**Virginia Department of Social Services Infant and Toddler Social Emotional Project:**
The MOA has been signed between the Virginia Department of Social Services and Virginia Commonwealth University’s Partnership for People with Disabilities. Training under this project will begin in October with a Center on the Social and Emotional Foundations for Early Learning (CSEFEL) Train the Trainer event for targeted early childhood trainers in Virginia. The Department of Social Services funded project supports childcare providers who care for children from birth-3 in childcare centers, family childcare provider homes, Early Head Start and for family, friends or neighbors who care for children 0-3 with the intent to improve the quality of care for children birth to three in Virginia. For additional information, please contact Jackie Robinson, MSW, VCU Partnership for People with Disabilities, DSS Infant and Toddler Social Emotional Project Director at robinsonjb3@apps.vcu.edu

**Virginia Department of Health Infant and Toddler Social Emotional Project:**
An additional project has been funded by the federal government through the Virginia Department of Health (via the Early Childhood Comprehensive Systems (ECCS) grant) and also begins with the CSEFEL Train the Trainer event in October, will be managed by the Virginia Department of Health and will wrap around the DSS project so that anyone outside of the child care providers targeted in the DSS project (i.e. early interventionists and other home visitors, medical providers etc.) that work with children birth to three and their families can receive the same professional development opportunities as in the DSS project. For additional information, please contact Bethany Geldmaker, Virginia Department of Health, Early Childhood Consultant at Bethany.Geldmaker@vdh.virginia.gov

Jointly, both projects fund the following professional development opportunities in Virginia:

- 3 Center on the Social Emotional Foundation for Early Learning (CSEFEL) Infant and Toddler Train the Trainer events;
- 3 CSEFEL Train the Coach events;
- 3 CSEFEL Provider Training events each in 5 regions of Virginia;
- CSEFEL individualized coaching on the infant and toddler modules statewide; and
- Monthly CSEFEL Provider Learning Communities in 5 regions of Virginia

Both projects will also assist us in growing the number of infant mental health consultants available in Virginia through the Virginia Association for Infant Mental Health Endorsement:

- Will fund 60 (20 per year) infant toddler providers or supervisors over the next 3 years to support them through the endorsement process at levels I and II and includes funding for reflective supervision;
- We are being strategic in how we use these 20 endorsement slots to ensure we have 4 professionals identified in each of 5 regions in the state by integrating our professional development efforts with the 5 Virginia Cross Sector Professional Development (VCPD) Regional Consortiums so we are growing capacity equally across the state and creating endorsement leaders in each of the 5 VCPD regions.
- The CSEFEL Provider training will assist those Level I & II Endorsement candidates with training needed to meet the competencies for endorsement.
- The Professional Development and Endorsement Work Groups met jointly recently to begin to identify the existing training resources available in Virginia that meet the competencies for Level I & II endorsement. The plan is to have a list that can be given to a new endorsement applicants to assist them. It will also help us to identify gaps in training to meet certain competencies.

The DSS project is also funding a couple of ideas we think have potential to be replicated across Virginia:

- In the Hampton/Newport News area, funding from the DSS project will offer ASQ-3 and ASQ:SE screening in partnership with the Virginia Peninsula Smart Beginnings Coalition when parents come into either the Hampton or Newport News DSS offices to apply for child care subsidy;
- There are two early childhood professionals going through the Positive Behavior Support (PBS) training, which is a program through the Partnership for People with Disabilities but currently designed for use with older children and adults. The two early childhood professionals have completed the year-long training. The next step is finishing up their portfolio of an Early Childhood Positive Behavior Support Plan for a child they are currently working with to present for endorsement as a Positive Behavior Support Consultant. This training provides more intensive support for working with the early childhood team that supports a child at the top of the CSEFEL Pyramid in their home or childcare setting. In exchange for DSS funding, the 2 early childhood professionals participating in the PBS training will work with the PBS Training Coordinator to revise the existing PBS curriculum for early childhood providers. They are using the CSEFEL and the Training and Technical Assistance Center on Social Emotional
Intervention’s (TACSEI) PBS materials to do this so this links nicely with our CSEFEL Pyramid model professional development efforts. The goal is to have PBS training and endorsement for early childhood providers in Virginia as a result of this project.

- The VDSS project also allows us to partner with the Smart Beginnings coalitions in Virginia to promote screening of young children to provide Ages and Stages Questionnaire-3rd edition (ASQ-3) and ASQ: Social Emotional (ASQ:SE) Train the Trainer and Train the Coach training to representatives from local coalitions to assist those coalitions in developing and implementing a local developmental screening plan that will include use of the ASQ-3 and ASQ:SE tools.

- The current planned timeline for upcoming training through combining the two projects includes:
  - A CSEFEL Infant/Toddler Train the Trainer event in October 2013;
  - A CSEFEL Infant/Toddler Train the Coach event in December 2013;
  - ASQ-3 Train the Trainer and Train the Coach event in January 2014;
  - There will be monthly mentoring calls for those trained as CSEFEL coaches with Rob Corso, Project Coordinator for CSEFEL as the coaches provide this to local providers in 2014;
  - CSEFEL Infant/Toddler Provider level training events beginning in late spring/early summer 2014;
  - The CSEFEL Learning Communities will be established in 2014 following the CSEFEL provider training and will occur monthly in each of the 5 VCPD regions facilitated by a CSEFEL Master Trainer.

- The ECCS Project includes developing a certification process for CSEFEL Trainers and Coaches that will ensure we have quality training and coaching provided for any state sponsored CSEFEL training;

- The DSS Project includes developing a plan for integrating the CSEFEL model and infant mental health competencies and endorsement into other existing professional development efforts in Virginia (i.e. goal is to align any training offered through these projects with existing certification or licensing requirements so those participating in CSEFEL training, for example, could count those hours toward any professional development existing requirements a provider may have related to social emotional development).

**Infant Mental Health Endorsement**

To date, 8 people have been endorsed (Level II-3; Level III-4; Level IV-1).

- Two people took the exam on September 13th. This was Virginia’s first group to take the exam under Virginia. Special thanks to Judy Martens, Vivian Mann and Debbie Coleman who reviewed their portfolios with assistance from Michigan.

- Dr. Doug Davies, a national expert on Reflective Supervision, to begin supervising Virginia’s endorsed professionals as they provide reflective supervision to our new endorsement candidates beginning January 2014. He will begin doing this with a full day training on Reflective Supervision on November 15th. Doug will also provide monthly Supervision to them over the next year. This effort will assist us in growing capacity for Reflective Supervisors in Virginia that is needed to move the IMH endorsement forward.

- Applications for Levels I and II of the Infant Mental Health Endorsement will be accepted beginning in December through a new online system called EASy, which has just recently been funded by the Virginia Department of Health. A training on how to use the online system for those that will help to administer the endorsement in Virginia (i.e. review endorsement candidates portfolios etc.), was provided by the Michigan Association for Infant Mental Health on September 24th. A very special thank you to the Virginia Department of Health for providing the funding necessary to begin our endorsement in Virginia using this online tool!

- An informational webinar is planned in December for anyone interested in the IMH Endorsement. Current endorsed professionals to assist.

**ecmhVA.org**

The [www.ecmhVA.org](http://www.ecmhVA.org) website is planned to be up and running by the end of October.

**ECMH VA Sponsored a 3 Hour Seminar on Trauma**

@ Creating Connections to Shining Stars Conference in Virginia Beach in July

Part I: Early Childhood Trauma: Consequences and Effects: Trauma exposure in early childhood can have significant negative emotional and behavioral effects, including impacting child development. Attendees will learn about the consequences and effects of early childhood trauma exposure. In addition, participants will learn to recognize common signs and symptoms of early childhood trauma.

Part II: Early Childhood Trauma: Working with Young Trauma Victims: Effective work with young children who have experienced trauma requires skill and creativity. Attendees will learn how a child’s history of trauma might impact the course of services from various disciplines (e.g., physical therapy, education, medicine). In addition, this workshop will focus on helping providers learn practical strategies for use in their work with children who may have experienced trauma.
Presented: Kathy Reid-Quinones, Ph.D. earned her doctorate in Clinical Psychology from Virginia Commonwealth University and is completing a National Institute for Mental Health (NIMH)-funded postdoctoral fellowship with the National Crime Victims Research and Treatment Center at the Medical University of South Carolina. In July 2013, Dr. Reid-Quinones will join the Division of Child Abuse Pediatrics at the Children’s Hospital of The King’s Daughters in Norfolk, VA as a Clinical/Forensic Psychologist where she will continue to conduct psychological assessments and provide evidence-based, trauma-focused treatment to children, adolescents, and their families. Her research interests include individual, family, and environmental factors that influence youth risk and resilience following trauma exposure.

**Early Childhood Mental Health Institute**

Dr. Bolling, Executive Director at Child Savers is offering us free space at the Glen Allen Cultural Arts Facility [http://www.artsglenallen.com/facility-info/facility-tour.php](http://www.artsglenallen.com/facility-info/facility-tour.php) for an ECMH event. The free space is available for use until April 1st of 2014. There is some funding set aside in the ECMH budget with funds from DBHDS Part C and VDOE and additional funds from the VDSS Head Start State Collaboration Office. Anyone interested in serving on the event planning committee, can contact Bonnie Grifa, State ECMH Coordinator @ bgrifa@vcu.edu

**Meeting with Medicaid**

The meeting with DMAS was held on September 23rd at the DMAS office in Richmond. Judy Martens, VAIMH President; Bethany Geldmaker, VDH; Deana Buck, VCU; Dr. Bolling, ChildSavers; David Conley, VCU/MSW intern and Bonnie Grifa, VCU, met with the DMAS representatives. Presented a short power point highlighting our Vision, Progress, Goals for potential use of Medicaid and reviewed information about other states using Medicaid to fund ECMH supports and services. Specific recommendations from DMAS were identified at the meeting which were reviewed by the ECMH Policy Work Group at a recent meeting and will be reviewed by the ECMH VA Advisory Board and VAIMH Board of Directors in the near future. The Policy Work Group assisted in the planning for this meeting. Mendy Meeks, DMAS and member of both our Policy Work Group and the ECMH VA Advisory Board assisted in getting the meeting scheduled with the relevant DMAS staff.

**ECMH Strategic Plan**

The ECMH VA Advisory Board will meet on November 5th for a full day meeting to develop the ECMH Strategic Plan for the next 3 years. A consultant has been hired (Pat Kennedy, M.Ed with James Madison University’s Institute for Innovation in Health and Human Services) to facilitate the day’s activities. Plan to use the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services’ (DBHDS) *Children’s Mental Health System of Care Plan* to set up our plan using a similar format and wording to assist us in aligning our plan with theirs. Janet Lung, Director of Children’s Mental Health at DBHDS has been invited to participate and has agreed to come on November 5th.

**ECMH Data Indicators**

The ECMH VA Advisory Board and the Policy Work Group have been working to identify a consistent set of ECMH data indicators for Virginia and working to determine who has data we can use and how can we collect the data that we need. This will become a goal in our Strategic Plan. We are also working with the Evaluators from both funded projects to identify a set of indicators that we can include in the projects and any future projects to begin to collect consistent information over time.

**Home Visiting Consortium**

An ECMH goal has been added to the Home Visiting Consortium’s Strategic Plan for the next 5 years and the State ECMH Coordinator is responsible for the goal to integrate the IMH Endorsement and Competencies and the ECMH initiative into the work of the Home Visiting Consortium. Healthy Families is ready and excited to begin the Endorsement process. Healthy Families Regional Administrator, Lynn Kosonovich is planning to apply for Level IV Policy Endorsement and Markella Budesky, VA Coordinator is in full support of this collaboration. A meeting is planned in November to review the required Healthy Families training content in Virginia and to align it to the IMH Competencies to set up guidance for Healthy Families providers interested in pursuing the Virginia IMH Endorsement.

For questions about or more information on any of the information contained in this Report, please email Bonnie Grifa, State Early Childhood Mental Health Coordinator @ bgrifa@vcu.edu