Overview of EPSDT Specialized Services" webinar was also held to give families an overview of the service. The Arc of Virginia staff has provided technical assistance for 21 families a month this past quarter including assisting families with referral to services. We continue in development of the Early Intervention Family Support Network. This network will be made up of families and VICC parent representatives and they will be our local connection as we are identifying one parent or board member of each of our 25 local Arc Chapters to be a part of this network. This network of families will be able to provide support to local families, provide quality assurance feedback and participate on workgroups and committees. We met for the first time at our annual convention and will continue to use our webinar capabilities to stay connected. We hosted our annual convention August 11-13th at the Wyndham VA Beach. We had over 300 attendees made up of providers, families and self advocates. We offered a young families track of sessions including SpecialQuest hosted by Deana Buck, EPSDT, Medicaid Waivers, All Behavior Communicates hosted by Mickey Van Derwerker, affordable technology with Apps, and The road to Inclusion presented by Chris Burton. The Arc of Virginia staff also co presented with Part C staff at the OSEP Mega Conference on Virginia's Monitoring Process.

Family Stipend for Conference

Cori Hill then shared information on an international conference being held November 17-19, 2011 in National Harbor, MD. The conference is being sponsored by the Division for Early Childhood (DEC). Five sessions will be offered that specifically focus on early childhood. A number of family stipends are being made available. Cori has been provided with stipends for ten (10) and has asked that information be shared with families who may be interested in attending. Stipend recipients must have a child 0-8 years of age with a developmental disability or special need. The parent cannot be employed fulltime in the field of early childhood or early intervention. Cori will send Karen an electronic copy of the form and information to be sent to VICC members.

Early Intervention Targeted Case Management (EI TCM)

Additional information was shared by Beth Tolley related to EI TCM.

- A task force has been formed that consists of service coordinators, local system managers, intellectual disabilities directors and families.
- Training has been presented related to billing and implementation.
- A 22-page Q & A document has been developed.
- All Community Services Boards (CSBs) have been notified of the changes with EI TCM.
- Non-CSB Local Lead Agencies were also notified.
- A letter will be sent to the Virginia chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) with information on the Health Status Indicators that will be included on the Physician Certification Form. The VaAAP will be asked to distribute the letter to all pediatricians and family physicians in Virginia. Physicians will be asked to complete the questions at the same time they certify the Individual Family Service Plan (IFSP).
- The Practice Manual and forms have been revised to coincide with EI TCM.
- All service coordinators must be certified as Early Intervention Case Managers.
 - A training module was developed that must be completed with 80% accuracy in order to be certified.
- ITOTS is undergoing significant changes to meet the EI TCM changes.
 - A demonstration has been provided for stakeholders.
 - Training will be provided for ITOTS users.
- A question was asked as to whether student interns could complete some early intervention tasks without having to be certified.
 - It was shared that James Madison University and the University of Virginia used graduate student interns in early intervention but that no services are provided independently by the interns.
 - Beth requested that specifics be sent to her for follow-up.

Lead Levels and Part C Eligibility

Karen Durst reported that she and Bonnie Grifa are gathering information related to the impact of high lead levels in children; the level at which children are in potential danger of developmental problems due to the lead exposure; and how other State Part C programs are addressing high lead levels and eligibility. This is in follow-up to the June presentation to the VICC by the VDH's Nancy Van Voorhis. It was determined at that time that consideration should be given to adding high lead levels as an automatic qualifier for Part C services. Information will be presented to the VICC members at the December 14, 2011 VICC meeting . The VICC will then be asked to provide a recommendation on whether this should be added as an eligibility factor.

Child Find Trends Data

VICC members then looked at the child find data which listed the total number of birth through three children receiving services on the first day of the month for January-August for the years of 2008-2011. December 1 counts were also available for 2008-2010. The following discussion occurred:

- Could the data be included for the months of September-November for each year?

- September's data would likely show a decrease in count from August. This would be related to children transitioning to the school systems.
- Are we finding all of the children who need services and if not, then why not?
- The new prematurity guidelines for eligibility were implemented in December of 2010.
 - Did this contribute to the increases in 2011? There was an increase of 1000 or more children when comparing each month of 2010 to 2011.
- Northern Virginia is showing record growth in the number of children served.
 - It was reported that Prince William has experienced a 60% increase since December 2010.
 - Premature infants account for many of the referrals.
- Heartland has experienced significant growth in the number of children referred and served.
 - Most of the referrals have come from pediatricians.
- Many referrals have come from the VDH's Early Hearing Diagnosis and Intervention (EHDI) Program.
- The school system's child count for children two-five years of age has shown great growth. Phyllis Mondak will provide information at the December meeting.
- Could data be provided to show a comparison of the birth to one year olds being served across Virginia on December 1st?
 - This information is available in ITOTS.
- There is a need to know what is working to increase the child counts.
- There is a need to know where the referrals are coming from.
- Developmental screenings are increasing by many doctors.

It was asked that Allan Phillips indicate what data would be helpful to include on the chart for the next VICC meeting.

Professional Development

Deana Buck from the Integrated Training Collaborative through the Partnership for People with Disabilities at Virginia Commonwealth University presented information on the Virginia Early Intervention Professional Development Center website. The website can be accessed at www.eipd.vcu.edu: and provides a place for resource materials and training resources. The website is available to families also. The following was shared:

- There have been a total of 18,289 page views since February of 2011.
- There have been 4,717 websites visits from 39 countries.
- Since April 2011, forty percent (40%) of the visitors to the website have been new visitors.

Additional information shared included:

- Six (6) training modules have been developed.
- A training module for case management was developed.
 - To date, 317 individuals have taken the module.
- Many centers of higher education are using the modules as part of their course work.
 - Students are being certified to provide early intervention services.

- Mini lessons are available that include a range from basic information to that of a challenging case study.
 - Information is included for using the mini lessons as trainings such as time involved, activities, etc.
- Resources are available as well as eight (8) landing pads.
 - Evidence-based resources are provided.
 - Online information is provided including modules and articles.
- Videos of real-life situations are included with each topic and trend.
 - The videos could be used for public awareness.
- The on-line modules are available for use for continuing education.
 - The information is recorded.
- A supervisors toolbox is available that includes ideas from the field that are vetted by the Part C office.
- A training calendar is available.
- Talks on Tuesdays are provided on a monthly basis on various topics pertinent to early intervention.
 - A certificate of participation is provided to each participant.
 - This one (1) hour of training can be coupled with other activities to be used for continuing education and recertification.
- Colleges and daycare centers are using the resources on the website.
 - A total of 2,600 individuals from daycare centers passed the child development module.
- Collaboration has been occurring with the T/TACs (Training/Technical Assistance Centers) across Virginia.
- ARRA funds have been used to fund this project.

Deana also shared information about upcoming autism symposium with Rebecca Landis. She will send the information to Karen to make available to VICC members.

Public Comment

Public Comment was then provided by Mary Lou Hutton on behalf of the CoCoA Steering Committee. The following italicized report is verbatim from a written report that was provided.

On behalf of the CoCoA Steering Committee, we want to thank all members of the EI TCM Implementation Group for their hard work in completing the module, webinars and providing support to the local systems as we prepare for the October 01, 2011 transition. The Part C staff has done an excellent job in granting certification to EI Case Managers in a timely manner after completing their application. We look forward to the enhancements to ITOTS, which will streamline the communication process between local systems, DMAS and the State Part C Office.

We would also like to thank all the Part C staff for their assistance during this transitional time of hiring a new state Part C Coordinator.

Role of the State Corporation Commission in VICC and Commercial Insurance Coverage for Part C Services: Jim Young and Catherine Harrison

Jim Young, of the State Corporation Commission (SCC), provided information and handouts about the role of the SCC.

- The SCC does not make regulations, they regulate.
- Consumers can submit complaints to the SCC and they will determine whether the complaint is related to something they regulate.
- An amendment was added to the Early Intervention Mandate effective 7/1/11 that specifies the following: *The provisions of this section shall not apply in any instance in which the provisions of this section are inconsistent or in conflict with a provision of Article 6 (§38.2-3448 et seq.) of Chapter 34.*
- Information was provided about Healthcare reform.
 - Jim reported that a definition of “essential benefits” for healthcare plans is expected to be announced in November.
- Jim reported that Part C is not under the purview of the SCC.
- The Virginia Early Intervention Mandate does not cover insurance plans that are self-insured.
 - The number of plans that are self-insured is increasing.
 - It is estimated that the mandate is applicable to about 25% of individuals with insurance and is not limited to companies that are represented in the Virginia Association of Health Plans.
 - The SCC regulates only those insurance plans that are not self insured. It does cover individual policies.
- If an insurance plan is based in another state, even if it covers individuals living and working in Virginia, it must follow the laws of the state in which they are based.
 - If the policy is issued in Virginia, then Virginia laws apply.

Catherine Harrison reported that the Virginia Association of Health Plans (VAHP) includes the ten (10) largest Health plans in Virginia, including for profit, not for profit, HMOs and traditional health plans. VICC members raised the following issues for discussion with Jim and Catherine:

- Health plans not accepting EI providers in networks;
- Services not being covered;
- Low reimbursement rates;
- No response from health plans; and
- Reimbursement being sent to someone other than the agency designated on the claims form.

Catherine provided the following information:

- There seems to be confusion about certification vs. licensure requirements.

- Health plans cannot negotiate with a body such as the state early intervention system to establish reimbursement rates.

Strategies were discussed for educating health plans about the EI Personnel Regulations. Catherine suggested going through the Medical Directors. She also indicated that she would start the communications about this with the legislative committee of VAHP. Catherine also suggested working with the division of VDH involved with certification of health plans.

The following additional discussion occurred:

- It was reported that the process works well with Anthem; Anthem credentials the agency level while other insurance companies credential each individual.
- Early intervention needs to be included on the essential list of services related to Health Reform.
 - The Family Involvement Project Director will check with the ARC of Virginia related to any advocacy efforts.

Next steps:

- Beth Tolley will send a copy of the EI Personnel Regulations to Jim Young and Catherine Harrison.
- Catherine will provide this information to the Medical Directors and the legislative committee of the VAHP.
- Catherine will identify contacts for each Health Plan (for VICC/Part C).

Further discussion evolved related to including early intervention on the essential list of services for Health Reform. It was suggested that the VICC write a letter to Secretary Sebelius stating support for early intervention being added. The following additional discussion occurred:

- Letters should also be sent to Senators Webb and Warner.
- Should letters be sent to other State Representatives?
 - Is the State Coordinators Association preparing anything in the way of a letter?
 - Is there a template available that could be used?
 - Mary Anne White will check on this.
- Lissa will check to see if the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA) is advocating on this issue. If so, she will forward information to VICC members.
- Kelly will check to see if the Physical Therapists Association is advocating. She also will forward any information to VICC members.

Members further debriefed on the insurance issues. Beth Tolley will work with Allan, Joanne, Kelly and Tammy in following up with the issues.

VICC Governor Appointments

Rick Beaman, the VICC Chair, reported that he had contacted the individual at the Governor's office who handles the appointments. He was directed that VICC members whose terms are about to expire should remain as members until notified otherwise.

Election of Officers

Allan Phillips, Jeannie Odachowski and Patricia Popp of the nominating committee presented the following slate of potential VICC members to serve as officers:

Chair: Dr. Lissa Power de-Fur

Vice-Chair: Phyllis Mondak

Secretary: Ginny Heuple

Lissa indicated that her VICC seat expires the end of September but that she would be willing to serve as Chair while awaiting word from the Governor's office on her reappointment. VICC members were in agreement and approved the slate of officers to serve.

The following Action Items were identified:

- Reappointments: Karen Durst
- Provide update about the status of elevated lead levels as one of the diagnosed conditions that automatically qualifies a child for Part C: Karen Durst
- Information on autism symposium by Rebecca Landis: Deana to send to Karen for members
- Send information and form electronically to Karen to send to VICC members on parent stipends for the National Convention: Cori
- Send new personnel regulations to Catherine Harrison and Jim Young: Beth Tolley
- Follow-up with Catherine Harrison on next steps: Beth Tolley
- Letters of support for EI as an essential service: Rick
- What are other states doing as advocacy for EI as an essential service: Beth and Mary Anne
- Check to see if ITCA is advocating for EI as an essential service and if so is a template available for developing a letter: Mary Anne White
- Check with professional organizations to see if they are advocating for EI as an essential service: Lissa and Kelly
- Check with the ARC of VA to see if they are advocating for EI as an essential service: Debra Holloway

The following are agenda items for the March VICC meeting:

- Agency Updates;
- State Part C Regulations;
- High Lead Levels and Eligibility for Part C;
- Comparative Data for Child Find Including Child Count for Two-Five from Phyllis;
- Follow-up with Insurance Issues;
- Status of Letters of Support for EI as an Essential Service; and
- State Performance Plan-Annual Performance Report Information.

The next meeting of the VICC will be held December 14, 2011. The location is the Hanover Department of Social Services Office.

VICC Members Present:

Barbara S. Barrett
Frederick Beaman
Joanne Boise
Catherine Cook
Dr. Corey L. Herd
Virginia Heuple
Kelly Hill
Rita Katzman
Angela Leonard
Sonia Lopez
Janet Lung
Phyllis Mondak
Edwin Scott Moran
Allan Phillips
Dr. Patricia Popp
Dr. Lissa Power-deFur
Glen Slonneger
Yolanda Tennyson
Tammy Whitlock
Ms. Sandra Woodward

VICC Members Absent:

Delegate Anne B. Crockett-Stark
Kathleen McCauley
Jeanie Odachowski
Leslie Hutcheson Prince