

Hampton Roads, VA

The members of this Hampton Roads community partnership represent insurance companies, health care providers, family members, persons with special needs, advocacy groups, the Public Health department, emergency planning commission, and developmental disabilities.

It's a "CINCH"

CINCH is a community partnership to promote health and prevent disease among all living in Hampton Roads, Virginia. Also known as the Consortium for Infant and Child Health, CINCH was first formed ten years ago, beginning with a focus on health issues such as promoting vaccines, asthma prevention, and enrollment of children into Medicaid and SCHIP. Dr. Frances D. Butterfoss, a well-known expert in community building, has been a leader in the consortium. CINCH now has over 200 members who get work accomplished through numerous work groups.



Recently, Cynthia Fisher, member of the **Care Connections Program**, proposed the creation of a CSHCN workgroup to be created from CINCH members. It consists of about 12-16 work group members who represent insurance companies, health care providers, family members, persons with special needs, advocacy groups, the Public Health department, emergency planning commission, and developmental disabilities. This workgroup supports the efforts of the Virginia's CSHCN Care Connection program in coordinating services for children and youth with special needs and their families. In turn, CSHCN Care Connection funds are used to support staff time needed by the work group, e.g., doing meeting minutes, organizing materials, etc.

CINCH's CSHCN workgroup has accomplished a lot in just one year. Building on the model developed by Connie Wells in Florida, the workgroup has developed and disseminated a portable

medical summary that families can use to share with health care providers during emergency situations. They also educated families regarding the importance of emergency planning and emphasized the parent's role in taking responsibility for updating and sharing the medical summary. The CSHCN workgroup is now working on meeting oral health needs due to the shortage of providers who are willing to serve CSHCN and who accept Medicaid.

What makes a Star Community?

ChampionsInC has created the **Star Communities** program to recognize exceptional communities.

Star Communities will show excellence in **6 Performance Measures**:

1. Families are partners
2. A "Medical Home" provides coordinated care
3. Children receive early and continuous screening
4. Families have adequate funding/insurance to pay for services
5. Services are organized so families can use them easily and are satisfied
6. Youth receive necessary services to make the transition to adult life

read about other Star Communities at
www.ChampionsInC.org

Learn more about CINCH, the CSHCN workgroup, and Virginia's Care Connection, contact **Cynthia Fisher** at (757) 668- 8465.

You may also visit the following websites:
<http://www.chkd.org/Services/CareConnection/>
<http://cinchcoalition.blogspot.com/>