

Virtual Virginia Interagency Coordinating Council (VICC) Meeting

March 10, 2021

FINAL Minutes

The March 10, 2021 Virginia Interagency Coordinating Council Meeting was called to order by Kelly Hill. There were twenty-four (24) VICC members in attendance. Please see the attendance list following the minutes.

- Welcome to New Members
 - Jennifer Lupo Reese
 - Dr. Kristen Heinan

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

Please see the below Part C Update provided by Catherine Hancock.

1. Services are largely continuing to be provided through telehealth some lead agencies are providing limited in-person services.
2. We are gathering information about which localities are providing in-person services and the process and forms they are using. This will be compiled and shared with system managers so they can share resources.
3. The childcount continues to be lower than the same time last year.
 - a. All children 0 -3 is down 6.4%
 - b. 0-1 is down 16.5%
 - c. These decreases are in the lower range of what other states are reporting
 - d. There was a slight increase from March 21st over February 21st (38)
4. We are waiting on the draft amount for the federal grant. There is a dedicated amount for Early Intervention Part C in the Senate emergency COVID -19 (American Rescue Plan Act of 2021). This bill, which passed the full Senate last Saturday included dedicated one-time only additional funds for IDEA Part B 611, Part B 619, and Part C. The amounts include:

\$2.5 billion for Part B
\$200 million for Section 619
\$250 million for Part C

5. The bill now needs to be passed by the House. The President is expected to sign the bill this week. No changes are expected in the bill before House passage.

Part C Annual Performance Report

Kyla Patterson presented information regarding the Part C Annual Performance Report. Please see the SPP/APR Power point attached.

Virginia Department of Health Presentation: “Virginia COVID-19 Updates and Current Recommendations”

Please see attached PowerPoint presentation presented by Leahgrace Simons.

Public Comment

Please see below, the Public Comment submitted by Erin Austin.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment. My name is Erin Austin, I am the Local System Manager for Infant and Toddler Connection of Richmond. I am speaking today on behalf of the 12 Local System Managers who comprise the CoCoA Steering Committee. CoCoA is the local system manager association and the steering committee includes two local system managers from each of the 6 regions of the state.

Discussion was held about the difficulties in ensuring the SEA is notified in a timely manner as the process is completely separate of the LEA notification. It would be great if the interpretation of the regulations could be revisited to look for ways to potentially streamline this task while we await the launch of a statewide electronic medical record.

Most CoCoA Steering members reported it was taking more than one attempt with families to get signatures and even with multiple attempts, return rates vary. This continues to be a large administrative burden but we appreciate the flexibilities the state has given in what can be accepted as a written consent.

The EI rates have not been reviewed since a cost study was completed in 2004 and updated in 2007. We are wondering if the formulas in this study could be updated with current data to ensure rates are relative to the current cost of serving infant and toddlers.

DBHDS and DMAS recently worked together to create a MCO Interpretation process document which some systems have already noted a cost savings by using the MCO interpreters. We acknowledge the time and effort it took to compile this information from the MCOs.

Due to COVID and the decrease in enrollment in many local systems, CoCoA Steering Committee continues to request that the Part C office look at various funding scenarios to assist local systems.

Suggestions include:

- Keep all local systems at the FY 21 allocation (hold harmless) and utilize any additional Part C funding above the FY 21 allocation level to assist systems that had an increase in child count.
- Keep all local systems at the FY 21 allocation (hold harmless) and utilize any additional Part C funding above the FY 21 allocation level to assist systems who lost funding in FY 21 / reported expected deficits in FY 21.

We appreciate the Part C State office stating earlier that they are looking at these issues.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide public comment.

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

DBVI has just hired a full time Education Coordinator in the Northern Virginia area who will be working with infants and toddlers. We only have 718 blind, vision impaired and deafblind children/students on that caseload and 50 are age three and younger! Having a full-time Education Coordinator in that position will allow them to be more responsive to needs of infants and toddlers and their families. As well as to the other 668 children/students and their families. We continue to provide virtual services, but depending on the COVID positivity rate in the region, we will be starting to see children/students in person in certain circumstances.

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

No Report

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

Please see the below Part C Update provided by Nina Marino.

- The Early Childhood Mental Health Consultation report was submitted in January. The link to the full report with recommendations on an early childhood mental health model in VA is here: <https://rga.lis.virginia.gov/Published/2021/HD3> Below are some recommendations in the report:
 - Begin to build a statewide ECMH consultation program by offering services to providers working in group-based early care and education settings serving children from birth to age
 - Continue investments in the larger infant and early childhood mental health system in Virginia. Additionally, further study how to build and coordinate a comprehensive and connected system of infant and early childhood mental health that includes consultation in other settings (e.g., home visiting, primary care) as well as other mental health services that serve Virginia’s infants, toddlers, and preschoolers.
 - Within group-based early care and education settings, situate an ECMH consultation program within the education system and a multi-tiered system of support (i.e., Pyramid Model Framework).
 - Coordinate an ECMH consultation program across the infant and early childhood mental health and the early education systems more broadly and within the larger early childhood education workforce (teachers, home visitors, coaches, behavior specialists,

program leaders, and ECMH consultants). Draw from services that already exist in Virginia.

- In response to this report, Del. Sickles put in a member amendment for next steps: *The Department of Education shall report on its progress in implementing the recommendations identified in the "Feasibility Study of Developing an Early Childhood Mental Health Consultation Program", as directed by House Joint Resolution 51 (2020), and identify any legislative, regulatory, budgetary, and other actions necessary to implement recommendations in such study. Such progress report shall be submitted to the Chairs of the House Appropriations and Senate Finance and Appropriations Committees no later than October 1, 2021."*
- Likely, this means the momentum to create a model in VA that has a funding source will come up in the next session.
- The VA Mental Health Access Program (VMAP) received new funding in FY 21 that was previously unallotted due to COVID in the amount of \$2.1 million was restored. In addition, an additional X will be available as previously passed in GA session 2020 in July of 2021 in the amount of \$4.2 million. This will allow for full statewide expansion of regional hubs to include an child/adolescent psychiatrist, a licensed mental health professional, two care navigators and on-going pediatric/primary care training on behavioral health issues. The goal is to focus some training specifically on mental health 0-5 as VMAP expands.

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

Please see the attached Virginia Department of Education (VDOE) agency report submitted by Dawn Hendricks.

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

Virginia has been participating in a national community of practice sponsored by Education Leads Home (ELH). ELH works with teams across the nation to improve goals related to early childhood, high school graduation, and postsecondary completion. We have elected to address all three categories. The overall ELH vision for early childhood is: ***Young children experiencing homelessness will participate in quality early childhood programs at the same rate as their housed peers by 2026.***

Our first steps involve determining what data are available as metrics to even establish a baseline. Virginia's goal for this year is: ***One year from now, Virginia will have more comprehensive data regarding the number of children experiencing homelessness enrolled in early childhood programs across LEA/SEA administered programs and Head Start.***

We would be extremely interested in exploring how we could include Early Intervention and think about data that are available or could be included in the future. Please let Patricia Popp know if you would like to work on this.

Patricia Popp serves on the State Special Education Advisory Committee (SSEAC). Last fall, the SSEAC discussed looking at ways to coordinate with the VICC. A possible first step might be inviting a representative from the other to a meeting annually to discuss issues that overlap. Would this be of interest to the VICC?

[Virginia Department of Health \(VDH\) –Shamaree Cromartie](#)

COVID-19 General Information

- The vaccine preregistration system for a vaccine is: vaccinate.virginia.gov
- COVID-19 Vaccination FAQ: <https://www.vdh.virginia.gov/covid-19-faq/vaccination/>
- COVID-19 General FAQ: <https://www.vdh.virginia.gov/covid-19-faq/>

Special Open Enrollment for Health Insurance

- Starting February 15 through May 15, individuals and families can enroll in insurance coverage for 2021, through a Special Enrollment Period.
- Visit <https://www.healthcare.gov>
- For in-person assistance with enrollment visit: <https://coverva.org/assistance/>

On Friday, March 12 from 12-1pm ET, the Advancing Systems of Services for CYSHCN Network (Network) will host the 14th CYSHCN Café Discussion.

The March Network café will focus on innovations on how states are identifying and connecting children to early intervention services and the transition to special education during COVID-19. Sandra Howell and Susan Evans from New Jersey will discuss their efforts, successes, and challenges in supporting families during this challenging time.

Consider the following discussion questions:

1. What has been the experience in your state in ensuring equitable access to EI supports during COVID?
2. What changes has your state made during COVID to ensure timely diagnosis and referrals into your EI program and/or the transition from EI programs to special education?
3. What are the things your state has learned during the pandemic that you want to share with your peer states about identification and referrals into EI and/or transition from EI services to special education? (Lessons learned, resources, etc.)

Join Zoom Webinar- No registration required!

Link: <https://bostonu.zoom.us/j/91156415908?pwd=aFpDQlBrall4Yk5heXhCdDEyNE1odz09>

Meeting ID: 911 5641 5908

Password: 785422

If You Join by Phone:

+1 646 876 9923 US (New York)

+1 301 715 8592 US (Germantown)

+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

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

Early Childhood Mental Health Virginia - Bonnie Grifa

Please see the attached handouts for the Early Childhood Mental Health Virginia report.

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

No Report

Action Items for June's Meeting

- Reappointment for Bonnie Grifa's position who will be retiring in May.

Agenda Items for June's Meeting

- SSIP Project
- Increasing In-person Visits

The meeting was adjourned.

The next meeting of the VICC will be held June 9, 2021.

VICC Members Present:

Kelly Hill
Jeanie Odachowski
Dr. Kendall Lee
Bonnie Grifa
Adrienne Fegans
Jaylene Trueblood
Kristine Caalim
Courtney Pugh
Dr. Zipporah Levi-Shackleford
Jennifer MacRae
Lynn Wolfe
Dr. Patricia Popp
Catherine Childers
Pennie Crist
Dr. Dawn Hendricks
Shamaree Cromartie
Nina Marino
Caren Phipps
Karen Brimm
Wyvonne Harsley
Jennifer Reese
Elizabeth John
Kate McCauley
James Young

VICC Members Absent:

Michael Saxon
Dr. Kristen Jamison
Senator Ghazala Hashmi
Tabatha Carroll
Eric Raff