

## CoPA Meeting Minutes 11/25/13

### Members Present:

<b>Cori Hill</b>	Early Intervention Training Specialist, Partnership for People with Disabilities; CoPA Facilitator
<b>Lynn Blythe</b>	Program manager/ Local System Manager in Rappahannock – Rapidan; Northern CoPA
<b>Susan Clarke</b>	PWC Infant & Toddler Connection
<b>Cathy Cook</b>	T/TAC at JMU
<b>Kris Ganley</b>	T/TAC at GMU
<b>Dawn Hendricks</b>	Training Director, Autism Center for Excellence (ACE) at VCU
<b>Deb Horan</b>	Infant & Toddler Connection of Hanover
<b>Kerry Lambert</b>	Director, ODU T/TAC; supports Southside and Northside CoPA
<b>Muff Perry</b>	Infant & Toddler Connection Harrisonburg/Rockingham
<b>Beth Pruitt</b>	Child Development Resources; Northside CoPA; Meeting Facilitator
<b>Margaret Vaughn</b>	T/TAC at VT
<b>Kristen Weatherford</b>	T/TAC at ODU

#### VAC Report (Beth):

- Highlights included  
VAC is working on an action plan for next year
- Reviewed recommendations from JLARC 2009 study and DBHDS response to support individuals with ASD
- DBHDS wanted state to increase screening opportunities for ASD in non-clinical settings (needs more funding)
- Part C Collaborate with Pediatrics in VA to increase knowledge and diagnosis would need more funding
- Modify data collection process to collect more specific disability information (needs more funding) – Lynn commented that the Part C Family Survey may be a place to collect data
- CoPA’s need (?) to provide forum to share expertise (recommendation #7 from JLARC report)

#### ACE Update

- Working with VA ACT Early in providing online instructional courses.
- A new course is being offered related to foundational instructional strategies for autism.
- ACT is also getting ready to review the course for parents with newly diagnosed children to include updated information related to the DSM-V and insurance coverage for autism intervention.

Discussion- There was a discussion about how families are getting plugged into insurance covered ABA services for young children with autism. Participants had questions about how parents were securing these services (were the parents, in fact, setting them up and if not who was) and if and how they were being integrated with Part C early intervention services. Beth reported that she was aware of a few cases of families who were receiving both ABA and EI services and they tended to be kids who had TriCare insurance. Some of these situations had successful partnerships with Part C and some less so. There was some concern/questions about how the current coaching model being used in VA EI programs aligns with private ABA services. Dawn reported that there are no set guidelines for integrating ABA and EI services at this time as most insurance companies are still struggling with how to implement the changes that provide for ABA services.

#### **New Autism Grant: Autism Implementation Grant.**

The grant will be used to better prepare people who could play a role in early diagnosis of autism.

Train teams of people doing the ADOS

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: Monday January 27, 2014 from 3:00-4:00 pm**