

Virtual Virginia Interagency Coordinating Council (VICC) Meeting
December 08, 2021
FINAL Minutes

The December 8, 2021 Virginia Interagency Coordinating Council Meeting was called to order by Dr. Zipporah Levi-Shackelford. There were nineteen (19) VICC members in attendance. The September 8, 2021 VICC Meeting Minutes were motioned and approved. Please see the attendance list following the minutes.

New VICC Members and Reappointments

• **New Members**

- Christina Harrison from Bristol, VA. Christina will fill the unexpired seat of Kelly Hill. Her seat will expire 09/30/23.
- Heather Rogers from Palmyra, VA. Heather is filling a parent seat and her term runs from 10/01/21-09/30/24.

• **Reappointments**

- Senator Ghazala Hashmi as legislative representative-her term is 10/01/21-09/30/24.
- Dr. Kendall Lee as local system manager representative-his term is 10/01/21-09/30/24.

Child Find Trends

Catherine Hancock shared the Birth through One and the Birth through Three Child Find Trends. Please review the attached handouts.

Early Intervention Program Manager Update- Catherine Hancock

Catherine Hancock provided the Part C Update. Information included the following:

1. Child Count numbers increased. The (overall) 0 to 3 count surpassed the 2019 Dec. 1st count and is the highest ever. The 0-1, is increasing but hasn't surpassed 2019. The 0-1 is 98 infants below the 2019 level.
2. Early Intervention continues to deal with the pandemic. Each locality is managing in-home vs. telehealth depending on local guidance and family preferences.
3. Starting the distribution of the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds. These funds are a partial disbursement (half) of the ARPA funds. Because the APRA funds have an extended time frame for expenditure, we want to ensure we can meet emerging needs over the period these funds are available. The ARPA funds can be retained until early 2024. We will continue to consider data and stakeholder input in determining the most impactful use for the remaining ARPA funds; but we do expect to provide some additional funds to localities, most likely for the next state fiscal year.

4. We continue to work with our contractor, SSG, to implement our new data system. The target date for implementation is late spring. This system will allow better reporting and provide efficiency for localities and the state.
5. The next focus for our quality improvement will be increasing the percentage of infants and toddlers who substantially increase their rate of growth in the area of positive social-emotional skills (including social relationships) by the time they exit early intervention.

State Systemic Improvement Plan

Kyla Patterson presented information regarding the Part C SSIP. Kyla updated the VICC on the progress on the current SSIP, development of the new SSIP and information on the SPP/APR. Please see the attached Power point presentation.

Public Comment

There was no Public Comment submitted.

VICC Business

Financial Disclosures are due on February 1, 2022. Karen Durst will be sending out a reminder email in January. As a reminder, the forms will need to be completed electronically.

Open Forum-Kelly Hill

There was no open forum topics submitted.

AGENCY REPORTS

The Arc of Virginia, New Path Program-Robin Church

Please see the attached, the New Path Program Report presented by Robin Church.

Virginia Department for the Blind and Vision Impaired (VDBVI)-Caren Phipps

- As of Dec. 1, 2021 DBVI Education Coordinators are back to doing home visits across the state. If the virus spikes significantly after the holidays then this policy may have to be adjusted in certain regions.
- There continues to be a critical need across the state for Teachers of the Visually Impaired (TVIs) and Orientation and Mobility Specialists (O&M) at the Infant and Toddler level as well as at the school level to teach children/students who are visually impaired, blind or deafblind. The on-going lack of a Vision Specialist/TVI in some of the Infant and Toddler programs has resulted in more direct service time from the DBVI Education Coordinators, which is not their primary role and impacts the provision of services to other children and families. The current level of service is not sustainable and DBVI is in the process of determining what level of service can be provided with the 4 full-time (of which two positions are currently vacant) and 2 part-time Education Coordinators the agency employs. Education

Coordinators currently serve 187 children age 0-3, as well as the active cases among the remaining 2,267 children/students age 4 to 22. Our fastest growing population statewide is the 0-3 group, possibly due to better screening and identification.

- DBVI's Education Services program has been addressing the significant need for training in the area of Cortical/Cerebral Visual Impairment, which is now the leading cause of childhood visual impairment in the United States. There is a critical need for a strong base of knowledge and skills in the area of CVI within developmental and educational teams. DBVI is addressing this need and has presented one in-house training with another scheduled in January or February; and three CVI trainings in collaboration with Dept. Of Education, Outreach Services through the Virginia School for the Deaf and Blind, and the Vision Consortium at GMU. Two of the trainings were with Chris Russell from the New York Deaf Blind Project to include one for families. We also hosted a 10 hr. training with Dr. Sandra Newcomb for TVIs, O&M Specialists and associated professional staff (i.e., Early Childhood Educators, OTs, PTs, Speech and Language Pathologists (SLPs) and we had 129 participants, which is an indication of the need for this type of training.

Virginia Department for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (VDDHH) –Eric Raff

No Report

VA Dept. of Behavioral Health & Developmental Svcs. (DBHDS)-Nina Marino

Early Childhood Mental Health Updates:

- Final Planning Phase for the IECMH Strategic Plan 2022-2026 with the Early Childhood Mental Health Advisory board
- DC-05 looking at options/strategies for reimbursable hours for IECMH professionals for future planning with DMAS
- Early childhood Mental health Advisory board had Dr. Ferguson from VCU Health Developmental Clinic join us to speak about the course she has developed regarding social determinants of health and the intersectionality of racism and trauma to improve care and address racial disparities
- Early childhood mental health consultation pilot headed up by DOE launched November 1st and will run through the Spring of 2022; still in process of recruiting families.
- Currently have 28 providers enrolled in the early childhood endorsement process that will run through June 2022.

VMAP Budget Proposal:

- If included in the Governor's budget and funded through the General Assembly, it would allow for the expansion of VMAP by implement early childhood (0-5 years old) intervention and prevention in primary care through training, consultation, and resource support. VMAP would expand its existing ECHO programming (primary care training model), to include training and resources on early childhood screening, intervention, diagnosis, and referral support for primary care providers statewide who treat children ages 0-5. VMAP would also add regional

specialists to its existing statewide consult line for primary care providers, including developmental pediatricians and early childhood pediatric psychologists to assist PCPs via consultation, as well as additional regional care navigators to assist PCPs and their patients in finding local resources and referrals specific for this population.

- We will be waiting to see what is in the Governor’s final budget that will be released later this month, but the budget proposal is available to view on the Department of Planning and Budget website.

ARPA fund planning:

- The Office of Child and Family Services is in active planning for both mental health and substance use projects.
 - A school-based mental health RFA will be released to expand school mental health services due to the impacts of the pandemic on social emotional well-being and learning. OCFS is partnering with DOE on this project and intends to award \$6.8 million in one-time funds to expand services.
 - Workforce development activities to support the CSB’s will be forthcoming including sustaining evidence based practices and expand skills and competencies of the workforce around a variety of topics including eating disorders, substance use screening, treatment and family engagement, motivational interviewing, Adolescent Community Reinforcement Approach to name a few.
 - Expanding training for Young Adult Peer Recovery Specialists and Family Support Partners
 - Expanding Youth Support Partners in existing substance use treatment sites
 - Sustaining Intensive Care Coordination/High Fidelity Wraparound workforce development and fidelity/outcome evaluation
 - Funding to support the early childhood endorsement process through VCU for funding of 3-6 year old endorsees

Virginia Department of Education (VDOE)-Dr. Dawn Hendricks

No Report

Virginia Department of Education-Project HOPE-Virginia -Dr. Patricia Popp

Preliminary numbers for students identified as experiencing homelessness during the 20-21 academic year suggest continued reductions from pre-pandemic counts. An official count will be available for the next VICC meeting. The American Rescue Plan homeless education (ARP-HCY) funds are being awarded. ARP-Homeless II funds which are awarded to school divisions on a formula basis will reach most schools divisions (approximately 90 of the 132), many of whom have never received direct funding for these students. Two priority populations in the law are students with disabilities and pregnant, parenting, or caregiving students. This could be an opportunity for additional collaboration between Part C and school divisions. A second new opportunity in the first Youth Housing Demonstration Project awarded in Virginia. The communities included in this

initiative are: Dinwiddie County, Greensville County, Hopewell City, Petersburg City, Prince George County, Surry County, and Sussex County. Please let Pat Popp know if you have a contact in that region who might be interested in participating in the planning as a stakeholder.

Virginia Department of Health (VDH) –Shamaree Cromartie

No Report

Virginia Department of Medical Assistance Services (DMAS)-Adrienne Fegans

Please see the attached DMAS handout submitted by Adrienne Fegans.

Virginia Department of Social Services

No Report

State Corporation Commission (SCC), Bureau of Insurance- James Young

No Report

The meeting was adjourned.

The next meeting of the VICC will be held March 9, 2022.

VICC Members Present:

Catherine Childers
Penni Crist
Shamaree Cromartie
Adrienne Fegans
Senator Ghazala Hashmi
Wyvonnice Harsley
Dr. Kristen Heinan
Elizabeth John
Dr. Kendall Lee
Dr. Zipporah Levi-Shackleford
Jennifer MacRae
Jeannie Odachowski
Caren Phipps
Dr. Patricia Popp
Jennifer Reese
Heather Rogers
Jaylene Trueblood
Lynn Wolfe
James Young