

**Public Awareness Committee
Report for March 8, 2000 VICC Meeting**

The public awareness committee met on Thursday, Feb. 10, 2000 to hear the presentations from the three groups who were chosen as finalists. The presentations were very well done and any choice the group makes will be a strong representative for early intervention. The group is hopeful that the final choice will be made and a contract in place by early March. One of the most exciting things from any of the presentations was the commitment from all the companies to come into the communities and see for themselves what the needs for public awareness are in each area of the state. Virginia is on its way to a well-known program for its infants and toddlers.

Submitted by Christa Shifflett

**Local Regional Direct Services Committee
Report for March 8, 2000 VICC Meeting**

Brenda Laws has agreed to co-chair the committee. Brenda Crockett, Brenda Laws and Beth Tolley met in January to outline plans for the committee for the next six months. The Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP) and Natural Environments training will be done in May in five regions. The training sessions will be two full days long. The committee will also finalize indicators for the standardized IFSP pilot project. The pilots will begin after the training. Linda Bradford, Virginia Department of Education (DOE), spoke with Doug Cox, Special Education Director, about the need for some type of endorsement of the new IFSP from the DOE in order to promote smooth transitions of children from Part C to Part B. Dr. Cox expressed support of this. Linda Bradford will be working with the committee to determine what form this should take.

The committee will be addressing assessments in conjunction with a research project that will be done by a graduate student of Anne Stewart's. Other committee activities include review and recommendations about the content and process for progress notes (including assurance that documentation meets third party payor requirements) and collection of questions about lead agency designation to be considered as part of the evaluation of the Part C System. Input has been sought from localities through the council coordinators; in addition, the Council Coordinator's Association (CoCoA) has sought input from Mental Retardation Directors and Executive Directors of the Community Service Boards (CSB).

The full committee will meet after the VICC meeting on March 8, 2000.

Submitted by Beth Tolley, Brenda Crockett and Brenda Laws

**Family Support And Advocacy Committee
Report to the March 8, 2000 VICC Meeting**

The FS&A Committee continues to work on the final draft of the updated workbook. This draft is to be submitted for approval to the committee at the March VICC meeting; it will then have to be approved by The EIIMT.

The committee is concerned about the delay in the transfer of funds to the Winchester ICC. These funds are needed for the Families Are Special Too Conference which is scheduled for March 31 and April 1st. Our committee work is basically at a standstill without access to these funds. We will continue to work with the lead agency on having these funds released.

Submitted by Wanda Pruett