

Potential Strategies For The Task Force Evaluating Virginia's Early Intervention System

Short-term strategies:

- Evaluate pros and cons of:
 - 1) Amending the *Code of Virginia* to provide the legal authority for local interagency coordinating councils to enter into contracts and specifically provide for a fiscal agent under Virginia Code § 2.2-5300, *or*
 - 2) Removing from the Code of Virginia local interagency coordinating councils and their responsibilities
- Amend Virginia Code § 2.2-2664. This section of the Code establishes the Virginia Interagency Coordinating Council however; local councils and fiscal agents are not required to comply with this provision.
- Establish local CSBs as lead agencies for purposes of administering the local Part C system similar to the designation of a Lead Agency at the state level while at the same time preserving interagency participation at the local level to meet federal requirements for a comprehensive system of services for Part C eligible children. This alternative maintains the current structure of state-supervised and local administration of early intervention.

Long-term strategies and alternatives for re-structuring Virginia's Part C System:

- Evaluate the pro and cons of establishing a centralized billing through the Lead Agency (DMHMRSAS). Under this alternative all early intervention services are billed through a central billing and information system and payments made by the state from multiple fund sources. All providers of early intervention services sign a provider agreement with the state and this agreement enrolls the agency or individual provider and enrollment in the provider network authorizes them to bill the early intervention program. State rates are established in regulation and all providers bill accordingly.
- Evaluate the pros and cons of establishing a process for competitive bidding for the provision of early intervention services through RFP's or other procurement mechanisms through the Lead Agency (DMHMRSAS). Under this alternative, all early intervention providers would respond to the RFP and would meet certain criteria (cost per service, geographic area served, qualified personnel, etc.) in order to be included in the provider network. All providers would sign agreements with the state and rates are established in regulation.
- Evaluate the pros and cons of the transfer Virginia's Part C program to another state agency.