

System Transformation Update

October 16, 2008



**Infant & Toddler
Connection of Virginia**

A NOTE ABOUT THIS UPDATE:

This Update is prepared by the Infant & Toddler Connection of Virginia State Team at DMHMRSAS and is reviewed for accuracy and thoroughness by our partners at DMAS and VDH before it is distributed to the field. Updates will be issued on or about the 1st and 16th of each month.

FISCAL ISSUES:

- The Part C Office is taking the following steps to follow-up on issues raised during the September 30th statewide technical assistance teleconference call:
 - Planning with our partners at DMAS and within DMHMRSAS to determine the most effective next steps to support local systems interested in pursuing Mental Health Targeted Case Management; and
 - Continuing preparation for the November 3rd statewide teleconference call on the Service Pathway. This call will address many of the questions raised on September 30th about evaluation, assessment and eligibility determination. Following that call, Part C staff will work closely with those local systems that wish to begin immediately to shift to the more streamlined eligibility determination process outlined in the service pathway. There will be a conference call on December 2, 2008 at 1:00 for all local systems that plan to move to the more streamlined eligibility determination process.
- Part C staff members are analyzing the fiscal data and projections that were due from all local lead agencies by October 10th.
- The Secretary of Health and Human Services office, some members of the General Assembly, and staff from the General Assembly budget committees have requested and received information about state and federal Part C funds and child count (both December 1 and annualized child count).

DATA SYSTEM:

- A demonstration of the Alaska Part C data system will be presented to DMHMRSAS and VDH staff as well as members of the ITOTS stakeholder group on October 24, 2008.
- An internal DMHMRSAS workgroup continues to work on the provider certification module which will be a part of the ITOTS redesign. This data module will document and track the certification status of all practitioners who provide developmental therapy or service coordination in the Infant &

Toddler Connection of Virginia system. Initial systems design is 90% complete.

- Work on the release of ITOTS version 1.5 continues. Some technical delays have been encountered and may delay the testing phase.
- Information Technology (IT) staff from DMHMRSAS and VDH are meeting as a subcommittee of the transition team and have held two meetings and numerous informal conversations to date. We are working together closely to assure a smooth transfer of the Part C data system and data responsibilities.

MEDICAID-EI INITIATIVE:

- Commissioner Reinhard of DMHMRSAS has approved the decision brief that allows us to move forward with the Medicaid – EI Initiative. The Director of the Department of Medical Assistance Services (DMAS) is currently reviewing the decision brief that will permit DMAS to move forward as well.
- DMHMRSAS and VDH staff members are working collaboratively to draft fast-track personnel regulations that must be in place by July 1, 2009 in order to implement the Medicaid – EI Initiative. These regulations will specify personnel qualifications as required under Part C of IDEA as well as the requirements and process for EI certification through VDH. DMAS has done a preliminary review of the practitioner certification requirements drafted by the Part C Office and has forwarded the draft plan to the DMAS MCO staff for their input.
- There have been a number of questions from local system managers and providers about the proposed reimbursement rates for developmental therapy under the Medicaid – EI Initiative. The following information is provided as clarification:
 - The proposed reimbursement rate for Developmental Therapy provided by physical therapists, occupational therapists, speech-language pathologists, nurses and audiologists is \$150 per hour.
 - The proposed reimbursement rate for Developmental Therapy provided by educators, counselors, psychologists, social workers, PT Assistants, OT Assistants and Developmental Therapy Assistants (currently called EI Assistants) is \$110 per hour.
 - The reality of market wages did not allow for one rate for all practitioners, though the discrepancy between the rates for the two groups of personnel was mitigated as much as possible when the proposed rates were established.
 - The proposed rates are hourly reimbursement rates for service delivery and are not the same as the salary or contract rate paid to an individual practitioner.
 - The rates represent the total cost of providing an hour of developmental therapy, including not only salary and benefit costs but also administrative and support costs. In the case of assistant-level practitioners, the rate also accounts for supervision costs.

FAMILY COST PARTICIPATION:

- There is nothing new to report since the last Update.

STATE LEAD AGENCY TRANSITION:

- The first meeting of the transition team was held on October 2, 2008. Six project teams were established:
 - Data System;
 - Financial Planning and Management;
 - Contracts and Procurement;
 - Human Resources Management;
 - Legislation and Regulations; and
 - Outreach and Communication.

Each project team includes representatives from both DMHMRSAS and VDH. The teams are charged with addressing identified sections of the Transition Plan, as well as any other operational issues that surface during their work. Project teams will report on progress, barriers encountered, and assistance needed from other teams at each monthly meeting of the transition team.

- VACSB made a request to Secretary Tavenner's office to be included on the transition team. However, the work of the transition team really is focused on state-level operations and the details necessary to smoothly transition responsibilities between DMHMRSAS and VDH. To ensure that VACSB is informed about the work of the transition team, DMHMRSAS and VDH will meet with representatives of the VACSB every six weeks to provide updates on the State Lead Agency transition
- A communication plan developed by DMHMRSAS, VDH and ARC-FIP was shared with VICC on 10/8/08 and then widely disseminated. This plan outlines multiple methods for communication, from whom/to whom, topics and frequency. Communication mechanisms identified on the plan include the following:
 - The written System Transformation Update;
 - Presentations at meetings of stakeholder groups;
 - Regional information sessions for local stakeholders;
 - The Transition Stakeholder Group;
 - Regional information sessions for families;
 - A Frequently Asked Questions document related to the transition, which will be updated as new questions come in and be posted on www.infantva.org; and
 - Meetings between DMHMRSAS, VDH and VACSB representatives.

STATEWIDE TELECONFERENCE INFORMATION SERIES:

The Part C Office will be presenting a series of informational teleconference calls in the coming months. These calls will provide updates on the various system transformation initiatives and/or deliver awareness-level training on new components of the system. Local system managers, local lead agency

administrators, providers and families are welcomed and encouraged to participate in these calls. Please watch for more specific information about each call in future Updates and separate emails. The following teleconference calls have been scheduled:

- Service Pathway – November 3, 2008, 1:00 – 3:00
- Personnel: EI Certification and Training Requirements – November 19, 2008, 1:00 – 2:30