

**CoPA Meeting Minutes
3/25/13**

Members Present:

Deana Buck - Partnership for People with Disabilities; Act Early Liaison	Nancy Bailey - EI Director for Family Preservation Services in PD 1; Southwest CoPA	Lynn Blythe – Program Director, Local System Manager in Rappahannock – Rapidan; Northern CoPA
Emily Chebetar – Early Childhood Special Educator and Education Coordinator for I & TC of Norfolk	Dana Childress – Program Specialist, Partnership for People with Disabilities; CoPA Facilitator	Cathy Cook - Region 5 T/TAC
Kris Ganley - T/TAC at GMU; supports NOVA CoPAs	Dawn Hendricks - Training Director, Autism Center for Excellence (ACE) at VCU	Cori Hill – Early Intervention Training Specialist, Partnership for People with Disabilities; CoPA Facilitator
Belinda Hooper - VCU School of Education	Debbie Horan – SC and developmental specialist I&TC of Hanover; <i>Meeting Note Taker</i>	Kerry Lambert - Director, ODU T/TAC; supports Southside and Northside CoPA
Beth Pruitt - Child Development Resources; Northside CoPA; <i>Meeting Facilitator</i>	Kristen Weatherford - T/TAC at ODU; supports Southside and Northside CoPA	

1. Celebrations/Announcements:

- Cathy Cook: The Shenandoah Valley Autism Partnership will hold it’s annual 5K on Saturday, April 6th at Eastern Mennonite University. Click her for link: <http://valleyautism.org/2013/02/09/5k-walkrun-saturday-april-6th-eastern-mennonite-university/>
- Beth: At the VA Autism Council Meeting last week some members from Longwood University shared that they were involved in a family support group for families who are living with ASD - it meets once a month so if anyone is working with families in the Farmville area this would be a good resource to share.
- Nancy Bailey: shared two upcoming events in her area
 - 5/4/13: Smart Beginnings Appalachian Region is sponsoring a day long Early Childhood Summit for Child Care Providers and other personnel. This workshop is focusing on how to recognize early signs of autism
 - June 12-14 2013 Wise County Schools and UVA-Wise and other community partners are hosting a 3 day camp for children with Autism (preK-12th grade) with special attention to those children who are transitioning from PreK to Kindergarten.
- Creating Connections to Shining Stars (CCSS) 2013 (July 22-24) went live this week – check it out: http://www.eipd.vcu.edu/annual_conference.html
- Cori: Reported that Rebecca Landa, Ph.D., CCC-SLP from the Kennedy Krieger Institute in Baltimore, has been secured as our special guest speaker for the CoPA at the Beach session during this summer’s CCSS conference. Dr. Landa’s topics will include early identification of autism, her research on key indicators related to identifying very young children with autism or those who might be at risk for autism, and promising findings related to teaching skills. A discussion about we’d like CoPA at the beach to look this year followed – see below.

- Emily: On April 5, 2013 Eastern Virginia Medical School is holding a breakfast presentation: *Confronting Hampton Roads' Autism Epidemic* from 7 a.m. to 8 a.m.
http://www.evms.edu/news/name_19226_en.html
- Dawn: Shared that there was going to be a live webcast on 3/26/13 entitled *Autism, Insurance, and ABA in Virginia*. Christy Evanko was the presenter. If you were unable to watch this live it is already up on their archive site: <http://www.vcuautismcenter.org/training/webcasts/archives.cfm>

2. Discussions:

- **CoPA at the Beach:** Cori asked the group for ideas about how we want CoPA at the beach to look this year. The consensus was that everyone wanted continue with the “in person” meeting/gathering at the CCSS event. The group agreed that Dr. Landa is probably going to be a big draw for attendees at the conference and discussed how we might take advantage of that to find more potentially future CoPA members. The group liked the idea of have our CoPA meeting immediately following Dr. Landa’s presentation – perhaps in the same room with light refreshments. The possibility of building a meet and greet opportunity into the presentation was discussed – incorporating it into the last 15-30 min of the presentation. Cori asked that if any current members had any additional ideas or comments regarding our CoPA at the beach meeting that they email them to Cori by **4/15/13**.
- **Autism Insurance Questions:** The following points were raised/discussed:
 - The importance of defining ABA for the purpose of insurance coverage
 - Discrete trials is just one strategy or tool in the ABA toolbox
 - There will likely not be enough BCBA’s available when the insurance goes into effect (at least initially)
 - Reconciling EI’s current trend toward coaching with ABA strategies
 - In an ideal world BCBA’s and EI service providers will work together to provide what’s best for child and family and even perhaps maybe some EI providers will become BCBA certified
 - The question about duplication of services regarding Part C education/developmental services
 - Service coordinators may be in the best/easiest position to partner with BCBA’s initially
 - Many of these questions may not be answered right away (likely that they won’t – the insurance process still has many of their own questions/processes to work out)
 - Our group’s consensus was that we wanted to go ahead and forward our list of 12 questions specific to the insurance program and EI to the State EI office so that the State’s office could at least begin to think about these issues (not assuming that they are not already). There was some discussion about whether the question about duplication of services should be forwarded with the list because it may be a more DMASS question but we decided to go ahead and include it because we thought the State EI representative have worked closely with DMASS in the recent past to get EI services covered by Medicaid so the thought was that they would have the connections/relationships at DMASS to share that question with the “right” people.

Next call: 5/20 from 3:00-4:00 pm.