

CoPA Meeting Minutes

1/27/14

Members Present:

Cori Hill	Early Intervention Training Specialist, Partnership for People with Disabilities; CoPA Facilitator
Lynn Blythe	Program manager/ Local System Manager in Rappahannock – Rapidan; Northern CoPA
Dana Childress	
Cathy Cook	T/TAC at JMU
Kris Ganley	T/TAC at GMU
Deb Horan	Infant & Toddler Connection of Hanover
Beth Pruitt	Child Development Resources; Northside CoPA; Meeting Facilitator
Frances Rudd	
Margaret Vaughn	T/TAC at VT
Kristen Weatherford	T/TAC at ODU

ACT Early Update:

- Dena not present for call – will check in with her next time

Virginia Autism Council (VAC):

- Continuing to work on updating/revising an existing training program for families with children who are newly diagnosed with autism spectrum disorder (ASD) entitled “My child was just diagnosed with ASD: Now what do I do?” . This is a face to face training and is offered free of charge. <http://www.autismtrainingva.org/trainings/>
- FYI: One of the purposes of the Virginia Tech Center for Autism Research (VTCAR) is to create a research registry of/for individuals and families who are affected by/with ASD. They then connect these families with resources. VTCAR also offers a free comprehensive assessment for children as young as 2 year old. They do not actually provide the child with a diagnosis but they will tell families where to go to get the diagnosis (I’m assuming they would use the information from the assessment to guide parents in that direction as needed and explain why)
 - VA Tech Autism Clinic and VTCAR are both housed at VA Tech and do work together but they are two separate entities
 - VA Tech Autism Clinic link: <http://www.psyc.vt.edu/outreach/autism>
 - VTCAR link: <http://www.vtcar.science.vt.edu/research/VTCARRegistry.html>
- Autism Advisory Committee update: this committee is made up of various delegates and representatives and meets in Richmond. There is a pediatrician that sits on the committee but does not appear to current information about autism and children. The VAC is helping the people on that committee with updated information and knowledge related to autism.

Autism Center for Excellence (ACE):

Dawn Hendricks could not join us for today's conference call but she sent the following update to Cori earlier this week:

We have a new course we launched at the end of 2013. It is one of our free, online courses and runs for 5 weeks. It is designed for educators, but is also appropriate for EI! It is full for the winter running, but we have it again in June.

Evidence-based Practices to Teach Students with ASD

Also, the NPDC did another review of EBP and published their results. There are now 27 EBPs (they added a few and reorganized others). We have an article on the front page of our website but here is the url <http://www.vcuautismcenter.org/news/research.cfm#item1>

Beth commented on the report noted above. The National Professional Development Center (NPDC) originally came up with 24 evidenced based strategies and now they are up to 27 – many or most of the strategies are geared toward school-based services but some may be applicable to young children and natural settings. Here is the link to the briefs about the original 24 strategies – the briefs breakdown each strategy and provides an overview, step by step instructions, an implementation checklist, and a list of reference pertaining to that specific strategy. Here is a link to those briefs. <http://autismpdc.fpg.unc.edu/content/briefs>
I checked out the new list and right now there is just a fact list for each strategy it doesn't look like they've updated the more comprehensive briefs yet but here's another link the the list of 27: <http://autismpdc.fpg.unc.edu/content/ebp-update>

Comments: Cori mentioned that she and Dana had talked to the NPDC in the past and the NPDC said it was their plan to eventually focus on strategies for the birth to 3 group. Their current material is still very geared to school-aged so it does not appear that they have been able to really look at birth to 3 yet.

Other Discussion/Comments

- **Rebecca Landa Videos:** There was a discussion on the videos about comparing young children with and without autism that Rebecca Landa has made - Cori sent link to them earlier this week but here it is again: <http://www.essentialbaby.com.au/toddler/toddler-health/what-autism-looks-like-in-toddlers-video-20140117-30yff.html>
 - Deb Horan agreed to spend some time on the Kennedy Krieger website before March's meeting to see if there are any other resources from Rebecca Landa and/or her colleagues that may be helpful.
- Dena Buck and Beth (Pruitt) are doing an audio conference in March as part of the Infant & Toddler Specialist Network for child care providers around the state. The conference is broken up by region. Dena will cover ACT Early information and Beth is going to cover information related to red flags, supports, and strategies.

Autism Implementation Grant: Dena is involved with this and provide us with an update at the next meeting if she is able to participate. Right now they are focused on a Training grant to train personnel in using the ADOS to aid in the early identification of ASD. They will be choosing three areas within the state to provide this training.

Reminders:

- The **Insights Into Autism Conference** that is being held at the Children's Hospital of the Kings Daughter is next week 2/7/14. Dr. Harrington sent a link earlier this month – here's another one:
<http://www.chkd.org/HealthPros/Education/ShowForm.aspx?cmeid=99>
- There will be no Creating Connections/Shining Stars this summer/year. The venue where it has taken place since its beginning is currently closed. It is planned to resume the conference in 2015.
- In an effort to provide continuing education opportunities for EI providers (because EI providers are required to get professional training hours for EI recertification) there is a very preliminary meeting task force undertaking the possibility of providing an early intervention training/conference "event" of some sort this coming October. More information to come as it evolves and becomes available. If anyone wants to be on that committee contact Cori Hill by Friday (1/31/14) – interested parties welcome!! Today Beth and Lynn agreed to participate.
- The consensus today was that if the October "event" takes place (and the funding has been cleared) CoPA members would like an opportunity to meet face to face to make up for our missed summer opportunity. CoPA members are also encouraged to think about any other ways they'd like to CoPA involved (providing or sponsoring a training session for example) and share those ideas in March.

Today's facilitator was Beth Pruitt and Note-taker was Deb Horan

Next call: **Monday, March 24, 2014 3:00-4:00 pm**