



Infant & Toddler Connection of Virginia

February 2013 Update

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Note about This Update:

This Update is prepared by the Infant & Toddler Connection of Virginia State Team at the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services as a means of sharing current information from the Part C Office.

Enrollment of Children in the Medicaid Data System (VAMMIS)

Please note the following contact information for questions about enrollment of children in the Medicaid Data System (VAMMIS).

Irene Scott 804-786-4868 irene.scott@dbhds.virginia.gov

Beth Tolley 804-371-6595 beth.tolley@dbhds.virginia.gov

Early Intervention Certification

For questions about certification of practitioners, contact Irene Scott 804-786-4868 irene.scott@dbhds.virginia.gov.

For questions related to completing the online application, contact David Mills 804-371-6593

david.mills@dbhds.virginia.gov

Integration of the Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) Child Outcomes Throughout the Early Intervention Process

July 1, 2013 is the date for statewide implementation of the process for integrating the OSEP Child Outcomes from referral to discharge. To assure that everyone is ready for this, training, technical assistance and resources are being developed and will be provided between March and July 1, 2013. These include:

- One day face to face training in March and April (7 locations around the state)
This one day training event is being designed to include the content the “Early Implementers” indicated needed to be provided via face to face training. Participants will learn HOW to incorporate quality practices at each point in the early intervention process as well as practice completing the IFSP in the context of the three outcomes. There will be opportunities for teambuilding throughout the day as well as opportunities to identify specific strategies for local implementation.
- Webinar on the revised IFSP form and revisions to the Practice Manual: **Monday, April 29 at 9:00 AM; repeated Friday, May 3 at 1:00 PM**
- Monthly technical assistance at April, May and June Regional System Manager Meetings
 - Resources:
 - Revised IFSP form (designed to support the process)
 - Revised Child Indicator Booklet (revision of Determining The Status of Infant/Toddler Development In Relation To The Three Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) Outcomes manual)
 - Relationship Of Quality Practices To Child And Family Outcome Measurement Results (April 17, 2012)
 - Child Indicator Guiding Questions
 - Revisions to the Practice Manual to support the process

Please note that the revised IFSP will be required beginning July 1, 2013. Earlier versions of the IFSP form, including the current one now in use must not be used (for new IFSPs or new Annual IFSPs) after June 30, 2013.

Monitoring and Supervision—Important Dates

March 15, 2013 – Completed Record Review Spreadsheets and required documents (if applicable) are due to ITCVA Monitoring Consultants

March 11, 2013– Webinar: Correction of Noncompliance Prior to Notification (1:00PM to 2:30PM)

FYI: Payment Error Rate Measurement (PERM) Review

One Local System has recently received a request for information related to a PERM review. PERM reviews are a part of the quality check by the federal government. This includes a review of claims and payments that are made by Medicaid to providers. The federal government has contracted this review to different companies. “A Plus Government Solutions” is one such company performing these reviews in Virginia. The review will check to see if the proper service was billed and paid, in accordance with state and federal regulations and policies.

Results of Family Cost Share Data Collection

In December 2012, we requested that local systems submit data to us and respond to a few questions about the family cost share process and fee scale. We wanted to share with you the results of that data collection and how those results will impact next steps. Here are some highlights:

- Thirty-two (32) of the 40 local systems responded.
- About half (49.5%) of families currently enrolled who have private insurance, TRICARE or no insurance have a monthly cap of \$0.
- Only 2.6% of families currently enrolled who have private insurance, TRICARE or no insurance had their monthly cap determined using the appeal process.
- Local systems reported only 2 families in the state who had claimed private school or second/vacation home expenses on their appeal form.
- Eleven (11) local systems agreed or strongly agreed that fees in the sliding fee scale should be raised; 15 disagreed or strongly disagreed; 6 were neutral
- Fourteen (14) agreed or strongly agreed that some expenses in the appeal should be eliminated/reduced/capped; 10 disagreed or strongly disagreed; 8 were neutral.

Although a number of local systems recommended eliminating or capping some of the expenses allowed in the appeal process, there was no consensus on what should be allowed expenses and the data indicated that the appeal process is rarely used. In addition, there were only two documented instances in which private school tuition or second/vacation homes, the two most controversial expense categories, were used as expenses in an appeal.

Based on the responses we received on the survey, we will not be making any changes to the fee scale or to the family cost share or appeal processes. It is evident that our time and effort will be better spent continuing to focus on private insurance reimbursement since survey respondents consistently noted that the gap between the EI rate and private insurance reimbursement rates was a far bigger fiscal issue than the family cost share fee scale and procedures.

Comprehensive System of Personnel Development (CSPD) Update

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The Integrated Training Collaborative coordinates Virginia's professional development system for early interventionists who provide supports and services to eligible children and families under Part C of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA).

Creating Connections to Shining Stars 2013

The Call for Proposals for the 2013 CCSS conference is now available. In order to have quality sessions that are relevant to EI, WE NEED EARLY INTERVENTIONISTS to share their experiences and expertise. Please consider submitting a proposal TODAY. The call for proposals is available at: http://www.eipd.vcu.edu/annual_conference.html Deadline for session proposal submission is March 1st.

CoPA at the Beach

We are delighted to announce that Rebecca Landa, Ph.D., CCC-SLP from the Kennedy Krieger Institute in Baltimore, MD will be our special guest for the CoPA at the Beach session during this summer's CCSS conference. Dr. Landa is the founder and director of the Center for Autism and Related Disorders (CARD). She will share her wealth of knowledge on early identification and strategies to support very young children with autism. We hope you will join us!

Kaleidoscope Training

The spring 2013 KI and KII trainings will be held at the Wingate Hotel Short Pump in Richmond.

To register for KI, visit: www.vcu.edu/partnership/KI

To register for KII, visit: www.vcu.edu/partnership/KII

Fireside Chats for LSMs

We have a new and exciting professional development opportunity designed specifically for Local System Managers called "**Fireside Chats.**" These webinars will be held periodically and will feature a Local System Manager sharing specific, practical strategies and resources related to the responsibilities of system oversight and management.

Our first "**Fireside Chat with Allan Phillips**" about provider contracting and contractual oversight with providers took place in January. The archived webinar and handouts are available on the Local System Oversight & Management page at http://www.eipd.vcu.edu/sub_local_sys_mgt.html but we are currently having a problem with the webinar playing due to the large file size. The handouts are downloadable and hopefully we'll have the issues with the archived webinar resolved soon. Stay tuned! Thanks to Allan and his colleagues at the Fairfax/Falls Church CSB for sharing their expertise.

More info to come about the next **Fireside Chat!**

Save the Date!

Local System Manager/Office of Child and Family Services Meeting

Date: March 26th

9:00 AM to 4:00 PM

Location: Holiday Inn Emmet Street, Charlottesville, VA

Registration information will be disseminated directly to LSMs and Child and Family Services (Part C) Staff



What's New at the Professional Development Center?

Talks on Tuesdays

Talks on Tuesdays webinars are held on the first Tuesday of each month from noon-1:00 pm. Sessions are archived for those who are not able to participate during the live webinar.

Our next session will take place **March 5th**. Lisa Auwarter from DBVI will share her expertise on visual impairment and the impact on infant and toddler development.

Registration is available now at: <http://www.eipd.vcu.edu/webinar/index.html>

Upcoming ToT topics include:

- **April 2nd – Preventing Child Abuse and Neglect of Children with Disabilities (Molly Dellinger-Wray)**
- **May 7th - Encouraging Language Development (Dr. Lissa Power-deFur)**

New Resources on the Training Website

Check out the Virginia Early Intervention Professional Development Center website at www.eipd.vcu.edu for new resources, including:

NEW Blog Post – Peeking Into Real Life: Videotaping Routines between EI Visits

Subscribe to the blog where you can learn about and share practical strategies with other early interventionists! Check out these recent posts and leave a comment!

- Third Visit in a Row and No One Answers the Door...What Do You Do?
- Put Away the 1 inch Cubes!
- Would You Like A Cup of Tea?
- Who is the Focus of Your Visit? – Adult Learning & Early Intervention

✓ Find it at <http://veipd.org/earlyintervention/>

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ARCHIVED WEBINARS

In case you missed the last *Talks on Tuesdays* webinar, look out for the archived version:

Tying the Knot: Engaging Families Beyond Early Intervention Visits – Coming Soon!
Addressing the Receptive Language Skills of Young Children – Now Available!

✓ Find it under *Talks on Tuesdays* at http://www.eipd.vcu.edu/talks_tuesdays.html

GREAT RESOURCES

New Tools of the Trade

New Staff Orientation Checklist

This checklist is intended to support local system managers, program supervisors, and staff mentors in providing a thorough orientation to the early intervention system. Sections include: Orientation to Part C Early Intervention, VA EI Certification & Training Requirements, Local Program Orientation, and Local Training Requirements. Download the Word version to individualize the checklist for your program's needs!

VA Early Intervention Lingo - List of Acronyms

Check out this list of acronyms used in the VA early intervention system. This list could be useful to new EI staff, referral sources, families, and other collaborative partners. Download the Word version to add local acronyms to the list for your program. This list was developed in response to suggestions from service coordinators – thanks for the great idea!

Find them under *Tools of the Trade* at http://www.eipd.vcu.edu/tools_trade.html

INCLUSION MEANS EVERYONE!

This new 3 min video describes inclusion as a basic human right. Speakers focus on the importance of all children, from infancy on through adulthood, being fully included in all aspects of family and community life. This video was developed by VA's Integrated Training Collaborative at the Partnership for People with Disabilities at VCU as a project of the VA SpecialQuest Birth-5 Project.

✓ Find it under *Inclusive Practices* at http://www.eipd.vcu.edu/sub_inclusive_practice.html

Center for Early Literacy Learning (CELL) Practice Guide with Adaptations

These guides make it easier for young children with disabilities to participate in early literacy learning activities. Written for both parents and practitioners, the practice guides describe everyday home, community, and childcare learning opportunities that encourage early literacy learning.

✓ Find it under *Child Development & Play* at http://www.eipd.vcu.edu/sub_child_dev.html

Training Calendar

Don't forget to visit the Training Calendar for upcoming professional development opportunities available in Virginia, online, and nationally as well!

✓ Find it at http://www.eipd.vcu.edu/training_calendar.html

Check It Out

DEC Executive Director

DEC is seeking applicants for the Executive Director (ED) position. The ED's role within DEC is to plan, develop, administer, facilitate, and oversee all operations and activities of DEC, consistent with DEC's primary outcome and commensurate with Board expectations. The primary outcome of DEC is that young children with disabilities and other special needs participate as full members of their families and communities and benefit from competent, informed, connected and diverse professionals, families, and policy makers. The Executive Director is accountable to the elected Board of Directors in ensuring that the organization meets its expectations.

Download the Position Announcement: http://www.dec-sped.org/About_DEC/Whats_New?id=189

**DARS ANNOUNCES A TEMPORARY
LIFESPAN RESPITE VOUCHER PROGRAM**

The Virginia Lifespan Respite Voucher Program is funded through a federal grant awarded to the Virginia Department for Aging and Rehabilitative Services (DARS) from the federal Department of Health and Human Services, Administration on Aging --Office of Home and Community Based Services. The Virginia Lifespan Respite Voucher Program provides reimbursement vouchers to home-based caregivers for the cost of temporary, short-term respite care provided to individuals of any age with a disability or special need (infants, children and adults, including elderly persons).

Individuals eligible to apply for voucher funding through the Virginia Lifespan Respite Voucher Program include Virginia caregivers of children or adults who reside in the same household as the person receiving care. Voucher funding is limited to a total of \$400 per family. All funds must be expended by July 31, 2013.

Respite funds must be requested by the primary caregiver who resides full time in the same household. Funds may not be used to reimburse household expenses or daycare; funds must be used to reimburse an individual respite care provider or an organization that provides respite. Due to limited funds, not all eligible applications will be approved.

You can access the application information at the DARS website www.vadars.org/services.htm. The forms are available in word or PDF form (the PDF version allows you to fill in the document on your computer & print off for signature).

More info and registration: <http://www.cehd.umn.edu/CEED/onlinecourses/supportingstressedchildren.html>

Available at: <http://www.reuters.com/article/2013/01/18/us-newborn-screening-idUSBRE90H0U020130118?feedType=RSS&feedName=healthNews>

Newborn screening misses some deaf kids: study

By Genevra Pittman

NEW YORK | Fri Jan 18, 2013 10:24am EST

NEW YORK ([Reuters](#) Health) - New research provides further evidence that some babies who pass their newborn hearing tests are found to be deaf or hard of hearing as young kids.

Some of those newborns may receive passing grades incorrectly, researchers said, but others can be born with good hearing but develop progressive hearing loss as babies and toddlers.

"A parent or a physician may think, 'Oh, this child had passed the screen, so they must not have hearing loss,'" said Dr. David Chi, the study's lead author from the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center in Pennsylvania.

"Don't depend on just the fact that (your child) passed the screen, especially if there are any concerns about hearing loss or speech concerns," he told [Reuters](#) Health.

Chi and his colleagues analyzed the medical records of 923 kids who came to their medical center with hearing loss between 2001 and 2011, and were between four and five years old, on average. The children included 78 who had passed their initial newborn screening.

Of those kids, 28 were brought in because of parents' concerns about their hearing and 25 had failed school hearing tests, according to the findings published Thursday in JAMA Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery.

There was no identifiable cause of hearing problems in more than half of the kids' medical records. The rest had deafness related to genetics, structural problems with their ears or complications from childhood such as infection.

It wasn't clear how long those kids had been hard of hearing before they were brought in and diagnosed.

"We don't know, 'what is the false negative rate (of newborn screening) versus the delayed onset rate?'" said Dr. Nancy Young, a pediatric otolaryngologist from Lurie Children's Hospital of Chicago and the Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine.

Either way, she told Reuters Health, parents shouldn't be "falsely reassured" by their child having passed the newborn screening if they notice problems with the child's hearing or language.

Having deafness spotted and treated early, such as with cochlear implants, is important for children's future language development, she noted.

"We need to stay on the lookout and be vigilant and refer these children in," said Young, who wasn't involved in the new research.

Two or three out of every 1,000 U.S. children are born deaf or with hearing problems, according to the National Institutes of Health, and more go on to become hard of hearing.

The U.S. Preventive Services Task Force, a government-backed panel, recommends screening all newborns for hearing loss, based on "at least fair evidence" that the benefits of screening outweigh any possible harms.

Universal newborn hearing screening was instituted in Pennsylvania in 2001. Before that, hearing loss was typically diagnosed at around 26 months and hearing aids implemented at 30 months, Chi's team notes in its report. Since universal screening, interventions happen much earlier, by about six months of age.

Chi told Reuters Health that he and his colleagues are looking into strategies for screening young kids after the initial newborn test, such as with a second round of screening at three months of age.

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But Young cautioned against going forward with such a plan until researchers have a better idea of when hearing loss is actually occurring for kids who pass their newborn tests but end up having problems.

"If a lot of this is driven by poorly done testing (and) equipment issues, then the focus should be on improving our current program, not on finding another time to screen," she explained.

"This paper is wonderful in raising awareness of the shortcomings of newborn hearing screening, but I really think we need to take it to another level to sort out, who are these children, and why did they pass?"

SOURCE: bit.ly/10CrVJi JAMA Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery, online January 17, 2013.

Take Note--Professional Development Opportunities

Please note that any shared professional development activity requires each practitioner to ascertain relevance to his/her work. No endorsement of any activity not offered through the state Part C office should be assumed.

DSS Training Calendar

The Department of Social Services has released their current training calendar. While many of the topics are designed for childcare providers, early interventionists may also find relevant sessions such as *Ages and Stages* Questionnaire training. Many sessions are offered online. For details visit:

<http://www.ccwa.vccs.edu/pdf/DSSCatalog.pdf>

CHILDSavers Winter/Spring Play Therapy Training

ChildSavers announces their upcoming winter/spring play therapy professional development activities. Please note that some training dates have passed but there are training opportunities in March and April. For a calendar of events and details, visit: <http://www.childsavers.org/playtherapytraining.htm>

Commonwealth Autism Service 12th Annual Autism Conference

Autism: Illuminating the Future

March 13-14, 2013

Richmond, VA

Registration opened in mid-January. For more information see: <http://www.autismva.org/2013conference>

Speech and Hearing Association of Virginia (SHAV)

March 21-23, 2013

Richmond, VA

Registration opens in January. For details, visit: <http://www.shav.org/conference.html>

SAVE THE DATE:

Integrating Music and Communication Therapy – The TuneUps Approach

April 20, 2013

Norfolk, VA

For more info, contact: Carrie Cilento, M.A.CCC-SLP at: Carrie.cilento@chkd.org or 757-668-2418

Got Culture? Exploring the Relationship between Culture and Children's Mental Health

The Office of Child and Family Services in partnership with the Office of Cultural and Linguistic Competency is pleased to offer regional workshops on Cultural Competency as it relates to child and family services.

For dates, locations and registration, visit: <http://www.eventbrite.com/org/1536575258>

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2013 Carolina Summer Institute in Auditory-Verbal Therapy

The UNC School of Medicine's Ear and Hearing Center is sponsoring this conference.

June 8-14, 2013

Durham, NC.

For more information or to register, please visit their website:

<http://www.med.unc.edu/earandhearing/events/carolina-summer-institute-in-auditory-verbal-therapy>

Creating Connections to Shining Stars

July 22-24, 2013

VA Beach, VA

The call for proposals is available at: http://www.eipd.vcu.edu/annual_conference.html

Registration will be available in early spring.

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