

**MR COUNCIL EARLY INTERVENTION COMMITTEE  
CoCoA STEERING COMMITTEE**

**Minutes  
March 28, 2003**

Present: Carol Granger, Carol Burke (CoCoA Chair), Kathy Phillips (CoCoA Chair, beginning April 03), Linda Eggleston, Heidi Graham, Katie McCullough, Alison Standring, Mary Lou Hutton, Betty Crance, Debbie Burcham, Jim Gillespie, Mary Ann Discenza, Shirley Ricks

**Purpose of the Committee**

The purpose of CoCoA and the MR Council's Early Intervention Committee meeting together is as follows:

- To help shape the Part C early intervention system together;
- To share information among the two groups
- To problem solve issues and to speak with one voice

**DMHMRSAS Comprehensive Plan**

The Department of MHMRSAS conducts a survey every two years to determine how many consumers are awaiting services in all of the major disability areas (MH Adult, MH Child and Adolescent, MR, and Substance Abuse). Part C is captured on the MR survey under "Early Intervention Infants and Toddlers". There are several problems with this survey for capturing Part C information. One issue is that the State cannot report children as being on a waiting list or it will risk its federal funds. It is believed by all who were in attendance that children are admitted into the Part C system but may have to wait longer than the 45 days for their evaluation or may need services as listed on their IFSP that cannot be delivered. In addition, the survey does not capture the discreet early intervention services for which a child may have to wait. Instead it lumps all early intervention services in one category. Finally members of the committee believe that the waiting list information was not captured by all of the Part C Councils.

**Solutions:**

Debbie Burcham and Carol Granger will contact Charlene Davidson to see if we can send out another survey to all Councils to capture the following information as of March 31, 2003.

- Number of children who were waiting more than 45 days for their initial evaluation.
- Number of children not receiving a Part C service as written in their IFSP.

Shirley Ricks agreed to provide the number of children being served by the localities with one time funds and the number of children who are not receiving services in the natural environment. All information will be compiled as sent to Allison Standing.

## **UPDATE**

Early Monday (March 31, 2003) morning Debbie spoke with Charlene Davidson at the Department and she will not agree to capture aggregated data for the Comprehensive State Plan. There are many reasons for this, but the upshot is that what we agreed to will not be able to happen.

Debbie Burcham contacted Mary Ann Burgeron at the VACSB. She is willing to have survey results go through the VACSB to the Commissioner and to the General Assembly if we can get our acts together quickly. There may be VACSB money to support the data collection. This is our best shot at getting information together for the next General Assembly session with VACSB support. We will have to work quickly and we will have to get **across the board** buy-in from the Executive Directors, the MR Council and the Council Coordinators. That will take all of us working together to sell this. Right now we will probably have to make a mid May deadline. (For those who didn't attend the CoCoA meeting Alison had discussed VACSB's directive to Part C to work to get specific data for legislative budget information).

On **Wednesday, April 9<sup>th</sup>, at 9:30 a.m. at the Henrico Area CSB** a group of MR Directors and Council Coordinators will meet to design a survey. It will be important for as many people who can come to help with this project be there.

### **Guidelines**

There has been support for the Part C Guidelines from the field. The field was split regarding the intent of the document and how research based the information was. The next draft will come out after April 8<sup>th</sup>.

### **ITOTS**

We need to answer the questions:

1. What data can we collect with current resources?
2. What data do we need in the long run that will need additional resources?

### **Part C Contract**

The Contract has been changed and is at the Attorney General's office awaiting approval.

**NEXT MEETING**  
**MAY 23<sup>RD</sup>, Conference Room A**  
**2:00 P.M.**  
**HENRICO AREA MH/MR SERVICES**