



COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA
Virginia Board for People with Disabilities


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September 15, 2016

TO: Holly Mortlock, Policy Director
Policy & Public Affairs Division
Dept. of Behavioral Health & Developmental Services

FROM: Heidi L. Lawyer 

RE: State Board of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities POLICY 4037 (CSB) 9102,
EARLY INTERVENTION SERVICES FOR INFANTS AND TODDLERS WITH DISABILITIES AND THEIR FAMILIES

On behalf of the Virginia Board for People with Disabilities (the Board), thank you for the opportunity to provide comment on the field review of the Early Intervention policy.

There are, of course, a number of semantic and other updates that are needed.

- Under Background, the final paragraph needs to be updated with current information.
- Under Policy, first paragraph, the Virginia Office for Protection and Advocacy should be removed, because it is no longer a participating agency per Virginia statute.
- Under Policy, second paragraph, it is stated that services are available to Part C eligible children from birth through two years of age. However in Virginia, these services are available to children from birth to 3 years of age.
- Under Policy, last paragraph on page 3, the language is confusing and implies that the Department actually provides direct services (albeit in cooperation with other departments). We recommend reviewing the statutory language in § 2.2-5304, State lead agency's duties, and § 2.2-5304.1, Local lead agencies, to determine what is appropriate to include in this section.

There have been significant changes to the Part C program in the last 7 years since this policy was last updated in December 2009, including development of the Medicaid Early Intervention Program, which now serves a significant number of children. The Policy should be updated to reflect recent changes to the program both in the background section, and as they relate to program implementation at the state and local level.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this policy during the policy review process. We look forward to the 2nd field review which reflect updates determined appropriate by the State Board.