

System Transformation Update

November 17, 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 November 12, 2008 local lead agencies were notified that additional federal Part C funds will be allocated to local lead agencies. By resolving issues about federal Part C funds held in reserve to deal with lapses in federal funding, we are now able to release additional Part C funds to local systems. These are one-time funds. They are being apportioned among all local lead agencies based on each local system's June 30, 2008 child count.

DATA SYSTEM:

- Work continues on the ITOTS Expansion Project. Ken Smith, the Alaska Part C database developer, and Lisa Balivet, the database manager, were able to spend Monday, November 10th, in Richmond working with the in-house workgroup that is analyzing the Alaska system and how it will need to be customized for Virginia.
- Design work continues on the practitioner database. The database will serve two major purposes:
 1. It will provide the mechanism to track and manage the process of early intervention certification for individuals providing early intervention services, including service coordination in Virginia
 2. It will support "family choice" of providers and service coordinators by providing the mechanism for families to obtain information about available providers and service coordinators

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. In the past two weeks, these efforts have focused on Medicaid documentation requirements and development of Part C personnel regulations.

- Virginia is featured in a September report from the National Academy for State Health Policy. The report, *The Role of State Health Policy in Multi-Sector System and Service Linkages for Young Children*, recognizes the collaborative planning between the State Medicaid Agency (DMAS) and Part C for moving Part C services from Outpatient Rehabilitation into EPSDT in order to support comprehensive multi-sector assessment and services for all children.

SERVICE PATHWAY

- A statewide teleconference call was held on November 3, 2008 to introduce the service pathway, and all local systems were represented on that call. A written Q&A document is under development based on the questions asked during the November 3rd call and those sent by email following the call.
- There will be follow-up discussion on the service pathway in all November regional meetings of local system managers. Any questions asked during regional meetings will be added to the written Q&A. The November regional meetings will also provide an opportunity to begin local planning for implementation of the service pathway.
- Six local systems, one from each region, have agreed to review the draft Part C Practice Manual. Those systems are Hanover, Fairfax, Mount Rogers, New River Valley, Rockbridge, and Western Tidewater. Each of these systems has agreed to have not only the local system manager, but also service coordinators and other service providers, review the manual and participate in a conference call with Part C staff members to provide their input and recommendations on the draft. The draft Part C Practice Manual was sent to these local systems on November 13th, and the conference calls to receive input will be completed by mid-December.
- To allow time for us to receive and respond to (1) additional questions about the service pathway that will be raised during November regional meetings and (2) input from for the six local systems that are reviewing the Practice Manual, we have postponed the December 2, 2008 call on Eligibility Determination. This call will be held in January instead, and we will announce a specific date as soon as possible. We recognize that many of you are anxious to move forward with implementing the new eligibility determination process, and we want to ensure we have the information, materials and forms ready to fully support your effort to do so.

FAMILY COST PARTICIPATION:

- We expect to send the draft family cost share practices and sliding fee scale sample(s) to the Family Cost Participation stakeholder group in December for review and input.

STATE LEAD AGENCY TRANSITION:

- On November 14, 2008 Secretary of Health and Human Resources, Marilyn Tavenner, announced to the Transition Stakeholder Team that we

will not be transitioning the Part C State Lead Agency from DMHMRSAS to the Virginia Department of Health (VDH). There was consensus at the meeting that state officials at DMHMRSAS, DMAS and VDH need to work together closely, along with local lead agencies and other local partners, to:

- Maximize the use of Medicaid whenever possible;
- Improve data collection to ensure federal compliance;
- Discuss ways local lead agencies can collaborate and work more closely with local health departments; and
- Continue to build relationships with home visitors and pediatricians to ensure early referrals and ongoing feedback between partners.

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:

- **Personnel: EI Certification and Training Requirements** – November 19, 2008, 1:00 – 2:30
- **Eligibility Determination: Getting Started** - January 2009