

**CoPA Meeting Minutes**  
**1/28/13**

Nicole Adamos	Kris Ganley	Kerry Lambert
Deana Buck	Dawn Hendricks	Beth Pruitt
Dana Childress	Cori Hill	Peggy Robbins
Susan Clarke	Belinda Hooper	Margaret Vaughn
Cathy Cook	Debbie Horan	Kristen Weatherford

**1. Celebrations**

- Belinda Hooper has been accepted the early childhood faculty position at John Tyler Community College.
- Deana Buck has again been named the Act Early Ambassador.
- Kris Ganley has a grandbaby on the way very soon.
- Dana Childress is hosting a blog and Dr. Robin McWilliam, a prominent early childhood researcher, has joined the blog.

**2. VA Autism Council (VAC) Update-** Beth Pruitt, EI liaison to VAC, provided an update on the recent VAC meeting topics including:

- Arlington Public Schools received an award of excellence for their work on a Parent Resource Binder. For more information, see:  
<http://www.vcuautismcenter.org/news/index.cfm#item3>
- Training has been held in Richmond for parents of children who are newly diagnosed with autism. Bradford Hulcher has been providing the sessions which conclude this week.
- Early intervention advocacy opportunities Jan 25<sup>th</sup>-28<sup>th</sup> to alert policy makers of budget shortfalls and potential wait lists for services.

**3. Act Early Task Force Update-**Deana reported that the Act Early Task Force has been focused on coordinating efforts. Sam Hollins has been providing leadership but Sam has been promoted. The group will be meeting Feb 13<sup>th</sup> in Richmond for a summit and work plan day to prepare for possible application for an autism implementation grant. Additional work includes a pilot in the Metro Richmond area with physicians focusing on developmental surveillance and diagnosis.

**4. ACE White Paper-**(paper was emailed prior to call and also available on ACE Resource page at: <http://www.vcuautismcenter.org/documents/ScreeningWhitePaper.pdf> ) Dawn Hendricks reported that ACE created a task force of parents and professionals (pediatricians, neurologists, etc. who make medical diagnoses) and school personnel (those making school eligibility decisions). Three groups looked at:

- Screening
- Diagnosis
- System Changes

Each group identified research questions, reviewed and conducted research and utilized the JLARC report as a launching point. Dawn noted a key finding was that

approximately 80% of parents had to go to three or more professionals before getting a diagnosis for their child. See the link for the white paper for specific recommendations.

5. **Moms in Motion**-Cathy Cook shared information about the program which provides support for enrollees of case management on the DD/IFDDS waiver. For more info visit: <http://momsinmotion.net/>
6. **Insurance Updates**-Deferred to next meeting. Dawn will share updates and insurance group will convene to discuss the insurance one page document.
7. **New Waiver: Individual and Family Support Program**-(email info provided prior to meeting). Beth reported that the key message for families is understanding the importance of getting on waivers far in advance in order to take advantage of programs. Money can be used for a broad array of services and supports. For more information, contact Cindy Gwinn at [cindy.gwinn@dbhds.virginia.gov](mailto:cindy.gwinn@dbhds.virginia.gov)
8. **Discussing ASD with Families**-Reminder to all that a subgroup of the CoPA created a short document entitled, "Concerns about Autism: Talking to Families" available at: [http://www.eipd.vcu.edu/sub\\_autism.html](http://www.eipd.vcu.edu/sub_autism.html)
9. **Children enrolled in EI and using ABA**-Beth and Debbie discussed having children in their programs that are enrolled in EI and also accessing ABA. They are interested in other areas of the state who are encountering this situation. Questions arose as to how the new insurance information will impact children in EI. Debbie will start generating a list of questions and Cori will share with other CoPA members to compile a comprehensive list of questions to submit to the Part C office.
10. **CoPA at the Beach**-Cori reported that she and Deana have a meeting with Rebecca Landa on 1/29/13 to discuss possibility of her presenting at CoPA at the Beach. More information to come.