

Virginia Interagency Coordinating Council
March 8, 2000
Meeting Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 9:45 AM by Anne Stewart, Chair. A list of attendees follows this report.

VICC Minutes

A request was made that the VICC develop a mechanism to make the minutes from the meetings available sooner than three months after the meeting. Options included posting and distributing draft minutes or seeking approval through electronic communication (fax and email). The pros and cons of both methods were discussed. Barbara Mease made a motion that ***the VICC meeting minutes be circulated electronically for review, corrections and approval in order to make them available to the public in a shorter amount of time than required with the current system.*** Rose Singleton seconded the motion. The motion passed.

December minutes

Barbara Mease moved that the December 1999 minutes be approved. Glen Slonneger seconded the motion. The motion passed; the minutes were approved.

Follow up from December Meeting

Motion to Send a Letter to the Editor of Richmond Times-Dispatch in Response to Thomas Sowell's Column about Early Intervention: A letter to the editor of the Richmond Times-Dispatch about Thomas Sowell's column, was published on December 22nd (and designated "Correspondent of the Day"). This letter was written by a Speech and Language Pathologist and addressed speech and language issues and other issues identified at the VICC meeting. A copy of this letter was distributed to VICC members. Anne Stewart has a drafted letter of response from the VICC to Sowell's column and she will send it to the Richmond Times-Dispatch.

Motion to Post Meeting Schedules on the Web Site: The web site now includes a calendar of VICC meetings, EIIMT meetings, Regional Council Meetings, Committee Meetings, Workgroup meetings, and conferences.

Request to Expand the DMHMRSAS Internal Workgroup to Include Parents, Providers and Representatives of Other Agencies: The decision was made in December to expand the internal workgroup to include parents, providers, representatives from the ATP Workgroup, representatives from the EIIMT, and representatives from other agencies. The workgroup was renamed the Continuous Quality Improvement - Ability to Pay Workgroup. This workgroup has met throughout January and February and will meet weekly in March. A report from the committee is included in these minutes.

Motion To Have the ATP Workgroup, the CQI - ATP Workgroup and the EIIMT Report on the ATP Issue: The EIIMT does not have a separate report because representatives are working with/on the CQI - ATP Workgroup. Reports from the ATP Workgroup and the CQI-ATP Workgroup are included in these minutes.

VICC Request that a letter be sent by the Virginia Babies Can't Wait! Office to families to offer support of the Part C Office as an Additional Support to families: A letter was sent by Anne Lucas to all 40 councils along with a cover letter suggesting mechanisms for disseminating the letter to all current Part C families and asking that it be included in the Welcome Book for families new to Part C. The letter states that the Part C Office will work in coordination with the local programs to resolve issues and will bring in the Reimbursement Office if needed. Anne Lucas received written concerns about the letter from several members of the Council Coordinator Association (CoCoA). Issues included a concern that families may bypass localities in addressing fee and ability to pay issues and/or that the letter may be hard for some families to understand. Anne Stewart commented that it was important that the letter reach all families. Wanda Pruet, State Family Representative expressed support for the letter, as did Steve Waldron, Executive Director of the Virginia Association for Retarded Citizens. Wanda stated that as a parent, she has a right to know all of the options. She stated that she does not want someone else to decide what information she should receive. Brenda Laws asked if families could make collect calls to the Part C office. Anne Lucas said the Part C office does not have a mechanism to receive collect calls. Wanda stated that the families could be given the toll free parent representative number. Parent representatives could refer people back to local parent representatives on local council and could offer to have Anne Lucas contact them if they have done as much as they feel they can at the local level. The toll free number is 1-888-604-2677. Anne Lucas offered to send an e-mail message offering this additional option. Steve Waldron, ARC expressed appreciation to all providers and families who have worked on the fees and ability to pay issue. He stated that Commissioner Kellogg has been one of strongest advocates he has worked with once he (Commissioner Kellogg) learned the impact on families. Steve said he views this letter to parents as an example of the Virginia Babies Can't Wait! Office fulfilling its role of monitoring, oversight and technical assistance to localities. Steve also commented that this year is the 10th anniversary of Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). We will have a celebration this summer.

Request that VICC Committees Solicit and Collect Questions Regarding the Lead Agency for Consideration as Part of the Evaluation of the Part C System: Questions have been solicited from the field (from local councils, CSBs and local counterparts of EI/MT agencies). These questions will be provided to the advisory committee for the Part C System Evaluation.

Concerns about Inclusion of a Possible Change in Lead Agency Designation in the DMHMRSAS Comprehensive Plan: This has been removed from the Comprehensive Plan in response to public comment.

Lead Agency Report

Anne Lucas reported that a ***new employee***, Beth Skufca will start work on March 20, 2000. She will be filling the position vacated by Richard Corbett, including support of the VICC Administrative Committee.

A contract for the ***Monitoring and Information Measurement System*** (MIMS) has been awarded to the Old Dominion University (ODU) Social Sciences Research Center. Jeff Harlow and Tancy Vandecar will be the ODU contacts for the contract. They will hire two full time people to manage statewide implementation of the system. These two people will report to Anne Lucas. 17 local councils will participate this year in MIMS. Anne recognized Carmen Sanchez, Allen Phillips and Mary Anne White for their work in keeping the MIMS process moving. A request was made to post the positions on the web. Anne Lucas said that this would be done.

The **Interagency Head Start Agreement** between Head Start, the Department of Education (DOE), and Part C has been completed. Copies are being distributed to all councils and to VICC members. A press release will be published in local newspapers.

The Local Part C Contract

Modifications have been made to the local contract for the next fiscal year. Copies of the revised contract have been sent to council coordinators and fiscal agents for review and input. The public comment period for the contract will end on May 5, 2000. Anne highlighted the following changes:

- ◆ An item that had inadvertently been omitted from this year's contract was added to the assurances. Council coordinators had been informed of this requirement previously through written communication from the Part C Office.
- ◆ Items in the scope of work section for councils were reorganized.
- ◆ New items were added in response to issues and questions from the field (in order to help clarify information and expectations). These include the expectation that all councils have (and use) email capability and that the highest standard requirement is followed when hiring new employees.
- ◆ A requirement to utilize statewide forms (IFSP and prior notice/consent forms) was added. (The forms will be reviewed by the Attorney General). Localities will also be asked to develop a plan to meet the natural environments requirement of the federal regulations. These requirements were added in response to information received in January about the Office of Special Education Programs' (OSEP) focus on IFSP documentation and natural environments compliance when they do their monitoring reviews of states. The Virginia Babies Can't Wait! Office will provide guidance to localities on how to develop a plan to meet the natural environment requirements. This will be provided as part of the IFSP/Natural Environments/Procedural Safeguard forms training sessions in May.
- ◆ A requirement is included that localities will use the Public Awareness materials that will be developed by the organization that is awarded the Public Awareness contract.
- ◆ The requirement for implementing MIMS was added.
- ◆ Further clarification about the progress report is included.

A question was raised about 4c under assurances. Anne explained that the item was added to clarify that Part C is used as supplemental, not primary, source for reimbursement. (Agencies were requesting to use Part C funds in spite of being supported by public funds). In reference to items on page 13 of the contract, Anne was asked if baseline data is available. Anne responded affirmatively. The question arose as to why family fees were not included on page 15 as one of the sources of funding. Anne said that it will be included.

A request was made that the proposed revised local contract be posted on the web to make it accessible for more people to review. David Mills will look into the feasibility of doing this. Carmen Sanchez offered her assistance with this.

Evaluation of the Part C System

Update on the RFP - The request for proposal has not been finalized yet.

Questions for Part C System Evaluation - Questions for consideration as part of the Part C System evaluation have been solicited from a broad range of stakeholders.

Recommendation for the VICC to serve as an Advisory Committee - Barbara Mease moved and Elisabeth Hutton seconded a motion **that the Virginia Interagency Coordinating Council serve as the Advisory committee for the Contractor who will do the evaluation of the Part C System; and that the VICC empower the Steering Committee to act on its behalf when a timely response is needed.** Discussion followed. Pat Abrams asked for clarification about how the VICC would fulfill this role, whether VICC meetings would need to be held more frequently, and whether Advisory Committee meetings are required to be public meetings. (Public meetings require a great deal of paperwork). Anne Stewart said she did not believe additional meetings would be required, but that the Part C System Evaluation would always be an item to be an update at each VICC meeting. The other option is to use steering committee for time related information. Anne Lucas thinks there may need to be one or two separate meetings when contract initiated to give contractor input, and that there needs to be flexibility to call additional meetings as necessary. Several options for the advisory committee were discussed including having volunteers from the VICC to serve, having the VICC to provide advice without being designated as an advisory committee, and designating the advisory committee a group of stakeholders to be identified later. Anne Lucas clarified that the role of an advisory body is only to advise; authority rests with the contracting agency. She stated that we want the committee to help assure public involvement and input from different statewide constituencies every step of the way. The point was made that the VICC does not have much family representation (until the governor appoints new members). Anne Stewart said she believes that the VICC should be in the loop and named and that we expect to have a broad base of additional stakeholders.

Barbara Mease amended the original motion as follows: **that Virginia Interagency Coordinating Council members serve in an advisory role for the Contractor who will do the evaluation of the Part C System; and that the VICC empower the Steering Committee to act on its behalf when a timely response is needed.** Elisabeth Hutton seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Ability to Pay Update

CQI - ATP Workgroup

Mary Anne Discenza reported that the DMHMRSAS ATP workgroup was expanded to include other state agencies, families (designated by ARC), representatives from the VICC ATP workgroup, CoCoA, and local CSBs (executive director, MR council). The group has met 5 times since January, and is now meeting weekly. Workgroup members have demonstrated tremendous commitment. Work has included:

1. Development of principles to serve as the basis for whatever solutions are proposed. These will be forwarded to the Early Intervention Agencies Committee (EIAC).
2. Discussion about how to do impact analyses. Internal data about the amount of family fees has been reported to the Department, but the group needs to figure how to collect that information from other sources. Printouts of CSB information will be collected this week. Cost impact analysis is an important part of this process.
3. Development of proposals for statewide fee schedules. There are two versions of statewide fee schedule and the group will be looking at another one. The group will review options in terms of resolving issues and cost impact.
4. Review of procedures including when families obtain information, what information they receive, and the appeal process.
5. Development of recommendations responsive to input from families.

Timelines have been adjusted due to the time needed for impact analyses. Anne Lucas explained that code changes and/or budget amendments may be required as part of the recommendations from the workgroup. The workgroup anticipates completing the proposals quickly; the impact

analyses will take longer. Proposed changes require public comment and approval by state agencies. If code changes are necessary, the target date would be pushed back to July 1, 2001.

Workgroup meeting minutes are being posted on the web. The basic principles will be posted on the website after the agency heads approve them. The workgroup plans to provide written information in draft form at the next VICC meeting.

Anne Lucas expressed appreciation to Mary Ann Discenza for her commitment and hard work on this issue.

VICC ATP Workgroup

Emily Dreyfus reported that Glen Slonneger is now co-chair of the workgroup. Emily thanked the VICC for its support for this issue. She said the workgroup feels that good progress has been made and that they have high hopes for future. Commissioner Kellogg expressed commitment from department (DMHMRSAS) to develop and implement consistent procedures that would provide access to affordable fees. Emily recognized Tina Beachy and reported that Tina is resigning soon at least in part because of the hassles related to fees and ability to pay.

Glen Slonneger reported that the workgroup has proposed four options for its future role:

1. Update the mission of the VICC ATP Workgroup to distribute information and provide opportunities for input
2. Update the mission to also include the potential for re-activation if the process of reaching a solution gets delayed or has other difficulties
3. Options 2 and 3 and plan a major celebration when the solution is implemented
4. Disband the VICC ATP Workgroup

Glen Slonneger ***moved that the ATP continue with the role of distributing information about the ability to pay issue and providing opportunities for input; and that the workgroup retain the option to reactivate if deemed necessary. Cherie Takemoto seconded the motion. The motion passed.***

Family report

Wanda Pruett related a personal experience she had with her daughter. Her daughter is quite mobile and her hands are almost never free as she uses a walker or propels her wheelchair. She asked Wanda how she would be able to hold her babies. Wanda discovered a children's book about a woman who uses a wheelchair. This book, called "Mama Zooms" has been very helpful to her daughter. Wanda recommended the book to other parents and suggested that providers might want to make it available to families.

Public Comments

Nancy Bailey

"I am glad to see impact information included on fees collected by CSBs. Legislators contacted in my area first question-what is it going to cost the state? As a parent of a child with extreme medical involvement who was in early intervention long before Part C, I would have had to refuse Early Intervention services if there had been a charge, due to medical expenses. Looking at him now and what a difference early intervention made in his outcome, it would have been tragic to think he wouldn't have had this opportunity."

Mary Anne White

"It is difficult to follow VICC's discussion when we don't have the materials in front of us for reference. Is it possible to use A-V materials such as overheads or some other mechanism so we can see the content of the discussion? I also want to thank you for making efforts to ensure that all comments/discussions are heard."

Carmen Sanchez

"I would like to acknowledge the hard work and dedication of Emily Dreyfus to solve the ATP issue for families. She has led the VICC ATP workgroup tirelessly, even when we met with roadblocks and delays. She kept us chugging along and I want to recognize her work on the behalf of all families in the Babies Can't Wait Program."

Carol Burke

"I am Carol Burke. I am the local council coordinator for Rockbridge. We serve the counties of Bath and Rockbridge and the cities of Buena Vista, and Lexington. I am also the director of the CSB's infant program and in that capacity I complete all financial forms and appeals with families in our locality. I also talk with many of the insurance companies on a regular basis."

"I want to share with the VICC a recurring problem. I am going to use one family's story but this is not an isolated incident. "

"In late August we found a little boy eligible for Part C services because of speech delay. He is covered by Trigon. I called Trigon and was told that he would be covered by the early intervention benefit. The IFSP was completed and sent to Trigon per their procedure. I completed the financial paperwork with the family and they fell at our highest monthly maximum-\$330 a month. They were alarmed by this high fee but were reassured because Trigon said that they would be covered by the early intervention benefit. They really wanted services for their son."

"In October Trigon refused to pay all but \$22 of our September charges. They said that the developmentally delayed code was not covered. When the mother found out, she called me in a panic. I called Trigon again and they confirmed that he was covered by the early intervention benefit and asked would I please send the IFSP so they could flag his chart? Although I had already done this, I sent it again. They also asked us to re-bill for September and we did that too."

"This boy made significant progress and was discharged from Part C in December. At the time of discharge, we had still not heard from Trigon after re-billing. They had still only paid the \$22 in September. "

"Last week our billing person called me to tell me Trigon had denied all speech services because the developmentally delayed diagnosis was not covered. This told me that Trigon still had not flagged his file as a recipient of the early intervention benefit. "

"I called Trigon again. They had no documentation that he was Part C eligible even though I had sent in the IFSP two times. They confirmed once again that he was Part C eligible and they would flag the file. They told me that I did not have to send in the IFSP again but that they could not find either copy. They told me they were going to review all the bills and apply the early intervention benefit. We are waiting to hear. Here are the issues:

- 1) Each time I call Trigon, I am on hold for an average of 20 minutes before I talk to anyone. Once I do speak with someone, I am repeatedly placed on hold as they try to find someone who knows about the early intervention benefit. Each call to Trigon averages about 45

minutes of my time. Many Trigon representatives seem to have no idea what the early intervention benefit is. Once last fall when I called about another child. The Trigon representative was so confused that she kept thinking I was looking for early intervention services for my child- she just could not understand that I was a provider and she kept saying that she could not help me and would I please check in my phone book for early intervention services.

- 2) Even though I spend all of my time on the phone and send in documentation, they still can't seem to flag the files so they know when a bill comes in that the child is covered by the early intervention benefit."

"Although I get incredibly frustrated by my experiences with Trigon and the other 3rd party insurers, the significant issue to me is for the family. This particular family has already been discharged from services after 4 months of speech therapy. They still have no idea how much Trigon will pay and they have no idea what they owe us, as providers. They still could end up owing their full monthly maximum to us, which would total \$1320 unless they saved all their financial information with me to appeal."

"Again this is not an isolated incident. I am hoping that Further work can be done with Trigon and all 3rd party issues so that these kinds of problems are eliminated."

"Also, as the work continues on ATP issues, recognize that there are families just like this one who enter our services because they want help for their babies, and who receive services for months and months and are sometimes even discharged before they know what their insurance will pay and what their financial obligation to us will be. I think this, along with all other ATP issues can be extremely stressful for families."

Christa Shiflett

"Thanks to all the wonderful Council Coordinators across the state that I have worked with in conjunction with the Coordinator's Association. We have made a lot of progress this year and look forward to more progress next year. I have been honored to work with such dedicated individuals. Please don't give up on our families and our kids."

Kathy Phillips

"The Tidewater Regional Interagency Coordinating Council (TRICC), which includes coordinators and representatives from local councils throughout the Tidewater area, has identified a significant concern which is impacting on the provision of early intervention services in Virginia. At their meeting on February 29, 2000, the group recommended that a formal request be made to the VICC to state this problem and to request support in remedying the situation."

"The concern is regarding the funding formula that is currently used to distribute Part C funds, which is quite problematic and needs to be revised as soon as possible. As individual councils have previously identified to you, some areas are facing significant financial hardships due to a number of factors, including significant increases in referrals of children, the implementation of Medallion II, and the need to conduct services in the natural environment. It seems incongruous to hear, at the same time that some councils are unable to fund needed services, that some areas may not have had a need for all of the funds that they were allocated. Unfortunately, this situation has impeded the search for additional funding for those areas which are so much in need."

"Following are the recommendations from TRICC:

- 1) Reallocate the Part C funds that have been returned by local councils as soon as possible, with the first priority for their use being direct services.

- 2) Begin an immediate review of the formula and process that is used to allocate the Part C funds, with significant input from the councils.
- 3) Provide the following information for the past three years to TRICC:
 - a) amount of funding received by each council,
 - b) amount of funding returned by each council,
 - c) description of the formula that is used to distribute the funds,
 - d) specific plans that might have been developed to address the inequities in the funding formula.
- 4) Provide an accurate statement of the financial needs that areas are currently facing in implementing the Part C regulations."

"The TRICC meets again on Tuesday, March 28 in Norfolk. Our group would like to request that the information requested in recommendation #3 be provided to us by that date. Thank you very much for your support with this very concerning issue."

Rosalind Cutchins

"The CFIT nurses training field test has been completed in Tidewater. The training is ready to move out into other areas of the state. Encourage Council Coordinators/Councils to look toward this opportunity to educate nurses and build early intervention referral sources. Any interested parties may contact Fran Gallagher at CDR at 757-566-3300."

"I am sorry to hear that Tina Beachy is leaving the system but I can appreciate that she is a "casualty" of the system. The financial hardships, the financial administration is wearing. Whatever dollars we have saved is being lost in service to families. As we continue, I believe we'll continue to lose more and more people because the system is too difficult in which to work."

Review of and Response to Public Comments

Use of technology for VICC meetings

We will plan to use overheads and flip charts at the meetings (especially for agenda and motions). Barbara Mease requested that additional copies of handouts be prepared so that everyone receives all of the handouts. This will be done. Options will be explored to address the difficulty of attendees hearing all of the discussion.

Issues with Third Party Payors

Anne Lucas needs to be informed about specific situations with difficulties with payors. Send an email with details to Anne Lucas. Anne requested that she be informed of problems early in the process. These problems should not be happening. Training for third party payors on the early intervention insurance mandate has been done, but turnover of staff works against training efforts.

Nancy Bailey has had no problems in her area. Jane Wilkinson is the main contact for Trigon if problems occur. Her phone number is 804-354-2916.

Funding Formula

A workgroup established by the EIIMT studied the formula several years ago. It is clear that it is an issue. The workgroup did not have the expertise to fix formula. A motion made at the February EIIMT meeting that a recommendation be made to the Early Intervention Agencies Committee that the budget for FFY00-01 be revised to include funding for consultant to evaluate and revise the formula. Anne Lucas said that the Part C office will provide the Tidewater Regional Interagency Coordinating Councils (TRICC) with the information they have requested.

Anne Stewart asked participants to know that they are not alone with the issues of insurance. VICC is supporting council coordinators and providers.

Wanda Pruettt said that the early intervention professionals are supporting families so well that many families are not aware of the problems the providers are dealing with. She urged the providers to let families know how they can help. She stated, "It is my responsibility to work on this. Include us and let us relieve some of the burden. It gives back some of the feeling of control that we lost when our kids were born. It empowers families."

Public Awareness

Christa Shifflett reported that the Public Awareness and Family Support and Advocacy member representatives reviewed the responses to the request for proposals (RFP) for the public awareness campaign. She said the applications were outstanding and any of the respondents would do an exceptional job. Whoever is awarded the contract will go to local areas and learn what works and doesn't work. The public awareness materials will be culturally diverse. DMHMRSAS has worked with the ARC of Virginia; the ARC is setting up an account for donations to support the public awareness activities. The Public Awareness Committee hopes to have some things in play by May (which is Early Intervention month).

Local Continuous Improvement (LCI) Pilots

Allan Phillips reported on the status of the LCI pilots. He stated that he prefers that they be called the **family centered** pilot. Fairfax and Virginia Beach have had two days of training from the Puckett Institute. All of the staff in Fairfax attended their training sessions. Allan stated that the early intervention providers in Fairfax use a family-centered model, but that he became aware during the training that perhaps everyone is not as family-friendly as they believe they are.

Cultural Diversity

Conroy Johnson and Helen Bessent-Byrd presented information about the Cultural Diversity Advisory Committee. Muriel Felder provides staff support to the Cultural Diversity Committee. Members include representatives from several universities including Anne Stewart from James Madison University and Helen Bessent-Byrd from Norfolk State University. Brenda Laws is also a member of the committee.

Purposes of committee

1. Develop and implement minority recruitment and retention
2. Assess advice to reduce personnel shortages and enhance diversity
3. Provide education about the need for early intervention service providers in Virginia
4. Identify strategies to integrate Cultural Diversity into all training efforts

Activities

1. The committee is meeting in different parts of the state to become familiar with Early Intervention programs throughout Virginia
2. The committee has chosen four areas of the state to do site visits to see early intervention in operation by the families, councils and providers in those areas.

Recommendations

1. Determine and implement strategies to increase the number of services provided and expand pre-service and inservice training for personnel.

2. Infuse cultural competence in all components of Part C.
3. Develop a curriculum with George Mason University and Old Dominion University to include distance learning and to expand early childhood education programs at state-supported historically black universities to include early childhood special education.
4. Increase diversity and quality services for infants/toddlers.
5. Inform persons in the welfare reform system about careers in early intervention.
6. Provide developmental courses for people without a diploma or a GED
7. Recruit high school students into childcare.
8. Extend/Increase General Assembly funds through Social Services to train Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) participants.
9. Develop a Cultural Diversity program for all early intervention programs including the lead agency
10. Develop curriculum to be used for and by the lead agency for training.
11. Empower the Cultural Diversity specialist to monitor, evaluate, review, and assist with activities to assure and enhance cultural competence in the Early Intervention system.

Multicultural Early Childhood Team Training (MECTT) can be used as one mechanism to provide multicultural education to direct care personnel. The MECTT is a collaborative project with the Parent Education and Training Center and George Mason University. Members of the Cultural Diversity Advisory Committee can be used as resources.

The point was made that cultural diversity is not limited to ethnicity or race; it also includes how we relate to people of our same color.

Ann Cox expressed wholehearted support for the recommendations and said she believes there are some existing education programs in the state that could benefit from consultation from the Cultural Diversity Advisory Committee. Helen said the committee will follow up with Ann.

Pat Abrams reminded members that early childhood special educators are not the only or primary people working with infants and toddlers. The training needs to be infused into training of all personnel who work with infants.

Anne Stewart encouraged committees to seek input from the Cultural Diversity Advisory Committee (CDAC). She reported that the CDAC has been helpful to the Personnel Training and Development Committee.

Nominating Committee

Elisabeth Hutton reported that the Nominating Committee met in January and addressed 4 items:

1. Solicitation of names of nominees for the provider and insurance representative member positions.
2. Drafting a letter to Commissioner Kellogg requesting assistance with action on the request that was submitted in August 1999 and including the new potential nominees. The slate of nominees submitted in August will be forwarded again with the slate of nominees for the new positions.
3. Nominations for committee chairs should occur in June. New committee chairs would begin their tenure on October 1.
4. Development of a calendar of VICC activities. The calendar was distributed to VICC members and other participants in today's meeting. Input was sought about other information that should be included on the calendar.

A letter has been drafted to be sent to Commissioner Kellogg. However, in order to submit the list of nominees, another nominee for the insurance position is required. A request was made to the VICC that suggestions be forwarded to the nominating committee. Susan Shaw responded, suggesting a potential nominee. Beth Tolley will follow up on the suggestion.

Legislative update

Anne Lucas reported the following:

- ◆ The resolution to continue the joint subcommittee on early intervention was not passed
- ◆ A resolution for DMHMRSAS to write a report on progress with resolving family fees issue was not passed
- ◆ Two budget amendments were combined; \$150,000 to hire a consultant to determine what is needed to develop an interagency data system and \$100,000 for a consultant to review the George Barker data on eligibility numbers. The budget amendments were only considered in the Senate and only \$100,000 for a consultant to update the projection of children eligible for Part C services was considered. We will not know if this passed until next week.

The EIIMT passed two motions that if these are not funded through the General Assembly, the Management Team will recommend to the EIAC that money be included in the budget for these two consultants next year.

Anyone can provide input to the General Assembly by calling the 1-800 number or by sending an email (or letter) to a member of the budget committee.

VICC retreat

The VICC retreat will be held May 18-19. Pat Abrams suggested that training on cultural competence be provided at the retreat. The agenda will include review of progress on the integrated workplan and discussion of areas to focus on in the next year. Members were asked to send any additional ideas for agenda items to Anne Stewart.

Announcements:

Jim Blackman asked about interest in using the technology that is used in tele-medicine for VICC meetings. Some facilities that are being used for tele-medicine could perhaps be used for VICC meetings in order to facilitate greater local participation. The University of Virginia may be willing to do a pilot. Dr. Blackman will look into this. He and Anne Lucas will discuss next steps.

May is early intervention month.

April is child abuse prevention month. Anne Stewart reported that the State provides a good packet of educational information on child abuse. The Department of Social Services has a packet of information about child abuse for children with disabilities.

The Personnel Training and Development Committee, Family Support and Advocacy Committee and the Local Regional Direct Services Committee will meet this afternoon.

Cherie Takemoto expressed appreciation for the packet of information that was distributed to members. She said it makes members aware of all that is going on. There are many good things happening; we sometimes lose sight of that because we focus on the problems.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:30 PM.

VICC Meeting Attendance (March 8, 2000)

<u>Name</u>	<u>Role</u>	<u>Member</u>
Rose Stith-Singleton	Parent	Yes
Betty Vincent -Williams	Parent	Yes
Cheri Rei Takemoto	Parent	Yes
Helen Bessent Byrd	Personal Preparation	Yes
Anne Stewart	Personal Preparation	Yes
James Blackman	Provider	Yes
Brenda Laws	Provider	Yes
Barbara Mease	Provider	Yes
Glen Slonneger	Agency Representative, DVH	Yes
Pat Abrams	Agency Representative, DOE	Yes
Liz Hutton	Agency Representative, VDH	Yes
Yolanda Tennyson	Agency Representative, SEC	Yes
Pamela Johnson	Agency Representative, DRVD	Yes
Anne Lucas	Virginia Part C Coordinator	
Beth Tolley	VABCW Staff	
Julia Martin	VABCW Staff	
Mary Ann Discenza	VABCW Staff	
David Mills	VABCW Staff	
LaKeishia White	VABCW Staff	
Bev Crouse	VABCW Staff	
Wanda Pruett	Virginia State Parent Representative	
Sheila Null	Parent	
Dana Yarbrough	Parent	
Carmen Sanchez	Parent, Fairfax	
Emily Dreyfus	Parent	
C.R Johnson	Cultural Diversity Advisory Comm.	
Carol Burke	Council Coordinator, Rockbridge	
Debbie Billodeaux	Council Coordinator, Fairfax-Falls Church	
Linda Eggleston	Council Coordinator, VA Beach ICC	
Susan Shaw	Council Coordinator, Blue Ridge	
Katy McCullough	Council Coordinator, NRVEIC	
Diane Evans	Council Coordinator, Highlands	
Alison Standing	Council Coordinator, Rappahannock Area	
Ann Simmons	Council Coordinator, Central VA	
Rosalind Cutchins	Council Coordinator, Western Tidewater	
Kathy Phillips	Council Coordinator, Regional Early Intervention Team	
Brenda Crockett	Council Coordinator, Chesapeake	
Nancy Bailey	Council Coordinator, PD 1	
Bonnie Stone	Council Coordinator, Dickenson County	
Mary Lou Hutton	Council Coordinator, Cumberland	
Cindy Kysela	Council Coordinator, Hampton Newport News	
Janie Shoup	Council Coordinator, Mount Rogers	
Lynn Ruiz	Council Coordinator, Arlington	
Christa Shifflett	Council Coordinator, SVICC	
Mary Anne White	Council Coordinator Goochland-Powhatan	
Allan Phillips	Director, Fairfax Early Intervention Services	
Richard Corbett	Richmond Infant Council	
Terry Izzo	Infant Intervention Services	
Darlene Warsing	PIE-NWCSB	
Beth Sarrett	TAP-VA	
Nancy Butts	Private Provider, NRVEIC	
Adrienne Frank	CDR	
Beth Sellers	Student	