

CoPA Meeting Minutes
November 30, 2015

Members Present:

- Carol Burke, Infant & Toddler Connection of Rockbridge
- Dana Childress, Partnership for People with Disabilities
- Deana Buck, Partnership for People with Disabilities
- Kris Ganley, T/TAC at GMU
- Cathy Cook, T/TAC
- Selena Layden, ACE VCU
- Cori Hill, Partnership for People with Disabilities
- Muff Perry, Infant & Toddler Connection of Harrisonburg-Rockingham
- Beth Pruitt, Child Development Resources; Northern Tidewater
- Brandie Williams, Rappahannock Area Community Services, Early Intervention Services
- Kimberly Boose, Chesterfield Infant Program- note taker
- Catherine Hancock, Infant & Toddler Connection of VA
- Barbara Fields, Chesapeake IBH
- Sandra Smith,
- Shannon Murdock, Easter Seals
- Heather Tavares, Infant & Toddler Connection of Loudoun
- Genevieve Baer, Infant & Toddler Connection of Staunton-Waynesboro
- Michelle Brown, Infant & Toddler Connection of Staunton-Waynesboro

Partner Updates:

Autism Center for Excellence (ACE)

Selena Layden, reported that ACE continues to make improvements to website with resources, training, seminars, online courses, etc. Website is available at: www.vcuautismcenter.org ACE has added new content including five “How To” videos that are preschool specific. ACE is also working on professional development for child care providers. It is not yet known how this will impact early intervention in regards to early identification of need. Early interventionist will be able to provide this site to child care providers to access resources, supports or where to go if they have concerns.

Virginia Autism Council (VAC)

Beth Pruitt shared that the Maternal and Child Health Grant has sites in Norfolk, Roanoke and the Danville/Pittsylvania area. Focus is on early identification of children with autism. Using the MCHAT with ALL children ages 2-30 months as part of the entry process regardless of whether there have been concerns about autism identified.

Act Early

Deana Buck continues to serve as the CDC’s Act Early Ambassador to Virginia. If you have any questions about the LTSAE campaign and resources, she would be happy to provide a quick tour and orientation to the materials. Deana shared the following info:

- The main website is <http://www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/actearly/>
- Here are some resources that are very popular:
 - <http://www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/actearly/downloads.html>
 - Materials in other languages: <http://www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/actearly/downloads.html#languages>

- To learn more about how to customize the materials, visit <http://www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/actearly/freematerials.html#CustomizeMaterials>
- To order materials, visit <http://www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/actearly/freematerials.html>
- The GREAT news is that the CDC warehouse is full at this point. At other times in the year, the supplies may be limited. The time is right to learn more about these resources and to order supplies that will help you in your work.
- There is a wonderful new on-line module for early care and education professionals, called “Watch Me! Celebrating Milestones and Sharing Concerns”
<http://www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/watchmetraining/index.html>
- In Virginia, child care providers who complete the on-line module (including quiz) can use the certificate for their ongoing certification.
- If you would like copies of the *Milestone Moments* booklet (http://www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/actearly/pdf/parents_pdfs/milestonemomentseng508.pdf), please contact Deana. She has copies available on-hand for dissemination to providers and families. Her email address is dmbuck@vcu.edu.

BCBA and Developmental Services Subcommittee Update:

Subcommittee members met and discussed concerns that have come up in regards the use of BCBA or BCaBA in early intervention. Carol updated the members of concerns that many localities were having in how to implement BcBA and BCaBAs under developmental services. Cori Hill compiled questions from the subcommittee and presented them to the CoPA members. Catherine Hancock joined the call to assist with responses:

1. **If using a BCBA to provide developmental services, how many hours would be provided?**
Developmental frequency is determined just as any other early intervention service during an IFSP meeting. Catherine noted that there is very little evidence that a lot of discrete trial intervention is effective with children birth to age three.
2. **What would the BCBA provider do that is different from what a developmental specialist does?**
BCBA are certified to work with children who may have behavior concerns. A BCBA may have an array of strategies that can be useful in the natural environment. A BCBA may have background/expertise that other providers on the team may not have. Once developmental services are added to the plan, the outcomes formed may deem a BCBA to be the best provider.
3. **Will there be training/support for the BCBAs transitioning into early intervention services? If so, who will be responsible for this the locality or the state?** BCBAs in early intervention have to take the same modules as other early interventionists. If additional training is needed the locality will provide it but state will provide support as needed per Catherine Hancock. Catherine also reminded CoPA members that any locality can request technical assistance related to these questions.
4. **What is a sensitive way to discuss adding a BCBA provider to the plan especially if the family has not considered a possibility of autism?** Committee members and Catherine Hancock agreed that the discussion of this provider should be addressed in the form of skill set and how to best address the outcomes in the IFSP for the infant or toddler. It is important to explain that BCBAs can meet the needs of a variety of infants and toddler not just children who have a diagnosis of autism.

5. **What kind of developmental courses does a BCBA have to take? Do they have to take coursework in child development?** Selena Layden (ACE) who is a BCBA assisted with these questions. Selena noted that BCBAs have Master degrees in education or psychology with a strong emphasis on behavior expertise. They have supervision and internship requirements with a high emphasis on ethical code of conduct.
6. **How would billing be done using a BCBA to provide developmental services?** The service will be billed under developmental services at a rate of \$110.00 an hour.

Following the discussion, CoPA members noted that the dialogue was very beneficial. The group would like to consider a possible Talks on Tuesday web discussion focusing on burning questions related to this topic. They'd also like to find systems that have had success utilizing a BCBA. It is hoped that Selena would be available to assist with this web discussion.

CoPA Planning:

The majority of the CoPa members supported the use of Gotomeeting (GTM) and phone conference. Member agreed to try this for the next meeting in January. **PLEASE check/test your ability to use GTM prior to our call on 1/25/16. If your agency blocks GTM, you will still be able to access the meeting via conference call.**

Facilitators and note takers for the following meetings were determined as follows:

- January-Beth will facilitate, Muff will take notes
- March- Brandie will facilitate, Selena will take notes
- May-Muff will facilitate, Beth will take notes

Next Meeting: January 25, 2016 3-4 pm

CoPA-January

Mon, Jan 25, 2016 3:00 PM - 4:00 PM Eastern Standard Time

Please join my meeting from your computer, tablet or smartphone.

<https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/804594581>

Join the conference call.

Dial in: **866-842-5779 Code: 287-353-3701#**