

State ICC Meeting
Virginia Interagency Coordinating Council (VICC)
March 12, 2025

Minutes – FINAL
Approved June 11, 2025

Call to Order; Attendance

The meeting was called to order at 10:00AM by VICC Chair, Tricia Peny. A list of attendees is included at the end of this document.

New Member Announcements

Three newly appointed members were recognized:

- Jill Yates (Local System Manager)
- Florije Shala (Parent)
- Sarah Jeffries (Parent)

In addition, April Johnson was introduced as the new staff liaison to the VICC. April has recently joined the ITCVA staff as a Technical Assistance Consultant assigned to the Tidewater and Richmond regions.

Approval of Meeting Minutes

The minutes of the December 11, 2024, VICC meeting were approved without modifications. A final version of the minutes is available online: <https://itcva.online/vicc-meetings/>

Presentation: VDH Child Development Clinics

Toni Hayes, CDC Program Coordinator at VDH, shared an overview of programs available under the Title V Maternal and Child Health (MCH) Block Grant Program, with a focus on VDH Child Development Clinics. Toni's presentation is included within the .zip file posted online (see link above).

ITCVA Update

Kyla Patterson, Early Intervention Program Manager, provided the following information and updates on behalf of the ITCVA Part C Office:

- Virginia’s Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2025 Annual State Application under Part C of IDEA has been posted on the ITCVA website. DBHDS, as the State Lead Agency (SLA) for Part C, welcomes feedback on the document during a 30-day public comment period beginning April 10, 2025, and concluding May 10, 2025. The application will be submitted to the U.S. Department of Education, Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP), by its May 21st due date.
- Three bills related to the provision of early intervention services in Virginia were considered during the 2025 session of the Virginia General Assembly. Two of the three died in Appropriations. [A third bill—HB 1760—passed and is awaiting the Governor’s action](#). The bill directs VDH to establish a workgroup in conjunction with DBHDS and VDOE related to infant mental health services and supports.
- A \$1.5 million increase of State funding for early intervention remains in the budget sent to the Governor for consideration.
- Virginia’s birth-to-1 child count is up 11% over January and February of last year. The State’s birth-to-3 child count is down, consistent with what local system managers (LSMs) have reported about slowing referrals. Virginia’s child count figures only include those children and families who proceed from referral to IFSP development and enter services. Child count handouts are included within the .zip file posted online (see link above).
- David Mills, Part C Data Manager (for 30+ years!) is retiring June 1, 2025.

Public Comment

No requests for public comment were received prior to or at the meeting.

Discussion: National Scene and Early Intervention in Virginia

VICC members noted that events at the national level are moving quickly, and the impacts are being observed here in Virginia. The following concerns and observations were shared:

- Immigrant families in northern Virginia have expressed hesitation to access (or are altogether choosing not to receive) early intervention services. Others are opting out of referrals to Part B; some have expressed the desire to keep their children at home.
- Federal employees who are unsure of their future employment status are holding off on early intervention services due to financial concerns. Teams are having conversations with families to address these concerns and to develop plan to meet their needs, as able.
- VICC member agencies confirmed as “business as usual” approach until other direction is received.

- The SCC Bureau of Insurance reported that federal employees who have experienced job loss are increasingly accessing the (health insurance) marketplace. Educational materials are being developed to assist them.
- HeadStart shared that not all programs are on the same fiscal schedule, so a shutdown would affect programs differently depending upon where they are in the cycle of the grant year.
- ITCVA shared that:
 - Secretary of Education Linda McMahon was confirmed on March 3rd and has stated publicly that IDEA would be “better administered under Health and Human Services.” She has also stated that the U.S. DOE will continue to deliver on formula grants, which includes Part C.
 - U.S. DOE has experienced layoffs leading to an approximately 50% reduction in staff. OSEP currently appears to be intact.

Integrated Training Collaborative (ITC)

Cori Hill, VEIPD Center Director, provided an overview of the ITC’s work and accomplishments during the previous quarter. An ITC infographic is included within the .zip file posted online (see link above).

New Path Update

Robin Church, New Path Family Support Director, provided an overview of New Path’s work and accomplishments during the previous quarter. A report and presentation provided by New Path are included within the .zip file posted online (see link above).

Presentation: Family Voices

VICC parent representative Amanda Bishop shared her experiences as parent with two foster children previously in early intervention and one foster child currently receiving early intervention services. She discussed the difficulties she has encountered while trying to address the gap between early intervention and the public school system when a child is not found eligible for early childhood special education (ECSE). She also stressed the importance of being able to share information between all parties, particularly if a child has been in foster care in multiple locations.

Agency Reports

Written VICC member agency reports are included within the .zip file posted online (see link above). Highlights shared include:

- DBHDS: Kari Savage, Director of the Office of Child and Family Services, reminded attendees about HB 1760 and the infant mental health workgroup soon to be formed. She

also informed the group that May 18th is Children’s Mental Health Awareness Day. All are encouraged to wear green as a show of support.

- VDOE Project HOPE – Virginia: Dr. Patricia Popp stated that approximately 20,800 homeless children are enrolled in Virginia’s Pre-K through 12th grade classrooms and emphasized that numbers for younger children are harder to obtain. Dr. Popp also shared a new 1-minute video developed to increase awareness of Virginia’s homeless children and families. [This video and other resources are located on the Project HOPE – Virginia website.](#)
- VDH: Toni Hayes stated that her office’s goal is to connect funding to families’ lived experiences. They are developing a presentation to highlight dentists working with feeding concerns and developmental delays.
- DMAS: Karla Callaham, Assistant Division Director of Managed Care, stated that the MCO procurement contract has been awarded. The next provider focus group will be held on March 24th at 1:00; a link is included in DMAS’ written agency report. The next bi-monthly maternity meeting will be held on April 4th.
- SCC Bureau of Insurance: Marly Santoro stated that 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.

Open Forum

- Victoria Bhardwaj shared that Feeding Matters has developed [a 6-question screener for feeding concerns.](#)

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 2:10PM.

Attendance

Appointed Members

Name	Seat/Role
Dawn Ault	Head Start
Victoria Bhardwaj	Public Provider
Amanda Bishop	Parent
Dana Childress	Personnel Preparation
Tracey Deal	Provider
Christina Harrison	Private Provider
Sheila Holas	Private Provider
Sarah Jeffries	Parent
Nyasha Nicholas	Parent
Tricia Peny	Early Intervention
Florije Shala	Parent
Jill Yates	LSM

Agency Representatives

Name	State Agency
Karla Callaham	DMAS
Toni Hayes	VDH
Pat Popp	VDOE - Project HOPE
Marly Santoro	SCC Bureau of Insurance
Kari Savage	DBHDS

Guests

Name	Additional Information
Kimberli Myrick	DMAS

State EI Team

Name	Role
Anne Brager	Part C Technical Assistance Consultant
Robin Church	New Path Family Support Director
Richard Corbett	Part C Monitoring Team Leader
Cori Hill	VEIPD Center Director
April Johnson	Part C Technical Assistance Consultant; VICC Liaison
David Mills	Part C Data Manager
Sarah Moore	Part C Monitoring Consultant
Tracy Walters	IECMH State Coordinator