

Memorandum

TO: Members of the Task Force

FROM: James S. Reinhard, M.D.

DATE: July 24, 2003

SUBJECT: Virginia's Part C System

Virginia has participated in the federal early intervention program under Individuals with Disabilities and Education Act (IDEA) since its inception in 1987. In 1992 the Virginia General Assembly passed state legislation codifying an infrastructure for an early intervention system that supports shared responsibility for the development and implementation of the system among various agencies. This legislation was designed to help Virginia meet federal regulations and guidelines by facilitating a move from model of programmatic, single-agency responsibility for services provision to an interagency shared responsibility for developing the early intervention system and for providing direct services to infants and toddlers with disabilities and their families.

The Department of Mental Health, Mental Retardation and Substance Abuse Services, the Lead Agency for Part C program has attempted to address many of the implementation issues regarding Part C and local contract required for participating in the program. The Part C system has grown tremendously since full implementation in 1992 and the unique challenges have grown with the program. We are at a point and time that we must review the current system to determine how we will make the system work to more effectively to serve the infants and toddlers and their families who are in need of these valuable service. We must also remove barriers and obstacle that get in the way for successful implementation of the program. The Department recognizes the need to address these issues and is seeking your help and guidance as we improve the Part C system of care.

The Department is inviting you to participate on a task force to review Virginia's Part C system and assist the Department with coming up with some strategies for addressing the challenges in the system. The purposes of f the task forces are:

- To re-evaluate the current process of contracting with localities for Part C to determine the need to amend the *Code of Virginia* to permit local interagency coordinating councils to enter into contracts to meet

the requirements in Part C and to designate a fiscal agent to meet requirements prior to developing the SFY 05 contract or eliminate the *Code of Virginia* on local interagency coordinating councils.

- To review and determine the roles and responsibilities of local interagency coordinating councils (LICCs) and fiscal agents to determine the authority for receiving and managing Part C funds.
- To convene a group of stakeholders to assess Virginia's Part C system and its unique features or considerations and make recommendations about its infrastructure including the relationship of the Lead Agency (DMHMRSAS) with other state agencies, and the roles and responsibilities of local interagency coordinating councils to meet federal and state statute and regulations.
- To address issues and difficulties in service delivery and develop recommendations for resolution.
- To Any other issues that the task force wishes to address.

The first meeting of the task force will be held on Tuesday August 5, 2003 from 10:00 AM until 1:00 PM in Conference Room C of the Henrico CSB located at 10299 Woodman Road, Glen Allen. Please find directions attached. Teleconferencing is available if you are unable to travel.

We look forward to your participation on this task force. If you have questions, please contact either Shirley Ricks at 804-786-0992 or Mary Ann Discenza at 804-371-6592.