

System Transformation Update

April 1, 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:

- As shared at the Intellectual Disabilities (ID) Council Meeting of the Virginia Association of Community Services Boards on March 13 and the VICC meeting on March 25, DMHMRSAS and DMAS are establishing an Implementation Task Force to work with both departments as we make final decisions related to implementation of system transformation efforts, including:
 - Medicaid-EI Initiative
 - Family Cost Share
 - Allocations

Assigning the responsibility for discussing and developing recommendations related to all of these issues to one task force rather than multiple stakeholder groups will ensure that recommendations take into account how each decision impacts other parts of the Part C financial system. A joint letter will go out from DMAS Director Patrick Finnerty and DMHMRSAS Commissioner James Reinhard inviting stakeholder groups and organizations to identify representatives for participation on the Implementation Task Force. The first meeting of the task force will be held on April 13 from 10:00 – 3:00.

- The Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) has released the allocation amounts for each state under Part C and under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA). Virginia's regular Part C allocation will be \$10,328,493. The allocation through the ARRA to Virginia for Part C will be \$10,265,580.
 - OSEP will hold a technical assistance call with state Part C representatives on April 2 to provide guidance on use of the stimulus money that is being allocated through the ARRA.
 - Following that call, the Part C Office will work with administrators at DMHMRSAS to determine how the funds can be spent in accordance with both OSEP guidance and decisions from the Governor about the use of the ARRA stimulus money in Virginia.
 - The method/formula for allocation of federal Part C funds to local systems under the regular Part C grant is under discussion within

DMHMRSAS. Further consideration of the allocation methodology will occur through the Implementation Task Force.

DATA SYSTEM:

- Work continues on ITOTS versions 1.5 and 1.6 (which includes the practitioner database).

MEDICAID-EI INITIATIVE:

- DMHMRSAS and DMAS are working closely together to finalize the language for 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.
- 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.
- A meeting was held between DMAS and DMHMRSAS representatives on March 20 to continue to identify data exchange needs and mechanisms.
- DMAS reviewed and provided feedback on the revised IFSP form that is designed to meet both Part C and Medicaid plan of care requirements under EPSDT. Only minor changes to the IFSP form have been necessary, and the changes discussed with the IFSP stakeholder group appear to meet the plan of care requirements.

SERVICE PATHWAY:

- 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 have been sent to local system managers. These materials were provided for informational purposes only and no action is required by local systems at this time. All practice manual chapters will receive further review and revision over the summer based on input from stakeholders and final decisions related to other system transformation efforts. We will notify all local systems of the opportunity to provide input on the practice manual later in the spring.

FAMILY COST PARTICIPATION:

- The Family Cost Participation Stakeholder Group meeting that was originally set for March 17 will not be rescheduled. Responsibility for discussion of and recommendations on the remaining family cost share issues will move to the Implementation Task Force.

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