

**Virginia Interagency Coordinating Council (VICC) Meeting**  
September 11, 2024  
**DRAFT Minutes**

The September 11, 2024 Virginia Interagency Coordinating Council Meeting was called to order by Dr. Kendall Lee. The March 13, 2024 VICC meeting minutes were motioned and approved. Please see the list of attendees at the end of the minutes.

**Dr. Kendall Lee introduced the newest VICC members below:**

- Dr. Sheila Tillet-Holas (Private Provider)
- LeAnn White (Parent)
- Dr. Dana Childress (Personnel Preparation)
- Dr. Kristen Heinan (Provider)
- Toni Hayes (VDH)

**Early Intervention Program Manager Update- Kyla Patterson**

Funding to Local Systems for July 1, 2024 – June 30, 2025

- \$9.5 million federal
- \$29 million state (increase of just under \$2.6 million)
- \$38.7 million total

Child Count

- See handout
- Birth to 1: Significantly up, trending 6-7% year over year increase in May and June
- Birth to 3: Up 5.3% on December, trending lower over the summer

TRAC-IT: Parent Portal

- View and sign, send back requested changes
- Launched June with IFSPs
- 6 additional forms coming this Friday

State Systemic Improvement Plan (SSIP)

- Explain for new members
- Focus area: Positive social-emotional skills, including social relationships
- Support for implementation of pyramid model framework as a way to ensure we are promoting social-emotional development for all children, providing targeted supports for those at-risk for SE delays or IMH challenges, and providing evidence-based treatment and intervention for those with significant SE needs

- Proposed SE screening and assessment practices based on recs from two stakeholder groups. Listening session and written feedback under staff review before finalizing

### **Overview: ITCVA General Supervision and Monitoring Framework-Richard Corbett**

Richard Corbett, Early Intervention Team Leader gave us an overview of the ITCVA General Supervision and Monitoring Framework, please see attached.

### **Public Comment**

The following public comment was submitted by Marti Clark, Local System Manager of Western Tidewater.

*Thank you for this opportunity to comment. I am, Marti Clark, the Local System Manager with ITC of Western Tidewater. I am speaking today on behalf of the 12 Local System Managers who comprise the CoCoA Steering Committee. CoCoA is the local system manager association, and the steering committee includes two local system managers from the six regions of the state.*

*We've enjoyed and appreciated the continued collaboration between CoCoA and DBHDS with Kyla Patterson attending our CoCoA Steering committee meetings and answering our many questions.*

*Local systems are at various phases of full TRAC-IT implementation. Systems still have issues with data uploads. We continue to be concerned about the administrative and financial burden of double data entry. We are looking forward to what the parent portal can offer in the future.*

*DBHDS shared new Proposed Social Emotional Screening and Assessment Practices recently and gathered feedback. CoCoA supports focusing on this area as it aligns with the SSIP. We appreciated the opportunity to provide feedback ahead of implementation and hope this extends into workforce development and training to support the effort. We do have reservations about any practices becoming mandatory due to the increased burden on each system.*

*There continues to be big swings in some systems allocations year by year which makes it difficult with staffing, budget, etc. These large swings in funding make staffing to the appropriate level difficult and leaves Local Lead Agencies questioning the stability of their Infant & Toddler Connection's funding. We recognize that a funding formula is needed but request that the current formula be updated to prevent decreases of greater than 15% of a local system's budget. We are gathering data for anticipated deficits for the system and will share that data with the state and remind local system managers to report all anticipated deficits to the state as well.*

*While we realize the VICC meeting must be in person for members, can it also be virtual for Local System Manager's or the Public who cannot attend in person?*

**Navigating the Early Ages During COVID, EI and the Medically Complex Life-Heather Rodgers (Parent)**

Heather Rodgers shared her story about her sons Infantile Spasms Diagnosis and their journey to Early Intervention. Please see her PowerPoint presentation attached.

**New Path Update-Robin Church**

Please see the attached overview of the 2024 New Path Report.

**Formation of VICC By-laws Review Ad Hoc Committee- Dr. Kendall Lee, Chair**

Dr. Kendall Lee discussed the need to update the VICC By-laws and the need to form an ad hoc committee to do so. The three volunteers confirmed to serve on the committee are, Dana Childress, Tricia Peny and Christy Harrison. There is still the need for one more member. We are waiting on clearance from the Attorney General's office to move forward.

**Integrated Training Collaborative-Cori Hill**

Cori Hill shared an infographic, please review the attached Integrated Training Collaborative handout submitted by Cori Hill.

**AGENCY REPORTS**

**VA Dept. of Behavioral Health & Developmental Svcs. (DBHDS)- Kari Savage**

No Report

**Virginia Department for the Blind and Vision Impaired (VDBVI)-Donna Cox**

No Report

**Virginia Department for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (VDDHH) –Eric Raff**

Please see the attached Fiscal Year 2024 (FY24) 4th Quarter Report from Eric Raff, Director of the Virginia Department for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing.

[Virginia Department of Education \(VDOE\)-Dr. Dawn Hendricks](#)

Please see the attached Early Childhood Special Education Update from Dr. Dawn Hendricks.

[Virginia Department of Education-Project HOPE-Virginia -Dr. Patricia Popp](#)

Please see the attached Project HOPE PowerPoint from Dr. Patricia Popp.

[Virginia Department of Health \(VDH\) –Toni Hayes, Human Svcs. Program Coordinator](#)

Toni Hayes introduced herself as the Program Coordinator for Child Development Clinics and the Virginia Bleeding Disorders Program. Toni provided an update on the Child Development Clinics (CDC) Program in Virginia, including their focus on assessing children and diagnosing mental health and learning disabilities. There are significant waitlists at the clinics, ranging from nine months to a year and a half, there is a need for solutions to address this issue.

Toni invites stakeholders to share their contact information to participate in meetings to discuss potential solutions for the waitlists. The interdisciplinary team at the clinics, includes social workers, psychologists, nurse practitioners, and nurses.

[Virginia Department of Medical Assistance Services \(DMAS\)-Karla Callaham](#)

Attached is the DMAS VICC meeting updates submitted by Karla Callaham.

[State Corporation Commission \(SCC\), Bureau of Insurance-James Young](#)

The Bureau of Insurance (BOI) handles compliance pursuant to § 38.2-3418.5 of the Code for coverage of early intervention service offered by insurance plans regulated by the BOI.

There have been no current early intervention complaints or any other issues reported regarding § 38.2-3418.5 of the Code.

The BOI continues to monitor health insurance activity such as claim denials and benefits of coverage offered for early intervention services.

**§ 38.2-3418.5. Coverage for early intervention services.**

A. Notwithstanding the provisions of § 38.2-3419, each insurer proposing to issue individual or group accident and sickness insurance policies providing

hospital, medical and surgical, or major medical coverage on an expense-incurred basis; each corporation providing individual or group accident and sickness subscription contracts; and each health maintenance organization providing a health care plan for health care services shall provide coverage for medically necessary early intervention services under such policy, contract or plan delivered, issued for delivery or renewed in this Commonwealth on and after July 1, 1998. Such coverage shall be limited to a benefit of \$5,000 per insured or member per policy or calendar year and, except as set forth in subsection C, shall be subject to such dollar limits, deductibles and coinsurance factors as are no less favorable than for physical illness generally.

B. For the purpose of this section, "early intervention services" means medically necessary speech and language therapy, occupational therapy, physical therapy and assistive technology services and devices for dependents from birth to age three who are certified by the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services as eligible for services under Part H of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (20 U.S.C. § 1471 et seq.). "Medically necessary early intervention services for the population certified by the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services" shall mean those services designed to help an individual attain or retain the capability to function age-appropriately within his environment and shall include services that enhance functional ability without effecting a cure.

C. The cost of early intervention services shall not be applied to any contractual provision limiting the total amount of coverage paid by the insurer, corporation or health maintenance organization to or on behalf of the insured or member during the insured's or member's lifetime.

D. "Financial costs," as used in this section, shall mean any copayment, coinsurance, or deductible in the policy or plan. Financial costs may be paid through the use of federal Part H program funds, state general funds, or local government funds appropriated to implement Part H services for families who may refuse the use of their insurance to pay for early intervention services due to a financial cost.

E. The provisions of this section shall not apply to short-term travel, accident only, limited or specified disease policies, policies or contracts designed for issuance to persons eligible for coverage under Title XVIII of the Social Security Act, known as Medicare, or any other similar coverage under state or governmental plans or to short-term nonrenewable policies of not more than six months' duration.

F. The provisions of this section shall not apply in any instance in which the provisions of this section are inconsistent or in conflict with a provision of Article 6 (§ 38.2-3438 et seq.) of Chapter 34.

### **Open Forum**

June Lafferty provided an update on the legislative cycle, noting the filing deadline for bills are November 25th. A new legislative information website will launch on September 25th, aiming to improve transparency and community engagement.

The official legislative session will start in January, and June Lafferty encourages people to reach out to legislative officials with concerns.

The meeting was adjourned.

**The next meeting of the VICC will be held on Wednesday, December 11, 2024.**

### **VICC Members Present:**

Dawn Ault  
Mary Amanda Bishop  
Karla Callahan  
Donna Cox  
Christy Harrison  
Kirsten Hodges  
Teddi Kenyear  
Dr. Kendall Lee  
Tricia Peny  
Dr. Patricia Popp  
Eric Raff  
Heather Rogers  
Kari Savage  
Stephanie Tharp  
Katie Vance  
James Young  
June Lafferty (Representing Senator Ghazala Hashmi)