



The Individual and Family Support Program

IFSP State Council

April 22, 2022, 1-2:30 p.m.

<https://virginia-gov.zoomgov.com/j/1611304486>

Passcode: 042222

Attendees: Stephanie Mote, Rachel Vamenta, Robin Church (The Arc of Virginia), Jesse Monroe, Donna Robel, Christi Stafford, Niki Pangle, Darby Keep, Jennifer Rockwell, Joan Brunner, Lisa Richard, Lucy Cantrell (The Arc of Virginia), Mary O, Nickie Brandenburger (CFI at VCU), Renee Soniat, Sean Campbell, Shawn Kirk, Kristi Taylor, Angela Lello

I. Introductions and Agenda

- a. Staff Introductions and welcome
 - i. Stephanie Mote is the new IFSP Program Manager! Stephanie has a background in DD services, and has worked at DBHDS for almost six years on the Regional Support Unit team. She started with IFSP at the end of February 2022.
- b. Icebreaker: What is your favorite outdoor activity in the spring?
- c. Educational component: New Path at The Arc of Virginia
- d. Funding Program Updates
- e. General Program Updates
- f. Wrap-up

II. Educational component: New Path at The Arc of Virginia

- a. Robin Church is the Family Support Director for the New Path program at The Arc of Virginia. Contact her at rchurch@thearcofva.org or call 804-649-8481, ext. 102
- b. New Path is a statewide program that provides peer support to empower, educate, and connect families and caregivers of children aged 0-5 who has or is at risk of having a developmental disability. Families receive 1:1 guidance through part C and transitioning to Part B of EI services. Specific supports include: the Mommas & Poppas Connection (virtual support group 1x/week at 2 different times); Family Support Group (Facebook).
- c. For general questions, email info@thearcofva.org.
- d. Please see the attached PDF of Robin's presentation on page .

- e. Questions:
 - i. New Path is for 0-5 and EI. Robin also works with children 0-13.
 - ii. New Path has been at The Arc before Robin joined, but Robin is finding out that not a lot of people know about the program, its supports, and how The Arc can help families stay connected as they transition from New Path into The Arc of Virginia's other programs.

III. Funding Program Updates

- a. IFSP must create and utilize a new portal for future funding cycles. Per DOJ regulations, the new portal must incorporate a prioritization model using funding categories and criteria to help address different types of needs and to move away from exclusively a "first-come, first-served" process. The overall goal is to provide funding to individuals on the waitlist as fairly and quickly as possible.
- b. Prioritization categories: These will not be the same as the one proposed in summer 2020. The complexity of the priorities/categories was expected to take at least a year for the online portal buildout. The application process as well as the review & approval processes would have required much time and effort from applicants and IFSP staff, respectively.
- c. Thus, IFSP proposes a streamlined prioritization of funding categories, a simplified application process, and a more efficient and transparent review & approval process.
- d. **[PROPOSED]** Two categories for fund distribution
 - i. Priority 1 will get 50% of our funds at \$1,000 per approved recipient (1250 recipients).
 - ii. Priorities 2 and 3 will get the other 50% of our funds at \$500 per approved recipient (2500 recipients).
- e. **[PROPOSED]** The new IFSP-Funding application will be in the WaMS waitlist portal so that IFSP can pull information directly from the waitlist. The portal would open for a predefined period of time to allow as many applications as possible. The application will be simplified and allow applicants to indicate their interest in the funds, identify the responsible party/guardians for minors, collect & verify contact information, and specify the need/planned use of funds.
- f. **[PROPOSED]** The review and approval process will help IFSP get away from first-come, first-served. No applicants will be considered until the predefined application period closes.
 - i. Priority 1 application approval will be made for individuals based on the application and the individual's scores for Critical Needs Summary question 7a and b, which consider behavioral and medical support needs.
 - ii. Priority 2 & 3: Application approval will be given to randomized selection of applicants.
 - iii. If funds remain available after funds are disbursed to approved recipients, an additional application period will be offered and the process would be the same.

- g. **[PROPOSED]** Subsequent Funding Cycles: How can IFSP ensure that funding will not be awarded to the same group of people each year?
 - i. Priority 1: Funding will be open to all individuals in this category each year.
 - ii. Priority 2 & 3: Recipients will not be eligible for the next 2 funding cycles. IFSP will need data to determine whether 2 funding cycles will be sufficient enough to ensure that funds are distributed to new and different people over the course of 3 years.
- h. This proposal will be going hand-in-hand with regulations and the portal buildout; both are still developing. The intent is to create a funding application process that reduces barriers to individuals in need of support. This proposal enables IFSP to roll out the next funding cycle sooner with a more user-friendly application process, categories that already exist and are easier to understand, and more efficient fund distribution to those most in need.
- i. Questions:
 - i. Renee & Nickie: This process looks more equitable than it has in the past.
 - ii. Sean: Likes the idea of priorities and having a predefined application period. Concerned about “the notion of a lottery system.” Doesn’t like the fact that we say “other states do this” (randomized lottery); let’s look at what’s best for VA. If the pot is so big, why not take the total applicants and divide it among them? Likes the idea of not allowing recipients to reapply every year to allow more room for others.
 - iii. Jennifer Rockwell: Likes this new model, wishes IFSP didn’t have to randomize it. Likes the rule of not allowing people to reapply consecutively in Priority 2 & 3.
 - iv. Angela: Likes the prioritization. How does the funding period sync with the annual reassessment of priority? What if someone has a life change that impacts their priority status? Will that happen before the funding cycle? What education and communication can IFSP give to families about prioritization categories?
 - 1. There is no one automated point in the year where everyone’s priority gets updated. It can be updated at any time, so IFSP won’t be able to coordinate the funding cycle with these updates.
 - v. Darby: Sees the same group of people in her work who either have the time or technology to apply immediately. Likes the Priority 1 categorization and the predefined application period.
 - vi. Lisa: How does IFSP plan to do outreach to families and collect data? Outreach doesn’t always guarantee that families will apply.
 - 1. IFSP is looking at different points of contact that people have as they enter the system and ensuring that info is given in a form that is usable and actionable. IFSP will continue trying to maximize the annual waitlist notification message.

vii. Jennifer Rockwell: How will IFSP decide how long the application period is open? How will families without technology? How can Support Coordinators help complete applications?

Application window time not set in stone. A longer period allows applicants more flexibility to apply, but delays the funding issuance process. 2 weeks is a current working timeline. The predefined window allows IFSP to verify current information.

viii. Sean: Rather than having randomization every year, could randomization be used for people who were previously awarded funding, instead of the whole applicant pool (which would include applicants who were not awarded the previous year)? Likes Question 7 for Priority 1. Expressed concern that families will give up after 2 years if they are not approved. What data does IFSP have?

ix. Mary: Is there a way to prioritize depending on what's available in your community?

1. Renee: Lots of services in her county, but people don't necessarily have the funds to access the resources

2. Lisa: How many people will actually apply? A reduced number may apply now with the public's trust issue with the program.

j. **IFSP asks that the Council not share this Funding Program proposal with the public, since it was presented at this meeting for Council input.** Please email Stephanie with any suggestions or questions you may have:

IFSPCommunity@dbhds.virginia.gov. A May meeting to discuss this further may be needed, but IFSP will let the Council know.

i. IFSP will make an announcement when we have a final plan for the portal and the prioritization model.

IV. General Program Updates

- a. Logistics and staffing update: 2 key staff positions still need to be filled (IFSP Community Coordinator and IFSP admin). One position was advertised on the Virginia Jobs site the day before this meeting.
- b. Regional revisioning: Regional Councils continue to be on pause until IFSP fills the open staff positions. If any Councilmembers can think of something they would like to do in their region, please let IFSP know how we can support you.

V. Wrap-up

- a. The Council had no further questions for IFSP about anything discussed during the meeting.
- b. Again, the Funding Program Update was presented as a draft/proposal to seek input from the Council. *Please do not share it publicly.*
- c. Questions can go to IFSPCommunity@dbhds.virginia.gov.
- d. Next meeting: June 2022

WELCOME

Return to:  The Arc
Virginia

The Support Network



For Families in Early Intervention

New Path



Robin Church

New Path Family Support Director

rchurch@thearcofva.org

804.649.8481, ext 102

What is “New Path”

New Path provides understanding, compassionate peer-to-peer support to empower, educate and connect families through their journey as caregivers of a child age 0-5 who is, or at risk of, a developmental disability in Virginia .



New Path supports families who may be receiving EI services. We provide education, information, resources, and one on one support and guidance through part C in addition to transitioning to part B.

New Path will meet families where they are and connect them with other families who have walked the same path.

We assist them in navigating Virginia’s system of services and supports and ensure that their voices are represented when public policy issues are discussed.

Providing Support to Families

- New Path connect parents and caregivers to others who have been where you are.
- Mommas & Poppas Connection
- New Path's Family Support Group
- New Path Supports you through your journey
- Reviewing what to expect when applying for a waiver



Like us on Facebook @newpathEI

Mommas & Poppas Connection (MPC)

**Join New Path's
Mommas & Poppas Connection (MPC)**


Our Purpose: Powerful Parent leaders offering compassionate peer to peer support to empower, educate and connect families building an inclusive community improving the lives of all families through their journey as caregivers of a child ages 0-5 who is, or at risk of, a developmental disability/delay in Virginia.

**1st & 3rd Tuesday at 1:00 pm
2nd & 4th Thursday at 11:00 am**

Worried about keeping up with what week it is? NO WORRIES, You will receive a reminder email the day prior to the meeting with the zoom link to join.

Complete the google form [HERE](#) to receive the zoom link.

Robin Church
New Path Director
Phone: 804.649.8481 x102
email: rchurch@thearcofva.org

YOU ARE NOT ALONE!



- MPC meets every 1st and 3rd Tuesday at 1:00 pm AND ALSO the 2nd and 4th Thursday at 11:00 am
- For the loved ones of a child age 0-5
- A great place to meet other parents
- Talk about the good and not so good

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1dGh-XxZJLKcm4mFSiGMEv8DRzq1Ovt5LPgWyQAGLZw/edit>

New Path's Family Support Group



- ❖ A private group on Facebook
- ❖ Great secondary and additional resource
- ❖ Another great place to share information

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/185003059796004>

Support, Information, and Resources

- ❖ Phone, Online and In-Person Support
- ❖ Explanation of Language
- ❖ Assistance with Resource Navigation
- ❖ Link Families to EI Service Providers
- ❖ Connecting with Local Family Support Organizations and/or Disability-Specific Organizations



Some Challenges VA's EI Families May Experience



Financial Hardship

Uncertainty about the Future



Difficulty Navigating Services and Supports

Feelings of Isolation



Difficulty Accessing Child Care



Something just isn't right and I don't know what to do!



The Arc of Virginia

- A grassroots organization
- Representing people with and/or at risk of intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD) and their families.

Mission

To promote and protect the human rights of people with or at risk of developmental disabilities and actively support their full inclusion and participation in the community throughout their lifetime.

We are an affiliate of The Arc US.

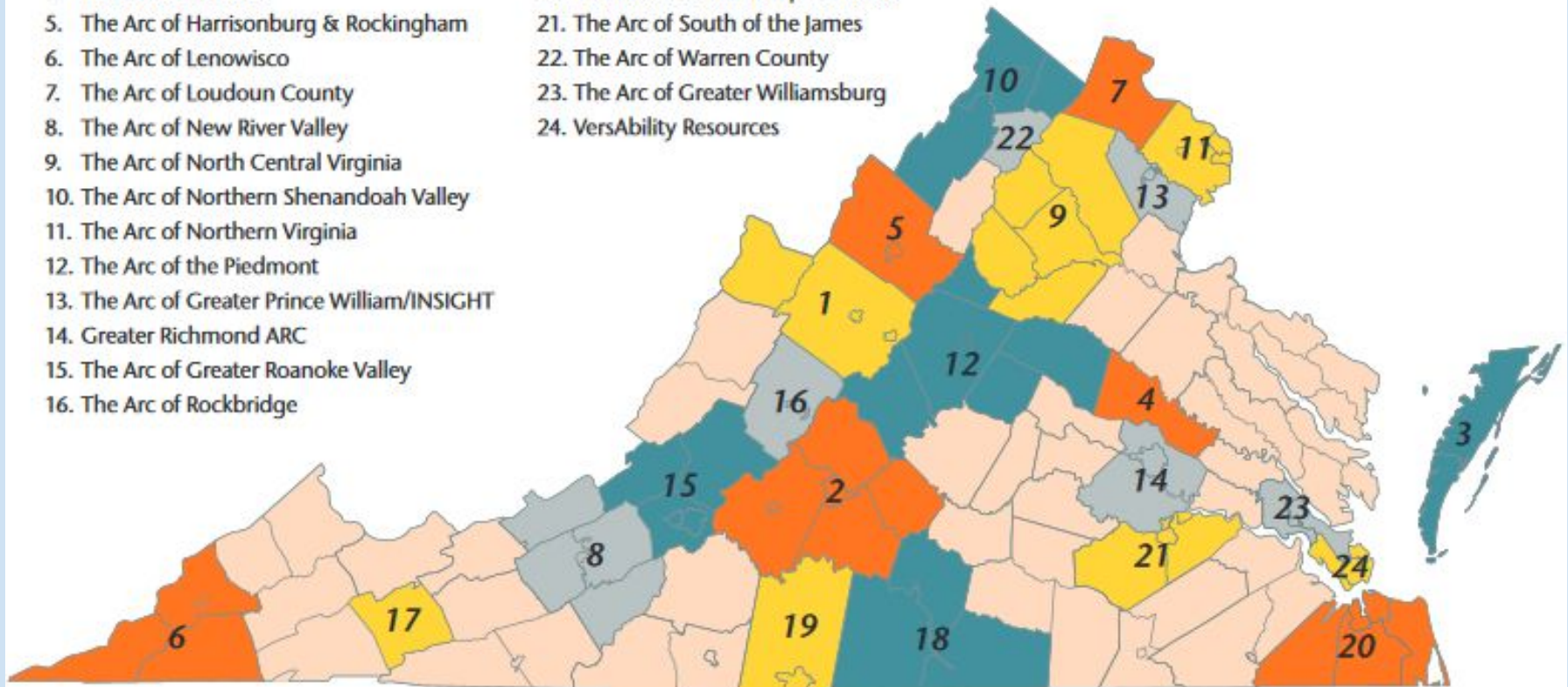


Local Chapters of The Arc of Virginia

 The Arc of Virginia serves the entire Commonwealth.

1. The Arc of Augusta
2. The Arc of Central Virginia
3. The Arc of Eastern Shore
4. The Arc of Hanover
5. The Arc of Harrisonburg & Rockingham
6. The Arc of Lenowisco
7. The Arc of Loudoun County
8. The Arc of New River Valley
9. The Arc of North Central Virginia
10. The Arc of Northern Shenandoah Valley
11. The Arc of Northern Virginia
12. The Arc of the Piedmont
13. The Arc of Greater Prince William/INSIGHT
14. Greater Richmond ARC
15. The Arc of Greater Roanoke Valley
16. The Arc of Rockbridge

17. The Arc of Smyth County
18. The Arc of Southern Virginia
19. The Arc Southside
20. The Arc of South Hampton Roads
21. The Arc of South of the James
22. The Arc of Warren County
23. The Arc of Greater Williamsburg
24. VersAbility Resources



Waivers in Virginia

1. Developmental Disability Waiver (DD Waiver)
 - a. Community Living Waiver
 - b. Family and Individual Supports Waiver
 - c. Building Independence Waiver

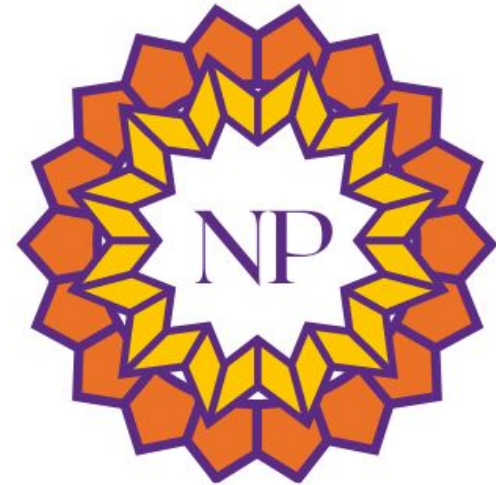
2. Infant VIDES Screening tool.

https://d3n8a8pro7vhmx.cloudfront.net/thearcofva/pages/56/attachments/original/1624123817/VIDES_-_Infants_Type_Version_1.1_Effective_7_1_2020.pdf?1624123817

3. Commonwealth Coordinated Care Plus Waiver (CCCPlus)
(Formerly the EDCD and Tech Waivers) Is Mostly used by families of children in Early Intervention.



NEW PATH



FAMILY SUPPORT NETWORK

Lucy Cantrell

Information and Resources Director

(Ages 14-lifetime)

lcantrell@thearcofva.org

804.649.8481, ext 104

Robin Church

Family Support Director

(Ages 0-13 with a focus on EI Families)

rchurch@thearcofva.org

804.649.8481, ext 102

Thank you for your time...



I have a question!



wait WHAT?



Question here!!



wait, wait wait wait!!!



Humm, Let me think about that one!

