

## ITC Quarterly Meeting Minutes 7-26-21

Attending: Cori Hill, Robyn Church, Virginia Chu, Corey Cassidy, Stacie Jackson, Catherine Hancock, Kyla Patterson, Lisa Santra, Patti Eitemiller, Adele Rohner, Erin Austin, Christine Spence, Dana Childress

### Celebrations/Announcements

- Patti pulled off another COVID travel trip to the countries of Georgia and Turkey.
- [Arc of VA 2021 Convention](#) – registration open
- Cori's granddaughter, Aliza Jane, was born 3 months ago.

### Part C Update

- Funding – Very excited that as part of the American Rescue Act, VA is receiving \$5.1 million for EI and will have 2 ½ years to spend it. The General Assembly will need to approve the expenditures in a special session and provide further guidance. This is one-time funding and is a chance to enhance the program.
- We have signed a contract with a vendor to develop a new statewide data system! This has been 10 years in the making. The new system will support case management functionalities, electronic health record, practitioner certification, fiscal/billing all in one platform. This will offer exciting opportunities for more sophisticated data analysis and reporting. Vendor believes the system can be built within 9 months. Vendor built a similar system for Massachusetts Part C system so we will be able to tweak it for VA-specific information. Vendor will be developing and providing the training for the new system.
- We are developing a new 6-year SSIP that will start next year, due Feb 2022. Our focus area will be positive social-emotional relationships. We will gather more input from stakeholders to determine improvement strategies.
- We've just hired a new position at DBHDS for a new Early Childhood Mental Health Coordinator. Tracy Walters will serve in this position.

VA DEC - no updates

### Conferences

- DEC Conference in Fall 2021 will be virtual. Registration is open now and there are discounts available (service coordinator, practitioner, families, etc.).
- CCSS 2021 virtual conference was held 2 weeks ago. Registration filled to capacity within 2-3 days so we are now building CCSS On-Demand so others can access sessions for \$25. Session recordings are being captioned now. Registration will open in August and registrants will have access to the recordings until the end of 2021.
  - Feedback: Presenters were fantastic and technology seemed to go well.

### Work Plan Highlights

Short Courses:

- **Growing the Brain** – Lisa will be offering the next course in September and registration is filled by people on previous course's waiting list. Patti is offering courses too for her audiences. Lisa and Patti had conference sessions accepted at DEC about this work.
- **New Service Providers** – Tentatively titled "EI Fundamentals." The first 3 sessions focus on fundamentals (family-centered practices, routines-based EI, supporting caregiver learning). Last

3 sessions will cover assessment, IFSP development, and service delivery through a teaming lens. Reviewers will be needed to review content before it is formatted.

- Volunteer reviewers – Virginia, Christine, Lisa S, Kyla
- **Experienced Service Providers** – These courses will be developed in the future and will be offered alternating with the new provider course. They will focus on application, self-assessment, peer support, and sharing strategies around specific topics (different for each course).
- We hope that the VEIPD training calendar will be redesigned to make it easier to know when these courses will be offered

## **ECHOs**

- **Leadership ECHO** – Stacie coordinates this ECHO and they are half way through this series of 6 sessions with around 29 people attending monthly (2-3:15 one Monday each month). Hub team is a mix of people with leadership backgrounds, not all in EI. It has been very helpful to have expertise from leaders outside of EI for perspective. Discussed difference between managing and leading, strategic planning, and virtual supervision; will discuss mentoring staff. Each session has an expert sharing information and a case study presentation shared by a participant. Case studies align with topics in ECHO and provide opportunities to think about how to support the person who shared.
  - Feedback – valuable, time well spent, excellent case presentations
- **Social-Emotional ECHO** – This is a 5-session ECHO and is hosted monthly for 30 participants. We already have a waitlist of 30. Content is tied very closely to IMH endorsement and is covering topics that are hard to come by (grief, initial diagnosis, etc.).
  - Feedback – people have been excited about the topics
- Autism ECHO – Act Early is running one with VA, Wyoming, and Ohio with around 100 participants. After the case study discussion, participants break into breakout rooms then come back together for 10 min of discussion. This approach seems to work well for larger groups.
- ECHOs follow a set process but can focus on any topic. ECHOs always have a hub team of subject matter experts that help participants develop their expertise and build capacity.
- Head Start is running a train-the-trainer program with the goal of having a teacher working alongside a child care provider. The approach sounds similar.

## **Coaching Fidelity Observer Video Chats**

- The chat was recorded with four fidelity observers from around the state as a panel discussion on Zoom. It is currently being edited into 5 shorter clips. Topics include: purpose of fidelity observation, preparing for the observation, conducting the observation, what happens after the observation/providing feedback, and benefits of fidelity observation.
- Ideas are needed for how to help supervisors and observers use these chats, which will be posted on VEIPD site and YouTube channel.
  - Idea: Add them to the current training tool that guides new observers through watching the Texas Coaching in EI module as an activity for observers to complete after they finish the module.

## **ToTs**

- Sept-Oct – Post-Partum and the Impact on the Parent-Child Relationship presented by Telisha Woodfin (ITCVA office Monitoring Consultant and doula)
  - Workgroup met after our last ITC meeting to brainstorm ideas for topics and speakers based on input from ToT participant surveys over the past year. Topics we are considering for the 2021-2022 fiscal year include:
    - Reflective Supervision and Capacity
    - Conversations with Families about Suspected ASD
    - Sleep Strategies for Children with ASD
    - Building Relationships with Families from the First Visit
    - Joint Attention: Why It's Important and How to Encourage It
    - Collaborating with Child Protective Services
    - Supporting Motor Development during Tele-Intervention
    - Supporting Families with Medically Fragile Children
    - AAC for Primary Service Providers
    - Supporting Families of Infants/Toddlers with Cochlear Implants
    - Supporting Families of Premies: Transitioning Out of the NICU after a Long Stay
    - Working with infants/toddlers around Tethered Oral Tissue Release
    - Bilingualism and Supporting Communication Development
- Suggestions for presenters for these topics are welcome.
- Dr. Jaju in NoVA is a great speaker on Tethered Oral Tissue Release. (Contact info: 571-3663, [www.smilewonders.com](http://www.smilewonders.com))
  - Child care providers are watching ToTs for information about working with children in EI.

**Kaleidoscope** – Fall 2021 training will be on Oct 7<sup>th</sup> as a virtual training day. Registration will launch within the next 2 weeks.

### **Social-Emotional Initiatives**

- **DEC Infant Mental Health Community of Practice** - Lisa Terry is co-facilitating this new CoP with a Pennsylvania PD person. They just received approval from DEC to launch this CoP. Christine serves on the core group which includes people from 4 states. They are planning to hold their first meeting at the virtual DEC Conference in the Fall then have quarterly webinars. Anyone can join whether or not they are a DEC member. Since so many other states are focusing on social-emotional development in their SSIPs, this will be a good opportunity to collaborate and support each other. More information will be coming.
  - DEC has other CoPs for Early Intervention, Leadership, and Service Coordination. For more info or to join a CoP, visit the [DEC site](#).
- **Social-Emotional Learning Path** – next path to be developed

**Service Coordination Chat** – Most recent SC Chat was facilitated last week. Topic focused on things families wished their SCs knew and was a collaboration with the Center for Family Involvement at the Partnership for People with Disabilities. The archived recording will be posted soon.

**Resource Highlight** – Updated [Inclusion, Equity, and Social Justice](#) topic page. Visit the page for new resources under Handouts, eLearning, and Videos. Please share any good resources you come across to help us add resources to this page.

**PD Team Staff Update** – We are just beginning the process of refilling our technology specialist position on the PD team. Jeanne left the team at the end of May.

**Next Meeting: 10-25-21**