

**Child Fatality Committee
State Board of Social Services
December 15, 2011
9:00 AM**

Attendees

Bob Spadaccini, Michelle Larkin, Willie Greene, Jim Pope, JoAnn Wilson-Harfst, Margaret Schultze, Karin Clark, Betty Jo Zarris, Al Wilson, and Rita Katzman

Call to Order

Robert (Bob) Spadaccini, called the meeting to order and reviewed the agenda. He announced that Ms. Kiser-Williams had resigned from the Board and that Michelle Larkin would replace her on this committee.

Minutes

By consensus, the committee agreed to accept the Minutes with one correction. Under Next Steps, the word “participated” is misspelled.

Draft Committee Charter

The Charter was reviewed and accepted with one change. Under Objectives: the sentence will now read: “the overall objective of the subcommittee is to advise the State Board of Social Service (SBSS) on child welfare program, policy, training, and practice issues identified by the Subcommittee in order to prevent future deaths”.

Under Roles and Responsibilities: 4th bullet—remove “and the DSS”.

Under Structure and composition of the Subcommittee: 3rd bullet-insert the word “Executives” after Virginia League of Social Services....

Additional bullet: add representative of Law Enforcement to the Committee composition.

ON MOTION DULY MADE (Mr. Greene) and seconded, moved to approve the Structure and Composition of the Subcommittee with the above mentioned changes. Motion approved with all in favor.

Department staff will contact representatives to fill the committee vacancies. Ms. Zarris will provide Ms. Rengnerth with this information.

Regional Child Fatality Review Teams

Rita Katzman provided a report to the members. This is attached to the official minutes housed in the VDSS Home Office. The briefing included the roles of the regional teams, how to recruit, cases to be reviewed, confidentiality, etc.

The regional consultant will serve as Team leader and may call upon the State Review Team for assistance when needed.

As the Regional Teams meet statewide, invitations will be sent to Board members in their respective areas so they may attend.

Physician Training

The committee again discussed the possibility of 8 hours additional child abuse/neglect training for physicians (mentioned in report from Dr. Powell). It was thought that requiring additional training may require regulation and Code change.

ON MOTION DULY MADE (Ms. Larkin) and seconded, moved to direct the Commissioner to engage in conversation with the Commissioner of Health Professions and/or the Board of Medicine and the Board Chair to begin dialogue with her counterpart at the appropriate Board to advance training on suspected abuse. Motion approved.

Ms. Zarris and Ms. Katzman will review the report and have information available for both the Commissioner and Board Chair.

MOU's for CPS

A copy of the Memoranda of Understanding with law enforcement and Commonwealth's Attorney was provided to members. There was much discussion surrounding appeals being overturned. Mr. Wilson requested that Ms. Schultze provide a copy of the Appeal Report. Mr. Wilson was asked to contact each county attorney and ask them not to use the phrase "we rest on the record". This will be revisited at the February meeting, and Ms. Katzman will bring information on how many localities have a MOU.

CPS staff training

There was some misunderstanding regarding CPS training being mirrored for on-call workers. On-call workers do not require 4 weeks additional training; only about 4 days. Mr. Spadaccini will address this issue at the February Board meeting since members voted to "mirror" the training at a previous meeting. Since this action will require policy change, Ms. Zarris asked that an effective date of July 1, 2012 be considered.

Intervention Services

Ms. Zarris advised there will be new guidance in January with the newly formed Prevention Unit. She reminded members that we can request families accept prevention services, but it is voluntary. Ms. Zarris advised that a presentation on the types of prevention services that are available could be arranged for the Board.

Future Meeting Date

The next meeting of the committee will be on Thursday, April 19 at 1 PM—Central Region Office.

Ms. Schultze advised that subcommittee member Tom Casteel had accepted the position of Western Region Director.

Next Steps

Multidisciplinary Teams will be discussed at the April meeting.

Staff will review how many of these teams are in localities. If they staff CPS—how are they used?

Adjourn