

Questions & Answers

Generated from the October 2016 Talks on Tuesdays webinar, *Getting from Here to There: Navigating the Transition from Part C to Part B* – *Part II*.

1. What are the benefits of sharing the developmental information during the "sharing the children" meeting?

The school system is able to gather information that will guide their anticipated staffing and program needs.

2. Please go back to the sharing meeting in December, what is shared, how are you sharing demographics and not names?

Service Coordinators obtain a signed release from parents prior to sharing names. If a release is not signed prior to the child find meeting names are not shared. Demographics are discussed based upon the number of potential referrals per school district and an overview of developmental needs by school district.

So, is sharing names and the child's developmental information not a referral, then?

Sharing at the child find meeting is not a referral. The information required in notification includes child's name, date of birth and parent contact information.

3. If you hold a child find meeting with Part C and Part B in December, are you completing the transition plan with families more than 9 months before school starts?

The child find meeting does not impact the timeline for completion of the transition plan. The intent of the meeting is to provide an overview of the number and demographics of children who potentially may be referred.

4. When do you get the release to talk with the schools from the parents?

Some releases are obtained at intake, it depends upon the age of the child. Other releases are signed at annuals or IFSP reviews.

Does that mean that ITC of Chesterfield does a "bulk" mailing of referrals to the home schools?

Yes, Chesterfield refers to this as a "mass mailing".

5. When you send the referrals in one batch can the local schools hold the Child Study Team meeting within 10 days? Our Part B system has asked that we send them out slowly so they can manage that process.

This would be a decision between the ITC and the LEA. Each LEA will have a different process and team structure. Chesterfield has worked to train a large number of team members to be able to meet the designated timelines for these children when received as one batch. However, other LEAs may prefer to receive referrals spread out over time.

Are you saying that the mass referral begins the Part B timeline?

Yes, the timeline begins with Part B receipt of Part C notification/referral.

6. When is it appropriate for Part C to refer for a screening vs. an evaluation as described in the question and answer document on the VDOE website?

A child is to be referred for an evaluation if he or she is suspected of having a disability. A screening is not an evaluation. A screening of a child is to identify if there are needs that may result in a referral for special education and related services or other referral or intervention. A screening is typically used when the Early Intervention team does not suspect the child has a disability (as this would require a referral for evaluation) but have concerns regarding the child's ongoing development.

7. With the bulk mailing of referrals, when is the individual transition conference held for each child?

Transition Planning Conferences are held at least 90 days prior to discharge unless the family has a scheduling request. The transition planning conference can be held before or after the referral is sent.

8. With the scheduled meeting dates Chesterfield discussed, what about when families aren't able to meet on the identified quarterly meeting dates?

Meetings between the established dates are scheduled based upon family need.

9. Does each transition planning conference have to be individualized in order to count as an IFSP mtg.?

Yes

10. When multiple transition meetings are scheduled at the same time and conducted in the same room, how do you assure confidentiality for each family?

Chesterfield holds the conferences in a large room with separated spaces for each meeting.

11. Can Dawn state one more time if there is a 10 time frame, not in the 65 day timeline, in order for Part B to schedule a meeting with families?

The team shall meet within 10 business days following the receipt of the referral and the team must ensure that all evaluations are completed and that decisions about eligibility are made within 65 business days of the receipt of the referral by the special education administrator or designee.

12. Whose responsibility is it to invite Part C worker to the eligibility meeting?

Part C may be invited to the eligibility/IEP meeting(s). Part C is to be invited to the meeting(s) if parent requests. The Part B team is to work with the family to determine their preference and extend the invitation.