



5-13-26 Agenda and Meeting Notes

Last meeting was 4-29-26.

Notetaker for today's meeting: Terri

Present: Corey Cassidy (Radford), Shiree Harbick (JMU), Christan Pankiewicz (GMU), Christine Spence (VCU), Danika Pfeiffer (ODU), Terri Nelligan (ITCVA), Samita Arora (GMU), Muff Perry (ITC Harrisonburg-Rockingham, Cori Hill (VEIPD), Sonia Khuana (ODU)

- **Celebrations/Announcements**

- YAY! We've been accepted to DEC. Who wants to present?
 - Those going to DEC in Omaha NE: Christan, Cori, Christine, Audrey. Send an email to those not present today to ask if others will attend DEC to get other disciplines involved in the presentation.
- Danika Pfeiffer's first meeting. Welcome!

- **Upcoming Meetings with Notetaker**

- Spring 2026 meetings; 2:00-3:30

1/14/26	Corey
2/18/26	Sara M.
3/23/26	Christan

**4/29/26 LSM Collaborative Meeting	Terri
5/13/26	Terri

- **Updates from members' programs**

- Christine at VCU: conversations about program modality. Deciding on both graduate and undergraduate. Graduate currently synchronous online, undergraduate currently in person. Potentially undergraduate will only be available if cohort of 20 or more per year if not it will be move to online option. Master's program needs minimum of 12 students for in person.
- Shiree at JMU: microcredentialing is coming up a lot; inter-professional group is developing one; EI microcredentialing may be received well at JMU
- Samita at GMU: conversation around the difference between microcredentialing and badging; hot topic right now

- **Updates from ITCVA**

- May is Early Intervention Awareness month

- **Agenda**

- **Action Plan** (ITEMS HIGHLIGHTED IN BLUE ARE TODAY'S PRIORITIES)

- New Action Plan is confirmed; please be sure you know your workgroup/activities involvement; each member can be on as many activities as they like, but must be on at least one.
- **Goal One: Increase number of students graduating from all recognized disciplines who get EI certified and become Virginia EI practitioners** (Check each activity for members)
 - **Activity: Develop field placement documents, rubrics, etc. (Muff, Dana, Kendal, Erin)**

- Kendall and Muff share their strategies
- Muff provided an update on how best to work with ITCs regarding students. Community Service Boards (CSBs) are the lead agency for 30 of the 40 ITCs, most of which have an extensive student approval process with the CSBs. Many have an “interview” with the students being assigned to them to be sure everyone is on the same page. ITC Harrisonburg takes students for observations and/or student internships (40 hours per week). The latter has an extensive process to “onboard” similar to a new hire. Therefore, being in touch with the ITC 2-3 months in advance is needed.
- This group will put together some documents/rubric/etc. To try to help create the Agreements between the ITCs and Universities. Many already have MOUs/MOAs in place but need updating on occasion. It’s good to have them in place prior to taking students being assigned.
- Muff and Kendall and others try to match student interests with the appropriate discipline/provider. Sometimes therapists can take on students but personnel shortages can sometimes hinder this.
- Whoever at the university is in charge of placements, it is helpful if that person has a clear understanding of what the university requirements are and what EI is (working with parents not necessarily the babies directly due to coaching). This helps students have a successful experience.
- ITC Harrisonburg, and some other ITCs, take the students through the entire EI Certification process so that they end their time with an EI certification. This provides foundational EI knowledge and makes them more employable.
- It would be great if universities could update their student evaluation forms to be more aligned with EI, and not necessarily the schools. Muff and Cori have forms that they created for students placed in EI. This helps the flow and communication about the experience work better.
- This group needs representation from other disciplines besides education and EI. Anyone want to join them?
- *Will need more activities perhaps? Move things around?*
- **Goal Two: Establish an infrastructure to collaborate across universities and systems to enhance high-quality**

research-to-practice partnerships (Check each activity for members)

- **Activity: Develop an infrastructure proposal to identify "Who**

- The workgroup gave an update on their conversations and where they landed on "who we are". The group gave input on the "requirements for membership on the Consortium". Some additions and edits were made to the items presented. Members would like the workgroup to consider a type of "interview" or "why is this a match for you" as we explore new members. See notes above for full content. Several ideas were shared, including creating a "welcome video talking about who we are and our mission, vision and how the new member could participate", creating an "assurance type" agreement that members review, answer some questions related to membership, what they can bring to the group and how they will participate. It's a lot for Cori to onboard everyone so adding onboarding steps could help with time management and self selection of joining the consortium or not, once expectations are shared.

- **Activity: Conduct AI in EI research to support research-to-practice initiatives**

- Update from workgroup:

- 1) We submitted a book chapter titled "Human Before Machine: Applying Design Thinking to Artificial Intelligence in Early Intervention"
- 2) Will present at CCSS conference
- 3) Will present at DEC conference
- 4) We plan to conduct a follow up study with focus groups

- **Activity: Coordinate ITCVA and VEIPD websites with shared faculty/future EI resources to promote public awareness and EI career path**

- **Activity: Develop interactive map to support collaborative fieldwork opportunities**

- Cori met with Seth. He is developing a way that LSMs and faculty can update their own information by going through "a Form" that gives them access to only their own information

which will alleviate any chance of making a mistake (like deleting others' info).

- **Activity: Host Collaborative meeting with LSM/leadership 2x per year**
 - While several Save the Date emails were sent, a meeting link was not sent until the meeting started. The LSMs that did participate were engaged and provided positive input for continuing the collaboration meetings. Cori, Terri, Muff and Kendall can work through regional or statewide meetings to ascertain interest from LSMs who did not participate in the April Collab Meeting.
- **Goal Three: Embed high-quality Part C EI resources in university coursework** (Check each activity for members)
 - **Activity: Explore and develop EI badging or microcredential**
 - Notes [here](#)
 - Christan and Alison share
 - **Activity: Develop an interactive Speakers' Bureau to incorporate early interventionist perspectives and voices in coursework**
- **Goal Four: Promote and share the unique strengths of the EI/Preservice Consortium, including professional knowledge, experience, and interprofessional collaboration** (Check each activity for members)
 - **Activity: Share Consortium interprofessional collaboration via interprofessional presentations, symposia, and consultations statewide, nationally, and internationally**
 - **Activity: Leadership/Interprofessional journal article**
 - Corey update- at their last meeting everyone got reenergized for this project, refocusing on which journal to submit an article to and updating the outline, They will meet on 5/27 to finalize and by end of summer everything will be set to submit.

Other:

To Do for Next Meeting:

- Cori will reconvene "Who We Are" workgroup

- Cori will begin scheduling for the fall in mid-summer

Next Meeting: Break for summer. TBC

Notetaker: TBD