

Virginia Interagency Coordinating Council

March 10, 1999

Minutes

Attendance: Rosemary Singleton (parent), Anne Stewart (personnel preparation), Linda Bradford for Pat Abrams (DOE), Leslie Anderson (DSS), Anita Cordill (DMAS), Yolanda Tennyson (SCC), Liz Hutton (VDH), Shirley Ricks for Janet Hill (DMHMRSAS), Margie Irby (DRVD), and Glen Slonneger (DVH).

Guests included Anne Lucas, Virginia Coordinator for Babies Can't Wait, Beth Tolley (BCW), Richard Corbett (BCW), David Mills (BCW), Mary Ann Discenza (BCW), Muriel Felder (BCW), Kenny Palmore (parent), Jeanette Schoder (Virginia Board for People with Disabilities) and Kathy Phillips (REIT).

The meeting was called to order at 9:45 by Leslie Anderson. Initially there was not a quorum, so the agenda was reordered to cover announcements and information sharing first.

Special VICC Meeting on Natural Environments:

Anne Lucas provided information about the special VICC meeting that will be held April 12 on the topic of Natural Environments. See attached flyer. Glen Slonneger stated he participated in a teleconference with OSEP on the newly issued Part B regulations and that OSEP indicated that natural environments did not mean services only in the home. Anne stated that a "natural environment" is not a setting; it's a different way of providing services. A concern was raised about whether HMOs would reimburse for services provided in natural environments. Anne said that this shouldn't be an issue with the corporate insurers. HB1413 specifies coverage of medically necessary services. Trigon has indicated that coverage of services in natural environments is not an issue. Anita Cordill stated that there may be an issue with Medicaid. She is talking with HCFA representatives. The issue relates to the medical necessity of services provided in natural environments. Though there is not an issue at the Federal level with HCFA, each state must work out their own interpretations.

VICC letterhead:

The letterhead needs to be revised to reflect the change to Part C. The address also needs to be corrected. The Public Awareness Committee will be asked to draft a revision. David Mills will follow up on this.

Reactivation of VICC Committees:

The **VICC Administrative Committee** and the **VICC Local Regional Direct Services Committee** will be reactivated to work on activities that are a part of the VICC/EIIMT/BCW Integrated Work Plan. (See attached list of activities organized according to VICC committees). Richard Corbett (for the Administrative Committee) and Beth Tolley (for the Local Regional Direct Services Committee) will check with former members to determine if they are still interested in serving on the committees, will solicit new members (including through posting on the website) and will determine if there is a volunteer to chair each committee.

Monitoring Project:

Anne Lucas reported on the Monitoring project. There are six pilot sites. The project involves self monitoring with support from the state. Each site has submitted their policies and procedures and interagency agreements to the BCW office. They will also complete a self monitoring check list. Each locality will determine areas where they need to improve and will develop an improvement plan. State review teams (SRT) consisting of a VICC representative, an EIIMT representative, a family representative, a BCW representative and members of the monitoring committee will review the documentation. A subgroup of each team will make site visits in June. The site visit will include review of files and interviews (possibly including interviews of parents and providers). A request was made for participation by VICC members; one VICC representative on each team is desired. Interested folks are to contact Beth Tolley or Anne Lucas. Jeff Harlow will train the state review teams on evaluation of the documents. At the end of July, each SRT will prepare a brief report and send this back to the locality.

At this point in the meeting, a quorum was present.

Bylaws:

Beth Tolley informed the group that the minutes from 1998 did not reflect approval of the revised bylaws. In addition, wording was changed in February 1999 to reflect the change from Part H to part C. A motion was made and seconded to approved the bylaws as distributed in the agenda packet. The motion passed.

September and December meeting minutes:

The minutes for the September and December VICC meetings were approved as distributed.

Early Intervention Interagency Management Team (EIIMT):

Liz Hutton presented the EIIMT report. *See attached report.*

Lead Agency report:

Anne Lucas reported on six bills that were tracked during this past legislative session:

1& 2. **Senate Bill No. 1196** and **House Bill No. 2569**: exemption of early intervention providers

from licensure as home health providers. Both passed - awaiting governor's signature.

3. **House Joint Resolution (HJR) No. 725:** to continue legislative study of early intervention. This passed with an amendment to make this the last year. A final report is due for the 2000 General Assembly session.

4. **SJR No. 504:** lead agency to provide report on items in legislative study bill. This bill did not pass.

5. **HJR No. 724:** DMAS to do study and report. This was amended to require only a report.

6. **HB No. 2617:** Reenactment bill - to provide exemption of EI from Medicaid HMOs. This bill was modified and passed. Certain children can be exempted from enrollment in Medallion if they meet specific criteria. A task force which includes DMAS staff, BCW staff, and local representatives are developing the criteria. It is expected that development of the criteria will be a process that will involve tweaking as it is implemented. The goal is to meet the needs of individual children while emphasizing identification and correction of system problems. HMOs that do not meet the needs of the children will be contacted by DMAS. All children will start out in the HMO. Local councils will have a role in assisting families who are experiencing problems with the HMOs. Anita Cordill and Tammy Whitlock will determine if individual children/families meet the criteria for exemption from the HMO. The criteria will be disseminated to local councils to review and provide feedback.

Public Comments:

Kenny Palmore spoke to the committee about his experience as the **father** of a child (now 9 years old) with Fragile X Syndrome. His son began early intervention services at age 18 months, but was not diagnosed until age three. He said he felt he missed out on 18 months of his child's life by not knowing the diagnosis for those 18 months. He would like for service providers to have a common base of knowledge about various diagnoses and for the service providers to recommend that families take their child to a physician or specialist knowledgeable about the suspected diagnosis.

Mr. Palmore stated that he is a member of Partners in Policymaking; his role is to spread information about Fragile X Syndrome to parent resource centers. He suggested that the information sharing and knowledge base include all disabilities.

Rosemary Singleton spoke to the members of her children. Her older daughter and son have developmental disabilities. She said that her family had also experienced a delay in learning the children's diagnoses and that she, too felt that they would be further along had the diagnoses been made sooner.

Mr Palmore distributed brochures on Fragile X Syndrome. Richard Corbett will establish a link on the BCW website for information on Fragile X Syndrome. Anne Lucas told Mr. Palmore of the Parent to Parent network operated by the ARC; this would be good place to provide information. Mr. Palmore is on a listserve that has parents, researchers, doctors and therapists from all over the world. Liz Hutton reported that the Virginia Department of Health through Children's Specialty

Services (CSS) has a website with links to lots of other sites with information about specific diagnoses. Exceptional Parent does not include Fragile X information on their site now, but Mr. Palmore will be working with them on this. A question arose about whether the Central Directory has a listing of websites with information. David Mills will check on this.

Mr. Palmore suggested that information about developmental disability diagnoses be incorporated as part of physician training.

Kathy Phillips, Council Coordinator for the Regional Early Intervention Team (Northern Neck and Middle Peninsula), informed the group that her area is facing a financial crisis. This year they are receiving \$50,000 less reimbursement with the change from Medicaid to HMOs. She stated that her locality was already relying heavily on community resources. Kathy stated that she is appreciative of the opportunity to work with Anita Cordill and Anne Lucas on the “Carve-Out” criteria for HMOs/Medicaid.

Agenda Revision:

Following the Public Comment, a discussion was held about whether to go ahead with the afternoon education session on ability to pay or postpone it until more members and local representatives could attend. (Attendance was much poorer than expected today due to snow throughout the state). The purposes of the educational session include providing VICC members with essential information they need in order to make decisions about the ability to pay issues. It is also an opportunity for Barry Mason, DMHMRSAS Reimbursement Office, to hear first hand what the issues are from the families and local providers and coordinators. **It was decided that the presentation by Don Kates, NEC*TAS and Barry Mason will be postponed until the June VICC meeting.** In order to facilitate understanding of the issues, Barry will prepare a packet of information and distribute this to members in advance of the meeting.

VICC/EIIMT/BCW Integrated Work Plan:

The integrated work plan was reviewed and the following decisions were made:

- * Activity items were clarified and reworded where appropriate.
- * Timelines were established for most VICC activities. Anne Stewart will provide Beth Tolley with the timelines for the Personnel Training and Development Activities for inclusion on the Plan. David Mills will communicate to the Public Awareness Committee the need to establish timelines and report these to Beth for inclusion on the Plan.
- * Responsibility assignments were finalized.
- * One activity was removed because the EIIMT members felt it might be counterproductive (VICC input for situations where there has been not response from OAG to requests for guidance).
- * Two activities were added for the Local Regional Direct Services Committee: transition and exploration of the use of technology in the provision of direct services.

* Ann Cox will suggest modifications to the CFIT nurses training that is being developed to include information about provision of services in natural environments. The same changes will be recommended for the CFIT Physician training.

* The transition technical assistance document cannot be revised until Part B regs are received and Part B policies and procedures are finalized. This will take at least a year.

* The EIIMT and BCW will finalize their portion of the plan this month.

A copy of the Work Plan is attached as are the following information sheets: VICC Priorities, Priorities Identified for VICC Committees, Priorities grouped According to OSEP Areas of Focus, and List of Activities According to Type of Activity.

Child Count:

David Mills reported that child count numbers are up. The child count last year (12/2/96 - 12/1/97) was 2,391 and this year (12/2/97 - 12/1/98) it is 2,651. The annualized count was 4642 last year and is 5, 096 this year.. In addition, 879 two year old children were served by the Department of Education this year.

Budget:

A handout was provided by Richard Corbett to facilitate discussion of the budget. ***See attached copy.*** VICC's role in the budget is to set priorities. Since all but one attendee today were EIIMT members, it was decided that the VICC discussion about the budget be done at a later date. Information about the budget will be provided to VICC members and a conference call will be made the end of March to finalize the budget. Kathy Phillips suggested that input from the field be solicited and used in establishing funding priorities. Kathy Phillips has written a Concept paper about blending of various funding streams. She volunteered her locality as a site for looking at the integration of funding sources.

Action Items:

Shirley Ricks requested that we monitor minutes for action items. A list will be included in the minutes of action items. This list will be reviewed at the following meeting.

Ability to Pay Committee:

Mary Ann Discenza reported on the work of the Ability to Pay Special VICC Committee. ***See attached report.*** She invited interested folks to review copies of the forms that will be used to facilitate the study process for the ability to pay issues. Information packets will go out to the localities next week. Information about the ability to pay study process will be posted on the website (except the packet for families)

The meeting was adjourned at 2:15 P.M..

Action items to be reviewed at next VICC meeting:

Anita Cordill (DMAS):

Status of Medicaid reimbursement for services in Natural Environments

Barry Mason

Send out information packets about reimbursement

Ann Cox

Recommend inclusion of information about natural environments in nurses training curriculum

Anne Lucas

Recommend inclusion of information about natural environments in physician training Distribution of information to facilitate decision making - for budget

Richard Corbett

Follow up with activation of the Administrative Committee

Provide a link to Fragile X Syndrome on BCW website

David Mills

Determine if the Central Directory lists websites for diagnostic information

Spearhead letterhead revision

Beth Tolley

Follow up with activation of the Local Regional Direct Services Committee

Find VICC Volunteers for State Review Teams for Monitoring Project

Draft and send follow up letters to Kenny Palmore and Kathy Phillips

Record timelines for PTDC committee activities upon receipt from Anne Stewart

Record timelines for PA committee activities upon receipt from David Mills and/or Christa Shifflett

Obtain and record on workplan the timelines for the FSA committee

Set up VICC conference call the end of March for budget finalization

Assist Cherie Takemoto with designation of VICC member to serve on CDAB and to attend March 25 meeting

Minutes recorded by Beth Tolley
Technical Assistance Consultant
Virginia's Babies Can't Wait