

System Transformation Update

December 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. Updates will be issued on or about the 1st and 16th of each month.

Please note that, due to the holidays, the next System Transformation Update will be issued on January 16, 2009.

FISCAL ISSUES:

- In continued follow-up on the issues raised during the September 30, 2008 statewide technical assistance call on fiscal challenges, the Part C Office has facilitated the following opportunities related to Mental Health Targeted Case Management (TCM-MH):
 - Local systems may contact DMAS representatives directly for technical assistance in implementing TCM-MH. You may contact William O'Bier at (804)-225-4050, william.obier@dmass.virginia.gov or Candice Chavis at (804)-786-2160, candice.chavis@dmass.virginia.gov. The Part C Office will coordinate with DMAS to determine whether there are systemic issues across the local systems that are pursuing TCM-MH that need to be addressed on a statewide basis through technical assistance, training, changes to the IFSP or other documentation requirements, etc.
 - I also have offered, in collaboration with DMAS, the opportunity for the CoCoA Steering Committee to gather and submit to DMAS a few examples of IFSPs/documentation from local systems currently billing for TCM-MH. DMAS is willing to review this documentation and use information from these reviews to inform statewide technical assistance on TCM-MH.

DMAS representatives are very willing to be of assistance, and local systems are strongly encouraged to pursue this funding stream to ensure Part C funds are being used as the payor of last resort.

- Materials from the May 2007 statewide teleconference call on TCM-MH will be posted to the Infant & Toddler Connection of Virginia website, www.infantva.org, for your reference. These materials should be available on the website by early January.

DATA SYSTEM:

- Internal workgroups continue to meet weekly to work on development of the practitioner database and analysis phase documentation for the ITOTS Expansion Project.
- DMHMRSAS staff visited the Infant & Toddler Connection of Fairfax on December 8th to see a demonstration of their data system and how it will be used for day-to-day Part C system management.
- An ITOTS Stakeholder Group meeting has been scheduled for January 23, 2009 from 9:00 – 12:00.

MEDICAID-EI INITIATIVE:

- As indicated in the December 1st Update, stakeholder input and recommendations will be sought, through the IFSP Stakeholder Group, on documenting Medicaid plan of care requirements on the IFSP. The stakeholder meeting date has been set for January 21, 2009 from 1:00 – 2:00. Stakeholder group members will receive materials for this meeting during the week of January 5th. Please note that, based on further input from DMAS on use of the IFSP as the Medicaid plan of care, the survey of providers referenced in the December 1, 2008 Update will not be necessary. Providers are represented on the stakeholder group, and additional provider input will be sought by the regional CoCoA representatives serving on the stakeholder group.
- Part C and DMAS representatives met on December 2nd to discuss Medicaid utilization review requirements under EPSDT. Part C staff will be responsible for monitoring the appropriateness and quality of early intervention services as part of the Medicaid utilization review related to Part C services. Requirements associated with utilization review will be included in the DMAS EI manual, and Part C forms and processes must be developed to implement these requirements.
- The written question and answer document from the November 18th personnel requirements call is targeted for dissemination in January.

SERVICE PATHWAY:

- Between December 10 and December 12, the in-house practice manual group held conference calls with teams from the six local systems that reviewed the draft Part C Practice Manual. The written and verbal input provided by these teams was very helpful and much appreciated. Part C staff members will now review the input in order to make revisions to the practice manual, identify any issues requiring broader stakeholder dialogue, and prepare for the January 29th technical assistance call on eligibility determination.
- The written question and answer document from the November 3rd service pathway call will be disseminated in January.

FAMILY COST PARTICIPATION:

Draft family cost share practices and 5 sliding fee scale options were sent to the Family Cost Participation stakeholder group on December 2nd for review and input. Stakeholder group members were asked to solicit input from their constituency groups to prepare for a stakeholder group meeting that will held by teleconference call on December 18th.

ANNUAL PERFORMANCE REPORT (APR):

Our system transformation efforts are intended to improve outcomes for children and families and to improve Virginia's compliance with federal Part C requirements, including those represented by the indicators in the State Performance Plan(SPP)/Annual Performance Report (APR). Our next APR, which covers the period July 1, 2007 – June 30, 2008, is due to the Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) on February 2, 2009. The following opportunities are available for stakeholder input on the APR:

- During the December 17th VICC meeting, there will be a presentation of the statewide data and a summary of local system status on each of the APR indicators. In addition, there will be discussion about improvement activities, especially those related to timely initiation of services, and about possible revisions to state targets related to services in natural environments and percent of birth – three population served.
- Following the VICC meeting, the draft APR will be sent to all VICC members and all local system managers and will be posted to our website, www.infant.va.org. All interested stakeholders are welcome to submit written comments on the draft APR by January 5, 2009.

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:

- **Eligibility Determination: Getting Started** - January 29, 2009, 10:00 – 11:30