

CoPA Meeting Minutes  
9/23/13

Members Present:

Cori Hill – Early Intervention Training Specialist, Partnership for People with Disabilities; CoPA Facilitator	Beth Pruitt - Child Development Resources; Northside CoPA; Meeting Facilitator	Dana Childress, M.Ed. Early Intervention Partnership for People with Disabilities at VCU
Kristen Weatherford-T/TAC at ODU	Margaret Vaughn-T/TAC at VT	Kris Ganley-T/TAC at GMU
Susan Clarke-PWC Infant Toddler Connection		Cathy Cook –T/TAC at JMU

1. Celebrations/Announcements- Dr. Landa was a hit at CoPA at the Beach reception during Creating Connections to Shining Stars. Sessions with autism focus during the conference were well attended and reviewed positively. Beth announced that there is an opportunity at Longwood College for someone to participate as a resource for a meeting for a parent group, as was requested from the VAC. Members of the CoPA were asked to send suggestions to Beth. Susan reported that the Circle of Support conference is coming November 2<sup>nd</sup> in Prince William with many sessions and a keynote presented by special education teacher (an co-author of *A Smile as Big as the Moon*) Mike Kersjes. Beth announced that the Virginia Autism Advisory Council has formed and met in response to a JLARC report to legislators. There was a concern that some of the information reported at the meeting was inaccurate or not up to date. Dawn and Deana will provide more information according to Beth. There is a meeting scheduled for October.
2. Discussion- A grant has been received in Virginia to fund a project to improve the process of screening, diagnosis and intervention. A model will be implemented in 3 localities (Roanoke and Norfolk are in) to coordinate efforts for ASD support for children and families. Deana Buck will report more on this at our next meeting.

Cori reminded us that Part C responses did come back to the questions from CoPA. These are posted on the CoPA webpage available at:  
[http://www.eipd.vcu.edu/sub2\\_copa.html](http://www.eipd.vcu.edu/sub2_copa.html)

A discussion about beginning a Facebook page for the CoPA started as a result of recognizing a smaller attendance at this meeting. Cori reminded us that the EIPD

website has a CoPA page for sharing action and resources from this community of practice. This was our first meeting since the CoPA at the beach gathering and people are trying to get back to school and other commitments taken care of now so this may be the reason for low attendance on the call. Each local group will continue to explore options for sharing communication that may include social networking.

Beth had a question for the group about the DSM5 and social communication disorder. She will check with Dr. Harrington. Dr. Harrington and others are planning a conference for February 7<sup>th</sup> at the Children's Hospital at Kings Daughters Brick house auditorium in Norfolk. DSM5 is the focus for this conference.

There will be more to come for planning another meeting of the CoPA at the Beach as the planning committee meets for the Creating Connections to Shining Stars conference.

**Next call: Nov. 25, 2013 from 3:00-4:00 pm**