

CoPA Meeting Minutes  
September 28, 2015

**Members Present:**

- Toni Peace, Richmond Behavioral Health Authority
- Lakitha Williams, Chesapeake Integrated Behavioral Healthcare
- Carol Burke, Infant & Toddler Connection of Rockbridge
- Dana Childress, Partnership for People with Disabilities
- Kris Ganley, T/TAC at GMU
- Cathy Cook, T/TAC at JMU-note taker
- 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
- Karen Durst, Technical Assistance Consultant, DBHDS, Infant & Toddler Connection of VA
- Brandie Williams, Rappahannock Area Community Services, Early Intervention Services

**Celebrations:**

Cori reported that 89 people were in attendance for the pre-conference CoPA at the Beach session held in July at Creating Connections to Shining Stars conference. She sent a special thanks to Kris for helping to secure Suzanne Kucharczyk to present.

**Partner Updates:**

**Autism Center for Excellence (ACE)-**

Selena Layden, who has taken Dawn Hendricks place on the CoPA, reported that ACE has a new and improved (user-focused) website with resources, trainings, seminars, online courses, etc. Website is available at: [www.vcuautismcenter.org](http://www.vcuautismcenter.org) ACE has added new content specific information for early intervention and preschool. WELCOME SELENA!

**Act Early-** Beth 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.

**VA Autism Council (VAC)-**Beth reported that the VAC shared screenings for children will be contracted out for the EDCD waiver. Thanks to the CoPA members who shared concerns about eligibility and the waiver.

**Follow-Up from Annual CoPA Survey and Planning-**A short survey was sent out in July to determine continued interest in CoPA, best dates and meeting times, etc. There were 17 responses to the survey.

The survey results indicated a large majority wants to continue with meeting the 4<sup>th</sup> Mondays from 3PM to 4PM via teleconferencing. There were suggestions that we consider Gotomeeting or ZOOM or other platforms for communication. Facilitators and note takers for the following meetings were determined as follows:

**November-Kris will facilitate, Lakitha will take notes**

**January-Beth will facilitate, Muff will take notes**

**March- Brandie will facilitate, Selena will take notes**

**May-Muff will facilitate, Beth will take notes**

**Thanks so much to you all!!**

Suggested hot topics for us to consider for next year included-

1. ABA and developmental services
2. Funding and waivers
3. Evidence-based practices and coaching

Cori suggested that we decide on a first and second choice from the list to concentrate our focus. Kris pointed out that practices and coaching discussions would naturally be woven through our exploration of the first 2 topics. Karen reiterated that there is great interest and real need for understanding in regard to ABA and developmental services. The members agreed and decided to make this topic the first one for action. To begin the process, Dana suggested that we put together a list of questions for the state and Kyla Patterson will be asked to help us with this. A subgroup of 4 members, with Carol at the helm, was formed. Muff, Karen and Beth are going to work on this subgroup. Cori will provide call instructions to Carol to share for teleconference meetings. After the questions are written, Transformation Spectrum Services and Megan Kirby in Harrisonburg will be contacted for information regarding ABA.

**Next Meeting: November 23<sup>rd</sup> from 3-4PM.**

We will use GoToMeeting:

CoPA Meeting-November

Mon, Nov 23, 2015 3:00 PM - 4:00 PM Eastern Standard Time

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

<https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/960791605>

Join the conference call.

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