Speech-Language Pathology Supports and Services Update

Marie C. Ireland, M.Ed., CCC-SLP
Virginia Department of Education
June 22, 2012
Agenda

• SLP Service Data
• SLP Guidance
• Other Supports for SLPs
• New Initiatives
• Update on Staffing
What is the percentage of SWD who receive SLP services?
SLP Services and Data

• ~40% of all SWD receive SLP services
• 63,882 – Total SLI
• 27,356 – primary disability
• 36,526 – secondary, tertiary, and related services
• Virginia Caseload limit remains at 68:1
Trends for SLI

• Decrease in Primary SLI and Total SLI
• Secondary and Tertiary remain constant
• Decrease attributed to:
  • Pre-referral interventions
  • Guidance Document and Training
    • Developmental norms
    • Eligibility Criteria
    • Assessments
    • Dialect
    • Educational vs. Medical
Staffing Update

- Fewer Shortages
- Support for LEAs
  - Materials
  - VIP-SLP Program
- Facts:
  - LEAs with appropriate caseloads and best practices have less difficulty
  - Rural areas are still impacted
VDOE SLP Guidance Document

• Revision released August 2011
• Training across Virginia 2011-2012
• Follow up training for new hires
• Used by most VA graduate programs
• Adopted by other states with permission
2011 SLP Guidelines (Blue Book)

• Added content sections on:
  • Comprehensive Assessment
  • Evidence Based Practice (EBP)
    • Data Collection
    • Data Analysis
  • Language Diversity
  • Phonological Processes
  • Autism
  • Forms
Frequently Accessed Pages

• Evidence-Based Practice (EBP) – p 11
• Documentation and Data – p 13
• Comprehensive Assessment – p 17
• Eligibility Criteria - p 34
• Language Diversity – p 53
• Phonological Processes – p 61
• Assessment /Therapy Forms – p 89-131
Talking EBP

• Twice yearly newsletter for SLPs
• Free and archived on VDOE website
• 5 Sections in each issue
  • Need to Know
  • Test your Knowledge
  • Practically Speaking
  • Working with Data
  • More to Explore
Telepractice

• Permissible by CMS
• No used often because states are ‘silent’ or have limited guidance
• Possible to address shortages using this method
  • Long term
  • Short term
  • Special populations
Telepractice in VA

- Multi-year initiative
- Collaboration with DMAS, JMU, & UNCG
- Pilot program
  - Year 1 - Set up and implementation
  - Year 2 - Student data collection
- Participating LEAs
  - Wise and Brunswick
- Provided therapy for students
- Documented processes used for DMAS
Outcomes

- Students made progress
- DMAS reviewed and made needed adjustments to policy
  - RMTS – How to record contractors
  - Simultaneous provider billing – SLP and PCA
  - Oct. 2011 announced changes and support for telepractice by SLPs in Virginia Schools
- New SLP providers to meet needs
- National coverage of Success
  - NAME Conference, ASHA Leader, & ASHA webinars
Next Steps

• Share VA process with other states
• Continue to refine VA processes
• Training for LEAs on use for short term and long term vacancies and special populations
• Possible Year 3 project – Examine evaluation using telepractice
Continued Areas of Attention

• Medicaid & Telepractice
• EBP & Therapy Practices
  • Effectiveness, Efficiency, and Density of Responses
• EBP & Comprehensive Assessment
  • Educational vs. Medical
  • Dialect
  • Appropriate use of all data types
• Low or Non-Verbal Communication
  • Assessment and Use of Devices & Target Selection
• Apraxia
Questions
Marie.ireland@doe.virginia.gov
(804)786-9775