

CoPA Meeting Minutes
May 18, 2015

Members Present:

- Nancy Bailey, Family Preservation Services
- Deana Buck, Partnership for People with Disabilities
- Carol Burke, Infant & Toddler Connection of Rockbridge
- Dana Childress, Partnership for People with Disabilities
- Kris Ganley, T/TAC at GMU-Facilitator
- Christy Harrison, Developmental Educator, Central VA
- Dawn Hendricks, ACE VCU
- Cori Hill, Partnership for People with Disabilities
- Muff Perry, Infant & Toddler Connection of Harrisonburg-Rockingham
- Beth Pruitt, Child Development Resources; Northern Tidewater

Celebrations

- Welcome to Christy Harrison who is joining us for the first time.
- Kris' husband, Bill, had successful heart surgery and he is walking up to a mile.
- Cori's daughter, Savannah, graduated with her Master's degree from GMU.

Partner Updates:

Autism Center for Excellence (ACE)-Dawn Hendricks reported that ACE is primarily funded through the VA Dept of Education with a focus on school-aged (2-22 years.) They receive some funding from the General Assembly to support people with autism across the lifespan.

ACE has a comprehensive website with resources, trainings, seminars, online courses, etc. Website is available at: www.vcuautismcenter.org Lots of free training. Share link with colleagues and families.

Project PASS-Preparing for Academic and Social Success-This is a project in two Chesapeake City schools ECSE classrooms. The focus is to systematically help teachers to layer in more supports and differentiate to provide more intensive supports as needed for individual children. Dawn will be presenting a session at the Creating Connection to Shining Stars conference about Project PASS.

Act Early-Deana shared that the Maternal and Child Health Grant has sites in Norfolk and Roanoke with a third site to be determined. Focus is on early identification of children with autism. Using the MCHAT with ALL children ages 2-30 months as part of the entry process regardless of whether there have been concerns about autism identified.

Dawn Hendricks is providing professional development for childcare providers, EI providers, Head Start, and home visitors. The training focuses on helping providers understand typical vs atypical dev and give them tools, use the MCHAT to objectify observations, give strategies to talk with parents and help parents move forward. People who participate could also have access to a coach who can help them connect dots and guide to EI.

Deana also shared the following resources:

Main "Learn the Signs. Act Early" website: <http://www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/actearly/>

New Module for Early Care and Education providers:

This FREE, online training course, *Watch Me! Celebrating Milestones and Sharing Concerns*, helps you fulfill this role by providing tools and best practices for monitoring the development of children in your care and talking about it with their parents.

<http://www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/watchmetraining/index.html>

Website of sources from the early care and education providers module:

<http://www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/watchmetraining/resources.html>

VA Autism Council (VAC)-Beth shared that the Dept of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services (DBHDS) reported that they will be contracting screeners (people who determine eligibility) for the Elderly or Disabled with Consumer Direction Waiver (EDCD) waiver. Hats off to CoPA members who first shared concerns that there was apparent inequity across the state of how screeners screened and determined eligibility for children with autism.

A discussion ensued about concerns and questions related to ABA providers being added as EI providers. It is important to note that ABA providers will be providing developmental services (the EI listed service) with ABA being the modality. Members noted that there are still many concerns about financial implications, lack of ABA providers in many localities. Deana agreed to ask Catherine Hancock, EI Administrator, if the Q&A document that was disseminated at a recent local system managers' meeting was available to share. UPDATE: Catherine agreed and document is attached. Members asked for this discussion to continue at next meeting.

CoPA at the Beach at Creating Connections to Shining Stars (CCSS)

Dr. Suzanne Kucharczyk from Frank Porter Graham Child Development Institute at UNC will present *Evidenced-Based Early Identification and Intervention Practices for Children Birth-4 Years with ASD and Their Families* as a full-day preconference session on July 8th. There are currently 74 people registered. Space is filling quickly so if you are considering this session, register soon.

Lunch and Learn with Dr. Brooke Ingersoll

This event was cancelled in March due to a family illness for Dr. Ingersoll. We still hope to reschedule this event but no additional information at this time.

We are at the end of our fiscal year (June 30th.) Cori will be sending out a short survey to determine continued interest in CoPA, best dates and meeting times, etc. Please be sure to reply to make your voice heard.