

Family Report
March 13, 2002 Virginia Interagency Coordinating Council

Since the last VICC meeting I have received several calls from parents whose children are either not receiving early intervention services in natural environments, or are not receiving some services at all. Following up with these calls led to the discovery that appropriate services were not being received due to issues such as a lack of providers that are willing or able to serve families eligible for early interventions services in natural environments or at all.

For every phone call I receive, I worry about the other families out there who might be in the same situation and not calling. Anne Lucas and other staff from the state Part C Office have responded quickly to these concerns and it is obvious that they are doing everything that they can to resolve these important issues. Being involved with the OSEP process has led me to using the logic model of thinking with most everything these days. The only way to really solve this problem is to work our way back, looking for how we got here in the first place. For years I have heard about this system being underfunded, now I am hearing that money is not the issue, there is no one to give the money to. Until we uncover and address the real issues we will continue to "put out fires" and the children will continue to lose out.

Finally, the staff of the Family Involvement Project will work in collaboration with the Ability To Pay Committee of the VICC and the Family Support and Advocacy Committee to determine the impact of the new fee system on families. After specific questions have been developed family forums will be scheduled across Virginia.

Submitted by Wanda Pruett, State Family Representative