

Stakeholder Input on SiMR

FAMILIES

When: April 21, 2021 (afternoon) and April 27, 2021 (evening)

How: Coordinated with Robin Church, Family Support and Advocacy Director to hold two sessions on Zoom and (simultaneously) Facebook Live. Facebook Live sessions were recorded and remained available on New Path Facebook page. COVID prevented in-person options.

Advertised: Through New Path listserv, website and Facebook page. Information about the sessions and a later reminder were also sent to all LSMs with request that they disseminate to all families.

Participants:

- 7 families participated via Zoom
- Facebook Live – 115 views, 106 people reached, 21 engagements, 1 share
- Represented at least 3 regions
- Diversity – race/ethnicity, ESL
- All currently in EI
- Some have received both in-person and virtual services; some, virtual only
- One LSM had feedback from families that they really appreciated the invitation to participate but just couldn't add another thing to their calendars. "With the pandemic, work, online schooling. They were just spent."

Just based on your experience or gut feeling ... If you had to pick one of these **child outcomes** that you think is the most important to focus on or that we need to do a better job on when we work with children and families, which one would it be?

A. Social Emotional	B. Knowledge and Skills	C. Meet Needs
1	1	1

- One parent commented that her child was still so young that she wasn't sure which one she would pick
- Robin commented that a number of families she's talked with think Outcome C (using appropriate behaviors to meet needs) is really important. This outcome encompasses the basic things that all families want their child to be able to do ... eating, sleeping, communicating needs, etc.
- When asked why they chose the one they did, each responded that they chose based on what was important for their child and family right now or what they would like to be working with their child on next.
- One parent commented that she had had positive experiences in EI with all of these outcome areas
- Multiple participants mentioned wanting Virginia to extend Part C past age 3
- Important to empower parents
- Make sure same programs, supports and services are available statewide

After looking at the data, did anyone change their mind about which child outcome they would pick?

- One participant said she would now lean toward C using data to inform the decision and since many family members also concurred with this choice

Just based on your experience or gut feeling ... If you had to pick one of these **family outcomes** that you think is the most important to focus on or that we need to do a better job on when we work with children and families, which one would it be?

A. Know Your Rights	B. Communicate Your Child's Needs	C. Help Your Child Develop and Learn
1	2	2

- "I again have had a positive experience in all of these areas"
- Parents that chose C did so because they felt that was the whole point of EI
- One parent who voted for C said she could easily go with B instead
- One parent commented that she would lean towards B, advocating for others
- One parent who selected B said she was a first-time mom and felt this was the area where she needed the most support and had the most to learn

Now that we've looked at the data on family outcomes, does that change your mind about which one you would pick?

- One parent said she would switch to B

Do you think we should focus on a **child outcome or family outcome**?

Child Outcome	Family Outcome
1	3

LSMs AND PRACTITIONERS

When: April 30 (10 AM), May 3 (1 PM), May 6 (3PM)

How: Zoom. COVID prevented in-person options.

Advertised: Through monthly ITCVA Update and through email to LSMs with request to forward to providers.

Participants:

- 48
- Represented all regions
- Represented Local System Managers, Developmental Service providers, PTs, OTs, SLPs, SCs

Just based on your experience or gut feeling ... If you had to pick one of these **child outcomes** that you think is the most important to focus on or that we need to do a better job on when we work with children and families, which one would it be?

A. Social Emotional	B. Knowledge and Skills	C. Meet Needs
53% (n = 24)	22% (n = 10)	24% (n = 11)

- Multiple participants indicated they chose S-E because of the impact of COVID on mental health, social-emotional development
- Chose based on my discipline ... the areas of development I focus on most and have the most impact on
- Chose the outcome area that we're lower on in my local system
- Choosing S-E would align with the goals outlined in VAIMH's strategic plan
- Working on the social emotional indicator like other states did may lead to social emotional statewide infrastructure advancements that other states seem to possess, like Michigan
- Chose S-E because it's the area that gets skimmed over the most when doing the indicators
- Chose S-E due to increased awareness of autism, focus on evidence-based therapies

After looking at the data, did anyone change their mind about which child outcome they would pick or prompt other comments?

- Some participants were curious to see how the data related to S-E will change as we continue to build our knowledge and capacity regarding infant mental health. We may better identify issues and concerns.
- Trend data may reflect that, while we're doing much better with coaching, we also might be determining children's status on the outcomes more accurately

Just based on your experience or gut feeling ... If you had to pick one of these **family outcomes** that you think is the most important to focus on or that we need to do a better job on when we work with children and families, which one would it be?

A. Know Your Rights	B. Communicate Your Child's Needs	C. Help Your Child Develop and Learn
4% (n = 2)	38% (n = 17)	58% (n = 26)

- Multiple participants indicated they chose Outcome C because it aligns with coaching and philosophy that parents know their children best and are their child's best teachers and/or because it clearly ties to the child outcomes
- Help your child develop and learn because parents still struggle to understand our model
- Communicate their child's needs because this is a foundational skill that we want parents to take with them after EI to support their child moving forward
- Communicate their child's needs because it empowers families and it's why we do what we do
- Communicate their needs because families still don't feel like they "drive" the bus when there are so many professionals involved

Now that we've looked at the data on family outcomes, does that change your mind about which one you would pick or prompt other comments?

- Our (local) family survey response rates vary widely from year to year so it's a bit scary to think about having our SSIP achievements linked to something that's ultimately out of our control
- Interested in efforts to increase participation of Black/African American and Hispanic families in the family survey
- Communicating needs is so vital for the family's present and future to support their child

- Multiple participants mentioned a local focus on equity
- Families’ understanding/interpretation of survey questions can impact responses. If a family feels they already speak to their child’s needs, they may indicate less impact from EI helping them with that.

Do you think we should focus on a ***child outcome or family outcome?***

Child Outcome	Family Outcome
46% (n = 22)	54% (n = 26)

- Multiple participants said choosing a family outcome reflects our understanding that families are the agents of change in their children’s lives and will ultimately impact the child outcomes
- Choosing a family outcome is in line with coaching
- Choosing a child outcome would make it easier to identify an evidence-based practice specifically intended to impact that area
- Concerns about using our family survey as a measurement tool for the next six years
- I think the tendency might be to switch to the family outcomes because as a system we might be tired of working on child indicators for the last six years. However, I don't think we should abandon the child indicator focus and work we have put in on child outcomes.
- Multiple participants said it was a toss-up for them and noted how closely the child and family outcomes are tied together

Virginia Interagency Coordinating Council

When: June 9, 2021

How: Zoom. COVID prevented in-person options

Participants: VICC members (parents, providers, personnel prep, state agency reps, state Senator, homeless education, etc.)

Just based on your experience or gut feeling ... If you had to pick one of these ***child outcomes*** that you think is the most important to focus on or that we need to do a better job on when we work with children and families, which one would it be?

A. Social Emotional	B. Knowledge and Skills	C. Meet Needs
57% (n = 12)	24% (n = 5)	19% (n = 4)

- Outcome B – language skills are key for preschool/kindergarten readiness. These are key foundational skills and impact behavior. This area is lowest in early childhood special education
- Outcome A - Lots of impacts recently on infant mental health; a child with strong S-E skills will be better available to learn all other skills
- Outcome C – these are the things that stress families the most because they’re so key to how families get through the day; this one touches on a number of skills in the other two outcome areas

Just based on your experience or gut feeling ... If you had to pick one of these **family outcomes** that you think is the most important to focus on or that we need to do a better job on when we work with children and families, which one would it be?

A. Know Your Rights	B. Communicate Your Child's Needs	C. Help Your Child Develop and Learn
24% (n = 5)	24% (n = 5)	52% (n = 11)

- Parents are their child's most valuable teacher so supporting them to help their child learn right from the start is critical
- Effective communication is helpful in terms of engagement with other team members and not relying on professionals to make decisions
- Effective communication – this will drive whether you know your rights; parent is the expert on their child and needs to be able to communicate their child's needs
- Develop and learn – pandemic has magnified the gap in competence and confidence

Now that we've looked at the data on family outcomes, does that change your mind about which one you would pick or prompt other comments?

- Two participants changed from C to B after seeing the data
- B emphasizes the partnership with practitioners

Do you think we should focus on a **child outcome or family outcome**?

Child Outcome	Family Outcome
45% (n = 10)	55% (n = 12)

- Improved family outcomes should translate to improved child outcomes. You have to engage the family in order to help the child.
- Family engagement would have long-term benefits past EI
- A goal of EI is to lessen the effects of the disability or delay and focusing on a child outcome may result in the child not needing further services, such as early childhood special education, and provide the foundational skills the child needs to learn and grow
- This is a timely opportunity to incorporate infant and early childhood mental health competencies within the workforce and build capacity
- Would choose a child outcome because of concerns about the data source (family survey) for family outcomes

PROS AND CONS OF TOP OPTIONS

Child Outcome: Positive Social-Emotional

Pros	Cons
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Specific</u> evidence-based practices available (e.g., pyramid model, DEC RPs) • Existing state priority with financial investments • New ECMH Coordinator position at DBHDS 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Relies on local measurement • Haven't been successful in improving child outcomes

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Workforce development at VCU • Timely ... pandemic impacts • Plentiful national resources and TA opportunities • A lot of work already done on inter-rater reliability in child outcome summary process 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Results may go down initially as a result of improved assessment – will need to keep morale up •
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Family Outcome: Help Your Child Develop and Learn

Pros	Cons
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • General evidence-based practices available (e.g., coaching, routines-based interview, DEC RPs) • Measurement comes from one consistent tool (family survey) • Another way to show improvement in this is by improvement on child outcome(s); increased fidelity on specific aspects of coaching that impact families helping child develop and learn; could look at decreases in lost to contact and missed sessions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Relying on a measurement over which we have limited control (survey response rate has been a challenge) • Results are already pretty high ... can we show an increase? •