

Virginia Early Intervention Autism Initiative
February 26, 2003
Henrico Mental Health Center
Meeting Notes

The monthly meeting of the Virginia Early Intervention Autism Initiative was held February 26, 2003 at the Henrico Mental Health Center. Karen Durst, Technical Assistance Consultant for the Infant & Toddler Connection of Virginia welcomed the participants. The participants then introduced themselves. They included:

- Pasquale Accardo, M.D., Professor of Pediatrics, Developmental Pediatrician, Children's Hospital (Richmond);
- Jane I. Carlson, Education Director, Autism Center of Virginia at VCU (Richmond);
- Donna Rimmel, Educator, Infant & Toddler Connection of Chesterfield (Chesterfield);
- Elizabeth Fletcher, Coordinator, Parent Infant Program; Speech-Language Pathologist (Henrico);
- Sharon Sikes, Coordinator, Infant Program, Children's Hospital (Richmond);
- John M. Suozzi, Ph.D., Clinical Psychologist, Children's Hospital (Richmond);
- Noel Woolard, Program Director of the Autism Program of Virginia (TAP-VA) (Richmond);
- John Toscano, Executive Director, The Autism Program of Virginia (TAP-VA) (Richmond);
- Wanda Pruett, Parent, State Family Representative, (ARC of Virginia) (Richmond);
- Tracy Miller, Occupational Therapist, Program Manager, Rehabilitation Associates, P.C. (Tidewater);
- Deana Buck, Coordinator, Infant & Toddler Connection of Richmond (Richmond);
- Beth Sarrett, Instructional Specialist, Autism, Early Childhood Special Education, Severe Disabilities (Chesterfield County);
- Dr Linda Gibson-Matthews, Psychologist, Portsmouth Naval Hospital (Tidewater);
- Mary Ann Discenza, Acting State Coordinator, Infant & Toddler Connection of Virginia;
- Beth Tolley, Part C Technical Assistance Consultant, Infant & Toddler Connection of Virginia;
- Karen Durst, Technical Assistance Consultant, Infant & Toddler Connection of Virginia.

A brief discussion was held concerning the draft Service Delivery Philosophy and Guidelines developed by the Service Guidelines subgroup of the Finance Task Force. Written input has been requested and will be addressed in the next meeting of the Service Guidelines subgroup of the Finance Task Force.

Dr. Jane Carlson then provided a presentation for the group on the topic of "What's New in Autism?" Dr. Carlson provided an overview on autism spectrum disorders. She addressed the following topics in her presentation:

- Diagnostic Criteria for Autistic Disorders Including Diagnostic Tools
- Qualitative Impairment in Communication
- Patterns of Behavior
- Autism Spectrum Disorders in Young Children
- Historic Information
- Associated Disorders
- Medical Findings
- Pharmacological Therapy
- Intervention

Dr. Carlson will continue with her presentation at the next Virginia Early Intervention Autism Initiative meeting. The Initiative will be meeting Wednesday, March 26, 2003 at the Henrico Mental Health Center from 1:00-4:00.