

**Commonwealth of Virginia
State Board of Social Services**

**Department of Social Services
Central Regional Office
1604 Santa Rosa Road
Richmond, Virginia 23229**

August 19, 2015

Attending: Mr. Willie Greene, Sr. (Chair), Dr. Danny Avula (Vice Chair), Mrs. Joanne Webster (Secretary), Ms. Lou Ali, Ms. Sheila Coppage, Mr. Darrell Jordan, Jr., Dr. Jack Knapp, Ms. Mona Malik, Mr. Clyde Santana, Ms. Veronica Washington, Mr. Kent Willis

Also in Attendance: Ms. Margaret Ross Schultze (Commissioner), Mr. Allen Wilson (Sr. Assistant Attorney General).

Meeting called to order at 9:00 am – Mr. Willie Greene, Sr.
Mr. Greene welcomed Veronica Washington to the Board and asked members to introduce themselves.

Review of Agenda – Ms. Karin Clark, Regulatory Coordinator

With consensus, Mr. Greene removed action item two, 22VAC40-675, Personnel Policies for Local Departments of Social Services – Fast Track, from the August agenda due to not having a letter of assurance. It is anticipated that this item will be on the October 2015 meeting agenda.

Comments from the Commissioner – Ms. Margaret Ross Schultze

- Commissioner Schultze visited three local departments in the Southwest region in June and received positive feedback.
- The agency has been working on the development of legislative proposals and budget requests for the legislative session beginning in January 2016. She will share more information as proposals and budget requests are finalized.
- At the Virginia League of Social Services Executives' May 2015 meeting, a video from Pennsylvania was shared on bridging the poverty gap. Commissioner would like to present the information to the Board at the October meeting.

Commissioner Schultze provided updates on the following major agency projects:

1. Eligibility Modernization
2. Permanency for Children in Foster Care
3. Child Support Modernization
4. Safe & Quality Child Care in the Commonwealth

Child Fatality Update – Rita Katzman

Ms. Katzman provided an update on child fatalities in Virginia for SFY 2014.

COMMENT PERIOD

Comment from the Public

Tawana Bryant – Virginia’s Adult Care Residence Association

Ms. Bryant discussed concerns regarding: daily ALF payment rates; ALF residents being relocated into unsupervised settings; the volume of standards on facilities; regard for resident rights; and qualification/training/protocol for licensing inspectors.

Comments from the Virginia League of Social Services Executives– Cathy Pemberton

Ms. Pemberton spoke about the child fatality report Rita Katzman presented and the incident that happened in Vermont where a CPS worker was killed by a client. Powhatan and Goochland counties are having an informational meeting on October 5th about bridges out of poverty. Local departments continue to have concerns about the case management systems and will arrange a meeting with DMAS to discuss. The League prepared a white paper for the Secretary and Office of Children’s Services regarding restructuring that program.

Comments from the Virginia Community Action Partnership – Jim Schuyler

Mr. Schuyler attended the 10th Senate District Forum sponsored by Voices for Virginia’s Children, which is a statewide organization that focuses on key issues such as helping children living in poverty and assisting teens aging out of foster care. Final grant reports are being reviewed from twenty-five free income tax preparation and asset building coalitions that form the Virginia CASH Campaign overseen by VACAP. VACAP and the state CSBG office are collaborating closely on the development and monitoring of training and technical assistance services being provided to the network.

Regulatory Update – Karin Clark, Regulatory Coordinator

A public hearing will be held on proposed 22VAC40-72, Standards for Licensed Assisted Living Facilities on October 13, 2015, beginning at 2:00 pm at the Central Regional Office.

ACTION ITEMS

1. **Approve June 2015 Minutes**

On Motion Duly Made, (Dr. Knapp), second (Ms. Copping), motion approved with all in favor.

2. **22VAC40-675, Personnel Policies for Local Departments of Social Services – Fast Track**

This item will be postponed until the October meeting, pending receipt of the letter of assurance.

3. **22VAC40-780, Elimination of Financial Eligibility Criteria for Direct Social Services – Fast Track**

On Motion Duly Made, (Ms. Ali), second (Dr. Avula), motion approved with all in favor.

4. **22VAC40-920, Appeals of Financial Sanctions for Local Departments of Social Services – NOIRA**
On Motion Duly Made, (Mr. Jordan), second (Ms. Coppage), motion approved with all in favor.
5. **22VAC40-680, Virginia Energy Assistance Program – Periodic Review Report**
On Motion Duly Made, (Dr. Knapp), second (Mr. Santana), motion approved with all in favor.
The regulation was retained with no change.
6. **22VAC40-890, Human Subject Research Regulations – Periodic Review Report**
On Motion Duly Made, (Mr. Willis), second (Mrs. Webster), motion approved with all in favor.
The regulation was retained with no change.
7. **22VAC40-901, Community Services Block Grant – Periodic Review Report**
On Motion Duly Made, (Ms. Ali), second (Ms. Washington), motion approved with all in favor.
The regulation was retained with no change.
8. **22VAC40185, Standards for Licensed Child Day Centers – Proposed –Request to withdraw**
On Motion Duly Made, (Dr. Knapp), second (Mr. Santana), motion approved with all in favor.

Board Member Comments

Mr. Santana enjoyed the meeting and appreciated Mr. Schulyer's comments.

Dr. Knapp appreciated the updated member listing. He noted that Rita's report was well-prepared and commended local social workers.

Ms. Coppage looks forward to more information on the poverty trap.

Mr. Willis commented on the very detailed child fatality report and was not aware of all the EITC work done by the state.

Mrs. Webster echoed the comments for Rita's presentation and thanked Cathy Pemberton for the awareness of safety for the social workers.

Dr. Avula indicated that members and the agency need to brainstorm about what current efforts to market the need for adoption of foster children.

Ms. Malik apologized for missing the last meeting. Rita's report was tragic but very important. She agreed with Dr. Avula about getting the information out in reference to the adoption of foster children.

Ms. Washington thanked the Board for the introductions. Having been a CPS worker previously, the information was very familiar to her. Her first meeting was informative and she noted that social workers need to know their work is appreciated.

Ms. Ali indicated that it was disheartening to hear about the child fatalities, but looks forward to hearing about the poverty trap. She referenced the social worker being killed in Vermont. She applauded the Commissioner for the support given to the Board.

Mr. Jordan welcomed Ms. Washington to the Board and is looking forward to more information on the poverty trap. He also looks forward to the presentation about adoption, and is willing to help raise awareness in his travels.

Mr. Greene stated this was the first full Board meeting in some time. He appreciated the child fatality report and, although the statistics were not good, he is happy the issue is being worked on. The new start time for the Board meeting will be 10:00 a.m. However, an occasional two-day meeting may be necessary to accommodate additional topics.

Adjourned at 1:11pm