

System Transformation Update

November 3, 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:

- On October 23, 2008 local lead agencies were notified by the Part C Office of the impact on State Part C Funds from the Governor's October 2008 Budget Reduction Plan for Fiscal Year 2009. Non-CSB local lead agencies are having the required 5% cut applied solely to their State Part C funds, while CSB local lead agencies may see reductions of up to 5% in their State Part C funds as part of their CSB's required overall reduction of 5% in all State general fund dollars. Part C technical assistance consultants are available to assist local systems in (1) reviewing their Part C budgets to determine how to address the budget reduction and (2) looking at possible partnership arrangements or regional efforts to consolidate or share administrative functions among local lead agencies in order to save money.
- The fiscal data and projections submitted by all local lead agencies this month have been analyzed by the Part C Office. The July and August expenditure information combined with the monthly projections indicated the following:
 - 9 local systems will have a surplus of funds.
 - 9 local systems will spend their full allocation (within \$10 of the allocation amount), but do not project a deficit.
 - 21 local systems face a deficit situation with projected deficits ranging from \$580 to \$311,607.
 - For the 39 local systems as a whole, projections indicate a statewide budget deficit of \$1,090,957.
 - Fifty-four percent (54%) of the projected statewide deficit is accounted for by two local systems.
 - Seventy-nine percent (79%) of the projected statewide deficit is accounted for by four local systems.

While these fiscal data and projections were submitted and analyzed prior to the announcement of the 5% reduction in State General Fund grants to localities, the information provides an important status check of the Part C fiscal situation. The projections will be updated to reflect the budget reduction once CSB local lead agencies have reported their reduction amounts to DMHMRSAS.

DATA SYSTEM:

- A demonstration of the Alaska Part C data system was presented to DMHMRSAS and VDH staff as well as members of the ITOTS stakeholder group on October 24, 2008. Using live data entry, State Part C staff from Alaska walked through how and when data are entered as a child is referred to and moves through the Part C system. Participants had the opportunity to see actual data screens, drop-down menus, and reports and were able to ask questions and discuss the functionality of the system for providers and the State. Virginia participants reported positive reactions to the Alaska system and noted that this data system has a lot of features that will be useful to providers that we do not have now with ITOTS.
- An in-house workgroup has begun analysis of the Alaska system and how it will need to be customized for Virginia. This project will be called the ITOTS Expansion Project. The initial step in the analysis process is to review the flow of information as a child and family enter and move through Virginia's Part C system to ensure all necessary data elements are included in the system and the flow of data entry matches the order in which the data is collected and available.
- The release of ITOTS version 1.5 has been postponed as technical issues continue and because of pressing deadlines on the Practitioner Database and ITOTS Expansion Project.

MEDICAID-EI INITIATIVE:

- Communication and collaboration is continuing between DMHMRSAS, DMAS and VDH regarding requirements and expectations in relation to regulations, forms, and development of practice manuals. Phone calls, emails and meetings between these agencies are occurring daily to ensure that these key elements of the Medicaid – EI Initiative fall into place in a timely manner.
- DMAS staff held a conference call with Medicaid MCOs on October 23, 2008 to introduce the Medicaid – EI Initiative and the plan to roll out reimbursement for developmental therapy on July 1, 2009 in conjunction with the annual MCO contracts. In follow-up to the call, each MCO is reviewing the draft EI certification requirements and DMAS is conferring with the National Committee for Quality Assurance (NCQA) to compare NCQA credentialing requirements with EI certification requirements to ensure MCOs can add EI certified practitioners to their provider panels.

FAMILY COST PARTICIPATION:

- The additional information that Part C staff had requested from Solutions, Inc. on a few implementation issues related to the family cost share process (e.g. specific issues associated with a parent's refusal to pay) has been received. Part C staff will be discussing this information in early November and revising the draft family cost share practices accordingly. Following that meeting, we will be sending the draft practices and sliding

fee scale to the stakeholder group for review and holding a conference call so that the stakeholder group can provide input on the draft practices and the sliding fee scale itself.

STATE LEAD AGENCY TRANSITION:

- Our website, www.infantva.org, now includes a section for information on the Lead Agency Transition. You can find it by clicking on Administration and Transformation at the top of the Home page then looking under Transformation for Lead Agency Transition. Right now, the Communication Plan is the only document posted, but watch for additional information in the coming weeks.
- A written Transition Agreement between DMHMRSAS and VDH that specifies the responsibilities of each agency during the transition period has been signed by the Commissioners of both agencies.

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 Introduction** – November 3, 2008, 1:00 – 3:00
- **Personnel: EI Certification and Training Requirements** – November 19, 2008, 1:00 – 2:30
- **Eligibility Determination: Getting Started** - December 2, 2008, 1:00 (This call is for those local systems planning to move ahead now with implementation of this section of the service pathway)