

System Transformation Update

March 16, 2009



**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.

GENERAL:

- The preliminary estimate for the amount of federal stimulus money that will be allocated through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act to Virginia for Part C is \$10,265,580. States have been cautioned that the stimulus figures released so far are only estimates and actual allocations may differ significantly from these estimates. OSEP has indicated that the guidance for Part C related to use of these one-time funds is being developed and should be released in the next several weeks. State budget language has been adopted that requires that, "Any additional funds received by local early intervention systems pursuant to the federal American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) of 2009 for early intervention services through Part C of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) of 2004 shall be used to supplement, not supplant federal, state and local funding at the level in effect upon the date of enactment of the ARRA."

DATA SYSTEM:

- Technical difficulties have delayed testing of ITOTS version 1.5. Once these difficulties are overcome, ITOTS users can begin testing.
- Design for ITOTS version 1.6 is 80% complete. This version will include a new 'look' for ITOTS pages. This new design will allow ITOTS screens to match standards set by the Virginia Information Technology Agency (VITA).
- An additional IT staff person has been hired to write the programming for ITOTS version 1.6, which includes the practitioner database. He began work on March 11th.

MEDICAID-EI INITIATIVE:

- Mary Ann Discenza and Tammy Whitlock, from the Department of Medical Assistance Services, presented an update on the Medicaid-EI Initiative and other system transformation efforts to the Intellectual Disabilities (ID) Council of the Virginia Association of Community Services Boards on March 13th. During this meeting, it was announced that implementation of the Medicaid – EI Initiative has been postponed from July 1, 2009 to October 1, 2009.

- The final State budget included language authorizing DMHMRSAS, in consultation with DMAS, to promulgate regulations necessary to comply with the Part C payor of last resort requirement. This language gives us the authority to adopt emergency regulations related to personnel requirements so that we can access Medicaid funding for the broader array of Part C services that will be allowed under EPSDT. DMHMRSAS and DMAS are working closely together to finalize the language for these regulations, which will then go before the State Mental Health, Mental Retardation and Substance Abuse Services Board.
- Work continues in order to develop and produce the online training modules that practitioners will need to complete in order to obtain initial EI certification.
 - Twenty-seven people in two local systems pilot tested the Child Development module. The web designers are using the information provided by the pilot participants to make edits and revisions. The anticipated launch date for the Child Development is the end of March.
 - The web designers are making final revisions to the Family Centered Practices module. This module will be pilot tested in mid-March. The projected launch date for use by the field is early April.
 - Work continues in various stages on the three remaining modules: Service Pathway, Supervision and Practitioner Requirements. Reviewers from the field, parents, and faculty members have been invaluable in providing feedback as these modules develop.
- In order to simplify the certification process, the requirements associated with maintaining EI certification have been revised to eliminate the need for additional training and re-certification at 18 months. Instead, recertification will be required every 3 years following initial certification. Practitioners will be required to complete 30 hours of training during each 3-year period.

SERVICE PATHWAY:

- Nine (9) local systems are working with their Part C technical assistance consultants and actively moving forward with implementing the practices in the first six chapters of the practice manual. These nine early implementers will provide feedback to the Part C Office on the practice manual later this spring based on their experiences.
- Additional chapters of the Infant & Toddler Connection of Virginia Practice Manual (IFSP Development, IFSP Implementation and Review, The Early Intervention Record, Dispute Resolution, and a glossary), the rest of the Service Pathway Question and Answer document, and the table listing all comments received from the 6 local systems that reviewed the first draft of the practice manual and our responses to those comments are expected to be sent to local systems by the end of March.
- The remaining two chapters of the practice manual, those that address finance/billing and personnel, are under development.

FAMILY COST PARTICIPATION:

- The Family Cost Participation Stakeholder Group meeting scheduled for March 17th has been canceled. The questions and comments we received in advance of the call, many of which were not directly related to family

cost share, indicated the need for more informing about and understanding of proposed practices to allow for a more focused discussion of family cost share issues. We are re-assessing how we can most effectively communicate and collaborate on the topic of family cost share.

STATEWIDE TELECONFERENCE INFORMATION SERIES:

Two statewide teleconference calls have been scheduled to provide information on a variety of monitoring and supervision topics. Details will be forthcoming through an email to all local system managers. The dates and times for those calls are as follows:

- April 9, 2009, 10:00 – 11:30
- May 18, 2009, 1:00 – 2:30