

CoPA Meeting
3/28/16

Participants:

Cori Hill, Beth Pruitt, Carol Burke, Selena Layden, Genevieve Baer, Michelle Brown, Brandie Williams, Debbie Stepien, Barbara Brown, Deana Buck, Nancy Bailey

AGENDA

- **Partner Updates**
 - **Autism Center for Excellence (Selena Layden)**
 - VCU-ACE has released two briefs on Social Skills and the Foundational Five EBPs. Two additional briefs will be released shortly on ABI and Providing Choices. Online resources will be developed specific for pre-school classrooms and released fall 2016. The Parent Playbook self-paced course will be launched in April 2016. Six webcasts on pre-school and preparing for kindergarten will be developed this summer. Ask the Expert videos are released each month on different topics:
<https://vcuautismcenter.org/resources/asktheexpert/>.
 - **Act Early (Deana Buck)**
 - Act Early has two new sources of material recently released:
 - One-page handouts at various developmental stages for Learn the Signs, Act Early: in these, there is a much larger list of things parents/caregivers can be doing to encourage development and the red flags have been strengthened. Visit the Act Early site to download the milestones handouts:
<http://www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/actearly/milestones/index.html>
 - Targeted communication tools for specific groups of people – for example: physicians, childcare providers, EI people, home visitors, etc.
 - These tools can be formatted to include company logos and other similar things.

- Deana has applied to continue to be the Act Early Ambassador. She should find out May 1.
 - Early Intervention grant continues work in Norfolk, Roanoke, and Danville. More physicians are doing the questionnaire but not necessarily the follow-up interview. More kids are being referred for evaluations but with more thorough screening or using the tool more appropriately, perhaps that level of evaluation wouldn't be needed. Norfolk, Roanoke, and Danville are using the MCHAT as part of their EI screening. Also, two questions have been added to intake process: "Are you concerned your child has autism?" and "Does anyone in your family have a history of autism?" Participants have reported they are identifying kids earlier because of adding these steps to their screening processes. August is the end of this grant. However, may be doing a no-cost extension for this grant using a train-the-trainer model. VCU-ACE has been supporting the grant through training in these localities.
- **VA Autism Council (Beth Pruitt)**
 - The VA Autism Council is continuing to work on focusing on birth through adulthood. Various stakeholders across the state meet. Currently, the group is talking about how the waiver system is changing and how this will impact individuals with ASD. This is still changing so a future update will be given. The MCHAT is being used more but after giving the MCHAT, there isn't as much follow-up. A question has been raised to see how BCBAs and BCaBAs can become developmental providers.
- **April Talks on Tuesday (ToT) (Carol Burke, Beth Pruitt)**
 - April 5; 12-1pm: a look at using BCBAs and BCaBAs as developmental service providers. We should make sure to let colleagues know about this. This ToT came from the CoPA-generated questions regarding this topic. This ToT will focus on the questions that the CoPA studied and gives participants the ability to ask additional questions. If you need registration information, let Cori know. This ToT will include a handout with links and resources.

- **What's Next?**

- Revision of Autism Guidance document on CoPA site? Possible collaboration with VCU-ACE.
- Fredericksburg Region – Rappahannock Region Autism Council: 1/x per month meeting; putting on first conference held in Caroline County on May 14. Lori Frost is the keynote. Ending keynote: adult with ASD speaking about his experiences. Minimal cost. Brandie will forward flyer with more information.
- Family Preservation Services is sponsoring the Temple Grandin movie in observance of Autism Awareness Month in Pennington Gap, VA on April 16 at 7pm. Newspaper is going to do a feature story about a family with a child with ASD in the area.
- Temple Grandin is coming to SW Virginia in July. The livestock people are bringing her in to talk about her expertise.
- Think about future topics/projects the CoPA can focus on! We will talk about this in the May CoPA meeting.
 - Perhaps invite BCBA's who want to become providers
 - Autism Guidance Document

- **Next Meeting**

- **May 23, 2016 from 3:00-4:00PM**
 - **Muff-Facilitator; Beth-Note Taker**
 - **Thanks to Brandie and Selena for assisting this month**