

VIRGINIA EARLY INTERVENTION AUTISM INITIATIVE
Henrico Mental Health Center
February 25, 2004
Draft Minutes

The Virginia Early Intervention Autism Initiative met February 25, 2004 at the Henrico Mental Health Center. The following individuals attended: Pat Accardo; Carol Burke; Scottie Burnette; Bev Crouse; Karen Durst; Heather Elias; Elizabeth Fletcher; Debra Holloway; Linda Hutton; Janet Lachowsky; Jessica Philips; Donna Rimel; Bruce Schaffer; Sharon Sikes; Beth Tolley; Charlene Wentland; and Noel Woolard.

Karen Durst welcomed the members and introductions were made. The agenda for the day was then discussed. It was determined that the plan for the day included:

- Finalizing the fact sheets
- Reviewing the purpose of the group.

A review of the process for approving the fact sheets occurred. Beth Tolley then led the process of reviewing the fact sheets. The first fact sheet to be discussed was *Autism Resources* which was authored by Phyllis Mondak. The following suggestions were made:

- The Autism Program of Virginia (TAP-VA) has undergone a name change. They are now Commonwealth Autism Service;
- Spiritos School's website is spiritoschool.com;
- Following discussion as to whether T/TAC information should be listed as a resource for parents it was determined that the T/TAC information should be included;
- Resources should be arranged in categories of private and nonprofit as well as to who they are for, parents/providers;
- Listings should include information on the types of resources and supports available through each source;
- Determine if "Adapted Physical Education" information is for older children; and if it is only for older children, delete from this listing
- Add Virginia Treatment Center.

The next fact sheet to be discussed was *Outcomes in Autism*, authored by Charlene Wentland. The following suggestions were made:

- Discussion occurred regarding the wording in point #3 related to "during adolescence...". It was decided to omit point #3.
- Concern was expressed regarding point # 5 related to the wording about there being no cure for autism and that children do not outgrow autism. Following discussion, it was decided to omit point # 5;
- It was decided to add the wording "school" to point # 6 and to phrase it as follows: school, community participation and work.

In *Diagnosing Autism in Young Children*, authored by Carol Schall , it was decided to wait until Carol was present to discuss this fact sheet.

It was also decided that the review of the *Behavior* fact sheet, authored by Staci Carr, would wait until Staci was present.

Noel Wollard will be making revisions to the *Behavior Interventions* fact sheet.

With the fact sheet *What is Autism?*, provided by Staci Carr, it was decided that :

- The final fact sheet in the packet that Staci sent would be used. This fact sheet was from the Center for Autism & Related Disabilities;
- Under “Facts”, it was determined that the most recent statistics from the American Association of Pediatrics stated that autism spectrum disorders occur in 1 out of 160 births. This should be added with the old statistics deleted
- Under “Treatment”, the consensus was to change 2) to state “Professional services for persons with autism require collaborative and cooperative efforts between professionals and families”; and
- This fact sheet would be widely distributed to doctor’s offices, etc. with the 800# for the Infant & Toddler Connection included

The Part C *Family Information* sheet will be provided as a fact sheet authored by the Part C Office. Additionally, the *Making a Referral* sheet will also be included.

Discussion then was held as to editing, use, and dissemination of the fact sheets. The following decisions were made:

- Final revisions of fact sheets will be sent to Karen who will forward them to Pat Accardo and Sharon Sites for forwarding to Christine Stemhagan
- Christine Stemhagan, from Children’s Hospital, will edit/format the fact sheets to provide consistency. Content will not be changed;
- The fact sheets will be Infant & Toddler Connection of Virginia documents;
- Those members who have met over time will be documented as contributors to the development of the fact sheets;
- The Part C office will oversee the future updating of the fact sheets;
- The fact sheets will be posted on the Infant & Toddler Connection website;
- The fact sheets will be distributed in hardcopy to families after the Part C evaluation has occurred and as appropriate;
- The *What is Autism?* fact sheet will be widely disseminated;

The next meeting of the Virginia Early Intervention Autism Initiative will be held Wednesday, March 24, 2004, at the Henrico Mental Health Center, from 1:00-4:00. The agenda will include:

- Finalizing the fact sheets;
- Revitalizing the process; and
- Surveys/Services/Training.