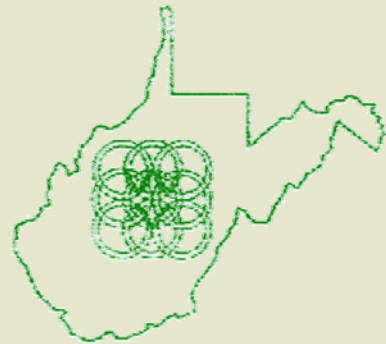


FISCAL YEAR 2006-2007

ANNUAL REPORT



West Virginia Early Intervention Interagency Coordinating Council

**Advising and Assisting WV Birth to Three
in the Provision of Quality Early
Intervention Services to Infants and
Toddlers with Developmental Delays
and their Families**

Dear Governor Manchin and Fellow West Virginians,

On behalf of the WV Early Intervention Interagency Coordinating Council we are pleased to submit the annual report of the ICC. This report reviews the status of early intervention/Birth to Three services in West Virginia and summarizes the activities and accomplishments of the ICC.

The ICC meets six times each year to assist the WV Department of Health and Human Services with the implementation of the WV Birth to Three system.

The Council is comprised of parents, providers, and State and local representatives of early childhood programs dedicated to the mission of “optimizing the health and development of young children with disabilities”.

We also encourage you to visit our web site at www.wvdhhr.org/wvicc to further explore the activities of the Council.

One huge accomplishment of which to be proud, WV Birth to Three has been recognized as one of fifteen states found to be “meeting requirements” established by the Federal Office of Special Education. This determination was made based upon WV’s performance against compliance indicators, quality of data and the quality of services and supports provided to eligible infants, toddlers and their families where they live, learn and play. This is a major accomplishment.

The Council appreciates your support of the WV Birth to Three system and we look forward to continuing the successful collaboration.

Sincerely,

**Tamara Bolyard
Acting Chairperson
(Head Start Representative)**

**Melinda Siler
Vice-Chairperson
(Parent Representative)**



What is the Early Intervention Interagency Coordinating Council?

Part C of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) requires the West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources (DHHR), as the lead agency, to have in place, a Governor-appointed Council with the purpose of providing advice and assistance to DHHR in the implementation of the State's early intervention system for infants and toddlers with developmental delays. The West Virginia Early Intervention Interagency Coordinating Council (ICC) is established in accordance with Federal regulations of IDEA and State statute. The ICC provides advice and assistance regarding the planning, implementation and evaluation of the WV Birth to Three System.

VISION STATEMENT

In order to optimize the health and development of young children with special needs, the Council believes that early intervention services should:



- ▶ be family centered;
- ▶ support and enhance the capacity of families to fully participate in their communities;
- ▶ support and enhance the capacity of communities to include families;
- ▶ have adequate and flexible resources and funding;
- ▶ be accountable, responsive and meaningful for families;
- ▶ ensure an individualized, integrated and coordinated team approach to service planning and delivery;
- ▶ ensure the development and retention of sufficient, qualified personnel; and
- ▶ be collaborative, seamless and comprehensive in order to provide service options for children with special needs ages birth through five and their families in settings and activities which are available for their typical age peers in natural environments within their community.



MISSION STATEMENT

To optimize the health and development of young children with special needs and their families.

2006-2007 Accomplishments

ICC Structure and Function

- Required membership categories are filled and members have a good understanding of their roles and responsibilities.
- Family representatives have positive supports to facilitate their participation in ICC activities.
- New members of the ICC participate in an Orientation session at the beginning of their term and have ongoing contact with the Council Director, Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson.
- Centralized meeting locations and structure have increased Council Member attendance and participation at meetings.

Advice and Assistance to WVDHHR

- Assisted with ideas on how to meet the Federally required State Performance Plan and Annual Performance Report requirements.
- Assisted WV Birth to Three in obtaining a “Meets Requirements” rating from the U.S. Department of Education, Office of Special Education—the highest rating possible.
- Provided feedback regarding quarterly data reports and methods, including strategies for gathering required data.
- Representation on WV Transition Steering Committee to advise and assist with support for local early childhood collaborative groups and identifying potential gap in service options for three year olds.
- Reviewed and provided feedback regarding revision of personnel standards.
- Provided input and comment to Regional Administrative Units.
- Served as representatives for stakeholders by sharing information.



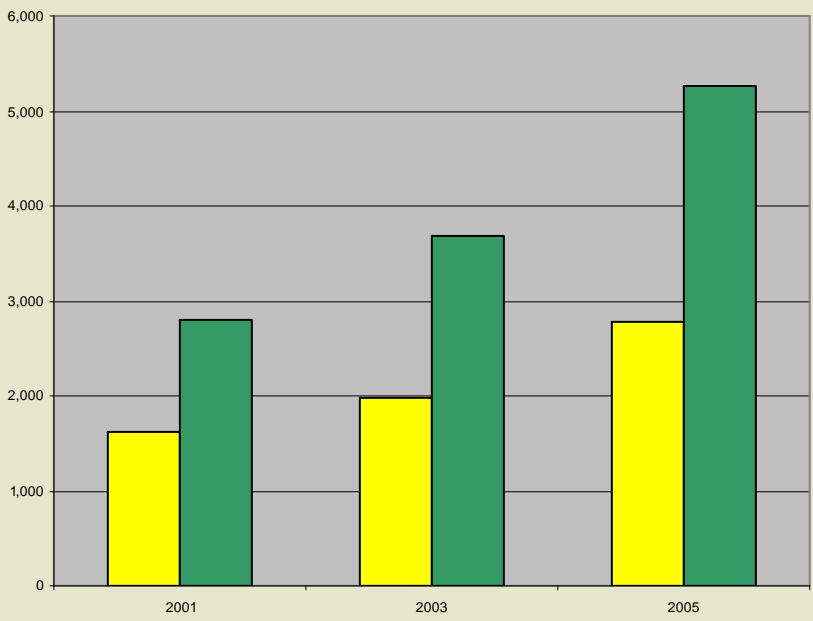
“WV Birth to Three has made a major contribution to my son’s quality of life and my ability to effectively meet his special needs. The improvement my son has made after working with his Birth to Three providers has been tremendous. They have given me support, confidence, information and techniques that help me help him. Thank you.” – Parent

Under the Federal regulations of IDEA, each State's lead agency must assure that all potentially eligible infants and toddlers with developmental delays under the age of three are identified and provided with appropriate developmental services as identified on the child and family's Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP). States are not allowed to have waiting lists for services. Eligibility for IFSP services is not based on income – a family of any educational or income level may have a child with developmental delay. Eligibility is based on the child having a developmental delay in the areas of cognition, fine or gross motor skills, language, social/emotional, or adaptive skills.



Each state, in implementing the Infant/Toddler portion of IDEA, is contributing to the state's early childhood education system.

■ Point in Time Child Count—Dec 1
■ 12-Month Aggregate Count

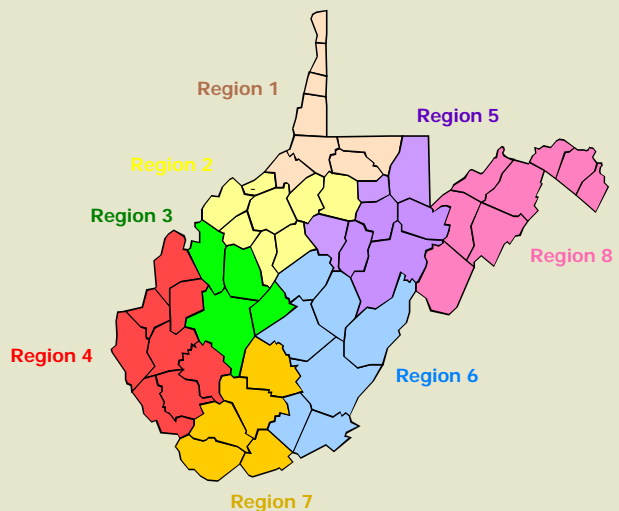


**For more information regarding the WV Birth to Three system, please visit www.wvdhhr.org/birth23
 Or contact the State office at 1-800-642-9704**

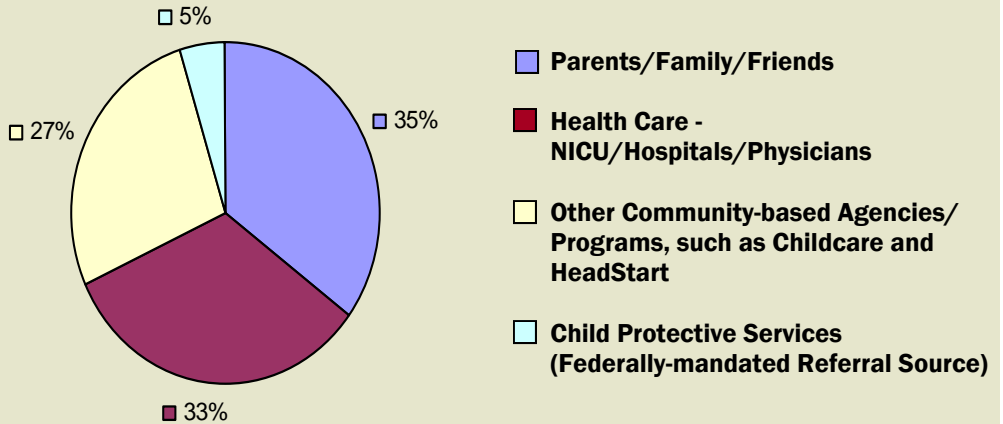
Number of Children who received WV Birth to Three Services by County (Aggregate Count from 7/1/2006 to 6/30/2007)

<u>Region 1</u>	<u>Region 3</u>	<u>Region 5</u>	<u>Region 7</u>
Brooke: 43 Hancock: 74 Marion: 113 Marshall: 85 Monongalia: 173 Ohio: 115 Tyler: 20 Wetzel: 33	Clay: 72 Jackson: 97 Kanawha: 569 Roane: 46	Barbour: 39 Lewis: 40 Preston: 47 Randolph: 69 Taylor: 37 Tucker: 16 Upshur: 83	Fayette: 160 McDowell: 76 Mercer: 216 Raleigh: 273 Wyoming: 61
TOTAL: 656	TOTAL: 784	TOTAL: 331	TOTAL: 786
<u>Region 2</u>	<u>Region 4</u>	<u>Region 6</u>	<u>Region 8</u>
Calhoun: 24 Doddridge: 10 Gilmer: 29 Harrison: 267 Pleasants: 19 Ritchie: 42 Wirt: 14 Wood: 258	Boone: 55 Cabell: 337 Lincoln: 74 Logan: 117 Mason: 72 Mingo: 61 Putnam: 173 Wayne: 108	Braxton: 48 Greenbrier: 148 Monroe: 27 Nicholas: 76 Pocahontas: 58 Summers: 40 Webster: 29	Berkeley: 291 Grant: 42 Hampshire: 60 Hardy: 91 Jefferson: 148 Mineral: 96 Morgan: 29 Pendleton: 28
TOTAL: 663	TOTAL: 997	TOTAL: 426	TOTAL: 785

*From July 1, 2006 to June 30, 2007,
5,438 West Virginia children
received Birth to Three services.*



Referral Sources for Children in WV Birth to Three Between 7/01/06 and 6/30/07



WV Birth to Three Funding

Funding Sources	Formula for Allocation	Approx. Annual Budget
Federal Part C Funds	Allocation is based on State's population of infants. No additional funds are provided for serving more infants and toddlers.	\$2,138,714
State BTT Line Item	State line item for service costs has not increased since the late 1990s. In 2002, an increase of approximately \$1,000,000 was provided to improve practitioner skills.	\$3,307,043
Title V Funds	Supported evaluation for non-Medicaid eligible children, up to amount that was available from limited Title V funds. Federally, Title V funds have been reduced.	\$50,000
Medicaid Reimbursement	Billed for children who have Medicaid coverage on the date of service. Fund recovery process – CFO submits bills to Medicaid on behalf of WV BTT. Documentation must support eligibility and service definition.	\$14,000,000

Child Outcomes



WV Birth to Three measures performance outcomes for infants and toddlers and their families who receive Part C early intervention services, using nationally established criteria.

National Child and Family Outcomes for Part C of IDEA were developed through a multi-year, broad based stakeholder process that was facilitated by the national Early Childhood Outcomes Center (ECO). The U.S. Department of Education then charged each state with establishing systems to measure and report on the percentage of children who received WV Birth to Three services and achieved the following outcomes:

Children who receive services through WV Birth to Three will have:

- **Positive social emotional skills (including positive social relationships);**
- **Acquisition and use of knowledge and skills (including early language/communication); and**
- **Use of appropriate behaviors to meet their needs.**

Baseline data has been gathered via a phase in process and was initially reported to the Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) in February 2007. WV Birth to Three tracks three Child Outcome Indicators, as indicated on the graph below:

Outcome	Percent of infants and toddlers functioning at level comparable to same age peers	Percent of infants and toddlers functioning at level below same age peers
Outcome 1: Infants and toddlers have positive social-emotional skills	45% (94)	55% (113)
Outcome 2: Infants and toddlers acquire and use knowledge and skills	32% (67)	68% (140)
Outcome 3: Infants and toddlers use appropriate behaviors to meet their needs	30% (62)	70% (145)

Family Outcomes

All states providing early intervention services under Part C of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) must have a system in place to measure three family outcomes identified by the U.S. Department of Education.

WV Birth to Three uses a nationally developed family survey to measure the benefits that families experience as a result of their involvement in the WVBTT early intervention system. Surveys are sent to the family of each child that exits WVBTT.



National outcomes for families that receive Part C/WV Birth to Three services:

1. Families know their rights and effectively communicate their children's needs.
2. Families understand their children's strengths, abilities and special needs.
3. Families help their children develop and learn.

The following data is reported for responding families whose children exited the WV Birth to Three system during the Federal reporting period of July 1, 2005 and June 30, 2006.

<p>Outcome 1: Over the past year, early intervention services have helped me or my family: know about my child's and family's rights concerning EI services.</p>	<p>95.9% of families agreed, with 69.9% of families expressing strong or very strong agreement.</p>
<p>Outcome 2: Over the past year, early intervention services have helped me or my family: communicate more effectively with people who work with my child and my family.</p>	<p>95.6% of families agreed, with 66.6% of families expressing strong or very strong agreement.</p>
<p>Outcome 3: Over the past year, early intervention services have helped me or my family: understand my child's special needs.</p> <p>Over the past year, early intervention services have helped me or my family: do things with and for my child that are good for my child's development.</p>	<p>96.5% of families agreed, with 82.7% of families expressing strong or very strong agreement.</p> <p>97.2% of families agreed, with 74.7% of families expressing strong or very strong agreement.</p>

ICC Calendar 2007-2008

September 19, 2007	ICC Meeting	Sutton, WV
November 14, 2007	ICC Meeting	Sutton, WV
January 16, 2008	ICC Meeting	Charleston, WV
March 19, 2008	ICC Meeting	Sutton, WV
May 21, 2008	ICC Meeting	Sutton, WV
July 8-10, 2008	ICC Retreat	Stonewall Resort

**** All meetings are open to the public ****

The ICC has identified the following activities/ priorities for 2007-2008:

- ◆ **Development of the ICC Annual Report**
- ◆ **Review of the ICC Bylaws**
- ◆ **Provide advice and assistance to WV Birth to Three regarding:**
 - ⇒ **Development of Family Materials**
 - ⇒ **Revisions of WV Birth to Three Policy/ Procedures**
 - ⇒ **Revisions of Personnel Standards**
 - ⇒ **Strategies for Promoting Quality and Effective Practices**
 - ⇒ **Development of the State Performance Plan (SPP) and the Annual Performance Report (APR)**
 - ⇒ **Measurement of the WV Birth to Three Child and Family Outcomes**



“No parent wants to believe something is wrong with their child, but the time comes when reality sinks in. Then comes all the questions and doubts – ‘what are we supposed to do now?’, ‘what can I expect for my child’s future?’, ‘who can help us?’, ‘I don’t think I can help my child’. WV Birth to Three was there for us every step of the way, answering our questions and helping us make educated and informed decisions. WV Birth to Three helped us see that our child did not have a disability, rather, she had a gift.” - Parent

For additional information regarding the activities of the WV Early Intervention Interagency Coordinating Council, please visit our web site:
www.wvdhhr.org/wvicc



WV Early Intervention Interagency Coordinating Council Membership

Family Representatives:

Melanie Braun
Kasey Brown
Elizabeth Flowers
Judy Harris
Jerry Hunter
Mary McCartney
Michelle Miller
Melinda Siler

Provider Representatives:

S. Renee Barger
Shirley Harrah
Julia Higginbotham
Shirley Joan Martin
Bill McDonald
Lora Morehead

Other Representatives:

Tammy Bolyard, *Head Start*
Mark Drnach, *Higher Education*
Ginger Huffman, *Preschool Special Ed*
Lena Rapp, *Head Start*
Erica Sauer, *Preschool Special Ed*
Diane Smith Grych, *Higher Education*

State Agency Representatives:

John Bianconi, *BHHF Commissioner*
Designees—Pat Kelley & Cassandra Toliver
Lisa Burton, *Office for the Ed of Homeless Children and Youth*
Jane Cline, *Insurance Commission*
Designee—Stephanie Shabbandy
Marsha Morris, *BMS Commissioner*
Designees—Brandy Pierce & Pat Woods
Pat Moss, *OMCFH Director*
Jason Najmulski, *BCF Commissioner*
Designees—Joyce Tucker & Toby Lester
House of Delegates
Senate

Members-At-Large:

Randy Bridgette, *RAU Grantor*
Patricia Cline, *Parent Educator Resource Center*
Gale Cole, *Parent Partners*
Pat Haberbosch, *Director WVPTI*
Designee—Margie Marion
Clarice Hausch, *Director WV Advocates*
Designee—Teresa McDonough
Theresa Hoskins, *Family Resource Network*
James M. Lewis, MD, *AAP*
Carlos Lucero, MD, *AAP*
Helen Wilson, *RAU Coordinator*
Steve Wiseman, *Director WV DDC*
Designee—Jim Cremeans

To refer a child to the WV Birth To Three system in state, please call
1-866-321-4728 or **1-800-642-9704** (TDD/TTY).



Special thanks to the WV families who participated in Birth to Three. Thanks also to the WV Birth to Three State Office Staff, WV Birth to Three Practitioners and the WV early childhood community.



The activities of the West Virginia Early Intervention Interagency Coordinating Council are funded through Part C of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act 2004 and are supported by the West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources, Bureau for Public Health, Office of Maternal, Child and Family Health.