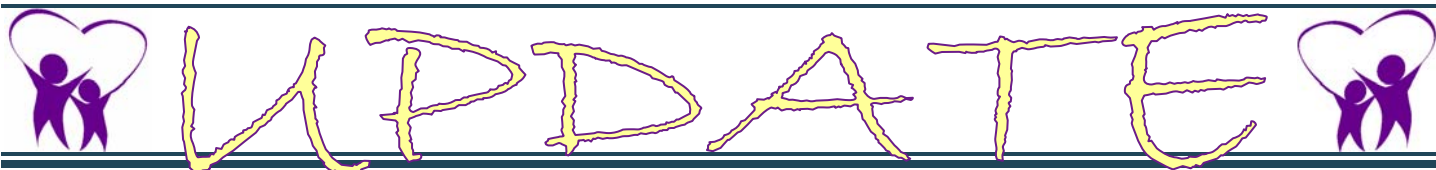


OFFICE OF CHILD AND FAMILY SERVICES

Infant & Toddler Connection of Virginia

Technical Assistance



December 2007

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Revised Statewide Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP)

(Contact Person: Kyla Patterson)

The revised statewide IFSP form and instructions were piloted by 12 local sites during the month of October. After careful consideration of all pilot site feedback, final revisions have been made to the forms and instructions. In addition to the standard IFSP form,

there is a Targeted Case Management (TCM) version of the IFSP, which is designed to meet the Medicaid requirements for the social assessment for targeted case management. Use of the TCM version of the IFSP is optional.

Technical assistance to local systems in preparation for statewide implementation of the revised IFSP form and instructions occurred via teleconference call. In order to ensure consistency, the same teleconference presentation has been offered on each of three dates: December 11, 13, and 17. Statewide implementation of the revised statewide IFSP will begin on January 2, 2008.

State Performance Plan/Annual Performance Report

(Contact Person: Kyla Patterson)

It's that time of year again. The data that local systems have reported through the Infant and Toddler Online Tracking System (ITOTS) and the annual local record reviews have been compiled and analyzed, along with family survey data, in order to assess Virginia's status in meeting the State targets set for the federally-identified indicators in the State Performance Plan (SPP). This data was reviewed at the December 12, 2007 meeting of the Virginia Interagency Coordinating Council (VICC). Potential improvement strategies were also identified and discussed at that meeting. All VICC members and local system managers received a copy of the draft APR and the amended SPP (with new information on Indicator 3 – Child Outcomes) the week of December 10, 2007. Stakeholders have the opportunity to submit comments on the draft to Kyla Patterson (kyla@alumni.duke.edu) through December 20, 2007. The APR and amended SPP are due to the U.S. Department of Education, Office of Special Education Programs by February 1, 2008.



Infant & Toddler On-Line Tracking System (ITOTS)

(Contact Person: David Mills)

Version 1.3 of ITOTS was released Friday, November 16, 2007. The following changes were included:

New Reports:

- Under “Child Specific Reports”: Current Service Setting
- Under “Aggregate Reports”: Child Count By Service
- Under “OSEP Reports”:
 - Table 2-A Settings By Age (revised to take service setting reported from field designated as “Current Service Setting”)
 - Table 2-B Settings by Race Ethnicity (revised to take service setting reported from field designated as “Current Service Setting”)

A New Report Section Labeled “Child Progress” including reports:

- Child Progress Report (Entry to Exit Comparison)
- Child Interim Progress Report Comparison
- Child Progress Data Verification

Report Change:

- The Third Party Health Coverage Medicaid Number has been widened to include the entire 12 digits.

Central Directory

Central Directory Calls per Month				
	2004	2005	2006	2007
January	31	37	32	28
February	37	60	56	36
March	50	94	51	45
April	58	80	60	29
May	39	46	48	24
June	66	90	35	40
July	62	60	37	31
August	40	87	28	43
September	46	57	37	21
October	47	43	31	29
November	78	28	30	35
December	30	37	43	
Total:	584	719	488	361

Integrated Training Collaborative (ITC) (Contact Person: Cori Hill)

The 6th Annual Creating Connections Conference

Have you received your "Save the Date" flyer for the Sixth Annual Creating Connections: Viewing the Future through the Windows of Opportunity conference? The ITC Conference Planning Committee is pleased to announce that Dr. Pam Schiller will be the opening keynote speaker. Dr. Schiller is an early childhood consultant and author of children's books, DVDs, and CDs. She will present current research on brain development and windows of opportunity. The call for papers is also available on the Infant & Toddler Connection of Virginia website. We know that there is much talent in Virginia. Won't you consider sharing your knowledge with others in the field? The deadline is 1/9/08! We look forward to seeing everyone at the conference.

Communities of Practice in Autism (CoPA)

The Communities of Practice (CoPAs) are going strong. Each region has held at least one meeting and established their meeting plans. The CoPA leaders developed the following mission statement and outcomes for this year:

Mission:

The Communities of Practice in Autism (CoPAs) will share knowledge and information about evidence-based strategies in natural environments, focusing on infants, toddlers, and young children with autism spectrum disorders and their families, to assist providers to improve services in the Commonwealth.

Key Outcomes:

1. Share knowledge;
2. Improve supports and services for all children with ASD and their families;
3. Develop a consistent mechanism to communicate individualized service delivery;
4. Enhance families' confidence and competence; and
5. Address providers' and families' skills related to ASD.

If you would like to join your region's CoPA, check out the website to locate your CoPA leader and make plans to join the next meeting!

Integrated Training Collaborative Meeting

The next Integrated Training Collaborative meeting will be held January 28, 2008 from 10:00-12:00 at Kluge Children's Rehabilitation Center. If you are interested in attending the meeting or would like further information regarding the ITC, please contact Cori Hill at (540) 943-6776 or corihill@ntelos.net.

Good News From the Field

Alexandria Interagency Coordinating Council Red Flag Seminar Is a Huge Success

The Infant and Toddler Connection of Alexandria - Interagency Coordinating Council (ICC) facilitates partnerships that promote a comprehensive, family-centered, interagency system of early intervention services in Alexandria. The ICC began planning a fall "Red Flag Workshop" in the early summer of 2007. The focus of the program was to provide medical and developmental information to the community with a target audience of parents, childcare providers, social workers, foster parents and other child-serving professionals in the community. The ICC hoped to increase community awareness of medical and developmental red flags so that children 0-5 years could be referred for early intervention assessment and services as soon as possible.

The event was held on the evening of October 11, 2007 and 178 people registered to participate.

Additionally, 35 children registered for the free childcare that was offered. Entrance to the program opened at 5:30 p.m. to allow attendees the opportunity to enjoy a free supper provided by Bear Rock Café and to browse the numerous resource tables. Donations of books by Wright to Read, developmental wheels from the Virginia Department of Education, and emergency preparedness materials from the Health Department Office of Emergency Preparedness were huge hits with the attendees. Other resource participants were The Alexandria Health Department WIC and Immunization clinics, The ACPS nurses, CATCH, and The CSB Preschool Prevention Team.

Opening remarks by the Mayor set the tone for the evening as Mayor Eulle emphasized the importance of health for all of Alexandria's families and his own personal commitment to promoting health and wellness throughout the City. The keynote speakers (Dr. Martha Welman, M.D. and Carri-Coggins, Stoltz M.S. CCC-SLP) provided highly interactive and engaging presentations of medical and developmental "Red Flags". Evaluations from participants indicated that they left with information that they could utilize immediately and that they increased awareness of early intervention resources. Evidence of this is seen in the number of referrals that have been made to the PIE Program as a direct result of the seminar.

Generous contributions from community organizations such as SCAN, DHS, Head Start, the Office of Early Childhood and the Kathy Wilson Foundation enabled the ICC to maximize its resources in order to host an extraordinary event for the community.

Training Opportunities

Campaign for Comprehension: Live Video Conference

Saturday, January 26th

10:00am PST / 1:00pm EST

This complimentary presentation is a live broadcast hosted by Nanci Bell from San Luis Obispo, California. All 42 Lindamood-Bell® Learning Centers, nationwide and in Europe, will participate via video conferencing technology and be able to watch, learn, and interact. For more information on the Visualizing and Verbalizing® program call your local Lindamood-Bell® Learning Center and to RSVP: 800-233-1819.

Resources

The National Center for Technology Innovation (NCTI)

The NCTI advances learning opportunities for all students, with a special focus on individuals with disabilities. Funded by the Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) at the U.S. Department of Education, NCTI offers technical guidance to facilitate growth and sustainability of assistive and learning tools by fostering innovative technology solutions.
<http://www.nationaltechcenter.org/>

AOL, Google, Microsoft, Yahoo Unite to Advance Online Media Captioning

In an effort to overcome technology and production barriers, the leading providers of web-based video have joined with media access pioneer WGBH/Boston to develop solutions that will increase the amount of online video accessible to people who are deaf or hard of hearing.
<http://www.nationaltechcenter.org/index.php/2007/10/27/aol-google-microsoft-yahoo-unite-to-advance-online-media-captioning/>

Early Report Newsletter: Young Children in Poverty

The lead article for the Early Report Newsletter for Fall 2007 is An Overview of Childhood Poverty: Pathways and Programs. The newsletter also includes additional articles on a variety of efforts taking place in this area.
<http://cehd.umn.edu/ceed/publications/earlyreport/EarlyReportFall07.pdf>

Enriching Children, Enriching the Nation

Fact sheets from the Economic Policy Institute, based on Robert G. Lynch's recently published book, Enriching Children, Enriching the Nation, demonstrate that most universal preschool education programs would pay for themselves within 10 years, with nine years being the national average. An executive summary of the book may be downloaded at
http://www.epi.org/content.cfm/book_enriching. Fact sheets examining when total benefits would exceed program costs in every state are available at
http://www.epi.org/content.cfm/book_enriching_state_facts.

Magic of Everyday Moments – Available from Zero to Three

Zero to Three is making selected booklets in English and Spanish from their Magic of Everyday Moments

series available for bulk distribution. Each box contains 400 booklets all on the same age and written in the same language. (Sorry, they cannot break boxes into smaller quantities or mix booklets.) The following booklets are available:

English Booklet Version

Magic of Everyday Moments	12-15 Months
Magic of Everyday Moments	15-18 Months
Magic of Everyday Moments	18-24 Months
Magic of Everyday Moments	24-36 Months

Spanish Booklet Version

La Magia De La Vida Cotidiana	0-4 Months
La Magia De La Vida Cotidiana	4-6 Months
La Magia De La Vida Cotidiana	12-15 Months
La Magia De La Vida Cotidiana	15-18 Months
La Magia De La Vida Cotidiana	18-24 Months
La Magia De La Vida Cotidiana	24-36 Months

Please contact Rebecca Parlakian at rparlakian@zerotothree.org to place your order. You just pay shipping & handling: \$50.00 by credit card ONLY.

Family-Centered Early Intervention Services

This Policy Statement of the American Academy of Pediatrics Council on Children with Disabilities was published in the November issue of Pediatrics. <http://pediatrics.aappublications.org/cgi/reprint/120/5/1153>

Matrix of Research on Early Childhood Education Outcomes

The Public Policy Forum recently created a matrix of research on early childhood education comparing outcomes across studies. Overall, it shows that existing research supports the connection between higher quality early childhood programs and long-term benefits in a number of areas. It is available at <http://www.publicpolicyforum.org/Matrix.htm>.

PEDS: Parents Evaluation of Developmental

Status: <http://pedstest.com/>

This website provides information about the screening tool PEDS as well as links to resources about screening.

The Dividends of Investing Early: Why We Need to Help the Youngest Children of Immigrants

The Foundation for Child Development's 2007 Annual Report All our Children? Health and Education of Children of Immigrants includes an essay by Alexandra Fuenmayor Starr entitled The Dividends of Investing Early: Why We Need to Help the Youngest Children of Immigrants. The author discusses the impact that young children of immigrants, over 90 percent of whom are citizens, will have on America's cultural and economic future. It is available at http://www.fcd-us.org/resources/resources_show.htm?doc_id=561788.

The Listening and Spoken Language Specialists® Certification Program (LSLS®)

In July 2007, the Board of Directors of the AG Bell Academy for Listening and Spoken Language® (Academy Board) announced a new certification program that supports the Academy's mission of promoting the delivery of comprehensive services to children and adults who are deaf or hard of hearing through the certification of professionals who work with them.

The Listening and Spoken Language Specialists® Certification Program (LSLS®) is a commitment to unite and coordinate listening and spoken language professionals around the world who practice in a dynamic field of ever advancing technological advancements and neural-development research. The LSLS® Certification Program focuses on the core tasks, skills and knowledge that Educators (Auditory-Oral Teachers, Early Interventionists, Speech-Language Pathologists, Audiologists, etc.) have in common with Certified Auditory-Verbal Therapists®.

New Research Synthesis on Early Childhood Inclusion The National Professional Development Center on Inclusion (NPDCI) has published a summary of key conclusions drawn from a review of the literature on early childhood inclusion. For more information and to download the synthesis go to http://www.fpg.unc.edu/news/highlight_detail.cfm?ID=713

Autism Resources

Clinical Reports

Drs. Chris Johnson and Scott Myers (from the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) Council on Children with Disabilities (COCWD)) have authored two autism clinical reports. The first clinical report, "Identification and Evaluation of Children With Autism Spectrum Disorders," provides detailed

information (including an algorithm) on signs and symptoms so pediatricians can recognize and assess Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD) in their patients. Educational strategies and associated therapies, which are the cornerstones of treatment for ASDs, are reviewed in the second AAP clinical report, "Management of Children With Autism Spectrum Disorders." To access these reports and additional autism information, visit the COCWD website at: <http://medicalhomeinfo.org/about/CSOCWDreports.html>

Autism Toolkit - "AUTISM: Caring for Children with Autism Spectrum Disorders"

This AAP resource toolkit for clinicians is a multifaceted clinical resource to assist in the recognition, evaluation, and ongoing management of autism spectrum disorders throughout your patient's life span. This all-new toolkit brings together a wealth of ready-to-use, practice-focused resources — all on a single economically priced CD-ROM. For more information about the toolkit and other COCWD educational materials visit: <http://medicalhomeinfo.org/about/CSOCWDedmaterials.html>

