

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

Virginia Department of Social Services
7 N. Eighth Street
Richmond, Virginia 23219

August 19-20, 2009

Members Present

Trudy Brisendine, Danny Brown (Wednesday), Shirley Culpepper, Willie T. Greene, Margaret Luca, Barbara Manuel, Brenda Hornsby, Michelle Larkin, (Thursday) and Bela Sood.

Members Absent

Michelle Larkin (Wednesday)
Danny Brown (Thursday)

CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Trudy Brisendine called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

Announcements

Willie Greene Sr., newly appointed member to the Board was introduced as the replacement for Peppy Linden. Members and staff introduced themselves and provided their history with the Board and department.

Mr. Greene brings a wealth of knowledge and expertise to the Board. He also serves as Vice Mayor of Galax, a member of the VA Board of Social Work and on various other committees.

(Adult and Children committees met from 9:00-10:00 a.m.)

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Chairman Brisendine thanked Commissioner Conyers and the department for hosting this meeting.

REVIEW OF THE AGENDA

Richard Martin, Manager of the Office of Legislative and Regulatory Affairs reviewed the meeting agenda.

Status of Regulations

Richard Martin advised that the department has 57 regulations in place. Six of the 57 are currently in the process of being amended, 18 are being repealed, and nine additional new regulations are being promulgated.

That totals 66 regulations and potential regulations. Between now and the next Board meeting, four of the repeals will become effective and the body of regulations will be reduced by four. This report is attached to the minutes.

Division of Child Support Enforcement Overview

Nick Young, Deputy Commissioner and Director of Division of Child Support Enforcement, provided an overview of the program. The mission is to promote strong, self-reliant families by delivering child support enforcement services, as provided by law, through the location of non-custodial parents, establishment of paternity, establishment of orders, enforcement of orders, collection of child support, and distribution of child support.

Services are provided through 19 state-operated and two privately-operated offices. For FFY08, the Virginia Division of Child Support Enforcement produced \$7.25 in child support for every \$1.00 spent—the 4th highest rate in the nation.

Challenges in the next two years include increasing collections in current economic climate; expanding delivery of medical support services; continuing to attract highly qualified, motivated staff; increase percentage of paternity establishments for non-marital birth; and meet demands for increased services.

The State Board can assist through supporting paternity outreach initiatives/programs; support fatherhood initiatives; support participation in prisoner reentry programs; support and input on the Poverty Summit; and share and communicate role of child support enforcement in fighting poverty.

A copy of the handout is attached to the official minutes.

Child Welfare Transformation

Ray Ratke, Special Advisor for Children's Services advised that Virginia's child-serving agencies are improving the way we help at-risk children and their families to achieve success in life, safety for children and communities, life in the community, family based placements, and life-long family connections.

The Virginia Children's Services System Practice Model sets forth a vision for the services that are delivered by all child serving agencies across the Commonwealth, especially the Departments of Social Services, Juvenile Justice, Education, Behavioral Health and Developmental Services and the Office of Comprehensive Services. The practice model is central to decision making; present in all meetings; and in every interaction with a child or family. Decision that are based on the practice model will be supported and championed. Guided by this model, the process to continuously improve services for children and families will be rooted in the best of practices, the most accurate and current data available, and with the safety and well-being of children as the fixed center of our work.

A copy of this handout is attached to the official minutes.

Child and Family Services Review Update

Paul McWhinney, Director of Division of Family Services advised on site reviews were done July 13-17 in Fairfax, Hampton and Tazewell with a total of 65 cases reviewed. Thanks to Debra Eves and Lynette Isbell for their assistance.

There is only preliminary data available at this time. Indications show agency wide improvement for systems is needed. The next step will be to begin the Program Improvement Plan.

The Child Welfare Advisory Committee will meet on Friday.

COMMENT PERIOD

Public Comment

Anne Mitchell, social work supervisor from King William Department of Social Services spoke to the Board on behalf of the Virginia Alliance of Social Work Practitioners and their concerns on HB 1146 regarding social worker licensure. A complete copy of this comment is attached to the official minutes housed in the home office.

Local Boards and Directors of Social Services

Local directors recognized included Susan Clark, Cathy Pemberton, Sam Bush, Jack Ledden, Michelle Lauter, and Shawn Rozier. Northern Regional Director Vickie Johnson-Scott attended.

Shawn Rozier, provided comments on behalf of Henrico County DSS and as co-chair for the League CSA committee. He appreciated the collaboration shown by VDSS in this initiative and they support the use of the rate structure for private and public TFC placements, and at the time of adoptive placements. They also support the flexibility that VDSS is allowing localities to choose whether implementation of an ADS rate structure for children outside of TFC placement is best for our children and youth; support the use of rate structure for public and private TFC, and at the time of adoptive placement. We've long had various rate structures with different providers of TFC, and one rate structure is a positive outcome. The flexibility that VDSS is attempting to provide in the administration of the tool to include the group that administers the tool, and schedule of re-administration. The schedule has gone from quarterly and at placement change, to yearly or whenever there are behavioral, emotional, or medical changes for a period of two weeks or more that warrant re-administration of the tool. An appeals process that does not contain significant administrative burden on localities to the extent possible based on federal guidance.

Several VLSSE members have voiced concerns about the requirement for supervisor's to be present for the administration of the VEMAT due to two main factors: meetings with TFC parents are often not local, and in smaller agencies the supervisor is often the Director who will be in charge of the appeal process.

We have requested that VDSS allow some flexibility with this requirement and have subsequently learned that it has been removed as a requirement.

The other concerns relate to the department's stated goal of eventually expanding rate structure to the entire foster care caseload to include all foster home placements (not just TFC). The VLSSE position paper on the implication and concerns with this expansion, along with the VLSSE position statements/recommendation on rate structure are attached to the official minutes housed in the home office.

Local Boards and Directors of Community Action Agencies

Hope Cupits, Vice Chair and Deputy CEO of Southeast Rural Community Assistance Project and *Terry Lewis*, Chair of the Board were introduced. The Southeast Rural Community Assistance Project works with community organizations, local and regional governments and concerned citizens to develop and implement cost-effective programs that provide quality water and wastewater facilities for rural communities. This is more than just a charitable operation. Their ultimate goal is to mobilize local resources through customized training programs and technical assistance. By empowering rural residents and encouraging leadership roles, they help communities develop the skills, expertise, and organizational structure required to operate their systems safely and cost-effectively.

The program provides the tools and know-how that town managers, superintendents, and system operators need to assure that their small water and wastewater systems comply with federal and state regulations. A copy of the handout is attached to the official minutes housed in the home office.

Tom Wagstaff, President and CEO of Richmond Community Action Agency thanked the department for their financial support of the Scholars Reading for Life Program. This program allows children to read a book a week and share their talents with each other. The programs include dance, swimming, and field trips. Children are treated to a USDA breakfast and lunch. Scholars may keep their new books and share them with siblings at home.

Virginia League of Social Services Executives' (VLSSE)

Sarah Snead, President of the VLSSE welcomed Mr. Greene to the Board and congratulated Ms. Sood and Ms. Brisendine on their reappointments. Ms. Snead advised that local agencies are facing "off the chart" caseloads; growing concern for the elderly; job losses; drug addiction families; and financial challenges.

She stated we are all sharing a common vision, to care for our most vulnerable citizens.

Rate Structure continues to be a "hot topic" and she said a rushed product rarely meets its potential. Lack of time and resources is also a concern. Best practices and initiatives are being rolled out too fast and are set to fail with the growing caseloads. The League is ready to work with state staff to address concerns.

Virginia Community Action Partnership (VACAP)

Jim Schuyler, Executive Director of VACAP, echoed Ms. Snead's remarks and welcomed Mr. Greene to the Board. He reported that four new community action agencies, Bay Aging, Community Action Partnership of Staunton-August and Waynesboro (CAP-SAW), Powhatan and Goochland Departments of Social Services have all hit the ground running assisting their communities. CAP-SAW announced last week they are accepting proposals for projects in four priority areas—services to prevent or ameliorate homelessness, family support services, and services to provide care for the elderly and disabled, and employment training and career service. Non-profit organizations and local government agencies are eligible to apply for these funds, which are funds provided under ARRA (stimulus funds). This is the kind of activity (identifying needs in their communities and working to meet those needs) that we know is happening in all agencies.

Twenty-three agencies are using some of the ARRA funds for emergency services and assistance. Similarly, twelve agencies are using some funds for employment programs; nine agencies for summer programs for youth; nine agencies for childcare programs; five agencies for vocational training programs; and five agencies for individual health programs. One of the more innovative projects has been in Fauquier County—a community farm that provides food for the area food bank.

Commissioner Conyers, Margaret Schultze, and Mark Grigsby and his staff were thanked for their amazing fortitude and patience in shepherding the CSBG ARRA state plan through the federal Office of Community Services.

Mr. Schuyler advised that fifteen of the twenty-two weatherization agencies in Virginia are community action agencies.

He also stated he was pleased with the collaboration between the community colleges that hosted the poverty conversation throughout Virginia and commended Marianne McGhee and her staff who put in countless hours to organize these complex and unique events.

Mr. Schuyler spoke of the recent purchase of a three-story building in downtown Lynchburg by the Lynchburg Community Action Group. The building's top two floors are office space and the ground level is retail and restaurants. With the approval of the city council, they were able to purchase the building and begin the new activity of managing the building as well as allowing them to expand initiatives in job training, housing counseling and support programs for ex-offenders—program operated out of the new building.

A copy of the 2007-08 Annual Report is attached to the minutes.

Commissioner's Report

Commissioner Conyers welcomed Mr. Greene to the Board.

Budget- 5/10/15 percent cuts were requested and submitted. The department is prepared to implement the plan that Department of Planning and Budget and the Office of the Governor approve.

Commissioner Conyers stated the plans submitted were painful and mentioned the department had already gone through two cuts without too much concern to the locals. He reminded there had been a 34 percent increase in TANF, Medicaid, and Food Stamps since July 2008.

Rate Structure- The Commissioner provided overall support for the rate structure implementation because it will provide equity to the process, basing any payment on the assessed needs of the child.

Poverty Summit-a lot of good information came out of this Summit; which grew from this Board wanting a committee to study poverty in Virginia

Continuing to work with faith-based and fatherhood initiatives. There have been six regional forums with faith-based groups networking on how best to address issues in this area.

Prisoner Reentry-there are 12,000 inmates leaving Virginia prisons yearly, mainly without a place to live or money to pay child support. It is imperative we get a hand around these issues.

We need to formulate best practice coordination of human service agencies. We need to remove barriers and increase self-sufficiency and bring a level of professionalism of early intervention to people's lives.

Committee Reports

Children's Issues

The Children's Issues Committee, led by Brenda Hornsby, Chair, discussed two regulations slated for action by the Board.

22 VAC 40-111, Standards for Licensed Family Day Homes, final action

Licensing staff answered a few questions about notice to Family Day Homes and noted that this regulation has come to the Board several times in the past 10 years, so Licensing made every effort to be inclusive and flexible in the final product. The committee agreed to propose adoption of this final stage.

22 VAC 40-910, General Provisions for Maintaining and Disclosing Confidential Information of Public Assistance and Social Services Records, exempt final action.

This regulation was an exempt final action because an interpretation from the federal child welfare office was received requiring Virginia to change the word “may” to “must” in regard to sharing information on a child fatality. With no discussion, the committee agreed to support this change.

Additionally, the Board was being asked to authorize instituting an Additional Daily Supervision (ADS) Rate Structure process on 10/1/09 to be evaluated over the coming year. Although the Board will receive the ADS rate structuring regulation at their October meeting, the Division of Family Services (DFS) staff explained to the committee that authorization before the regulations are implemented is crucial to our continued ability to utilize IV-E funding. The Commissioner spoke in support of the request from DFS, citing the fact that budget assumptions have been made predicated on a 10/1 implementation. He also provided overall support for the rate structure implementation because it will provide equity to the process, basing any payment on the assessed needs of the child.

Concerns about the assessment tool and the process for development were addressed by the Division Director and Therese Wolf, Foster Care Manager. It was pointed out that some of the unusual timing on this implementation is due to the lengthy development process that has attempted to involve all the stakeholders. While expressing some remaining concerns, the committee agreed to support this action.

ADULT ISSUES

The Committee on Adult Issues was chaired by Danny Brown. State Board members attending were S.E. Culpeper and Maggie Luca. Members heard from Alice Burlinson, Sr. Assistant Attorney General and VDSS staff respectively on the changes in the following regulations:

22 VAC 40-880 – Child Support Enforcement Program

- Creates a new regulation section entitled “Passport Denial Program” to comply with federal law.
- Will describe the program, a noncustodial parent’s release from the program and the appeal process.

22 VAC 40-601 – Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program

- Change the title name and all references from the “Food Stamp Program” and “food stamps” to the “Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program” (SNAP) and “SNAP benefits.”
- Creates new section mandating that SNAP applications be disposed of within 30 days.

- Transitional SNAP benefits will apply to households whose state-funded programs or benefits end in the same manner as federally funded public assistance programs.

The Committee voted unanimously to propose adoption of the two regulations.

ACTION ITEMS

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

ON MOTION DULY MADE (Mr. Brown) and seconded (Ms. Hornsby) moved to approve the June 2009 minutes as presented. Motion carried with all in favor.

22 VAC 40-160, FEE REQUIREMENTS FOR PROCESSING APPLICATIONS

NOTICE OF REGULATORY ACTION

This regulation action will revise the schedule for fees being charged to process the licensing application of assisted living facilities, adult day care centers, and child welfare agencies. Fees for processing licensing application have not increased since 1991.

ON MOTION DULY MADE (Mr. Culpepper) and seconded (Ms. Luca) moved to approve the notice of intended regulatory action for publication in the Virginia Register subject to approval under the provisions of Executive Order 36 (2006) and the Administrative Process Act. Motion carried with all in favor.

22 VAC 40-111, STANDARDS FOR LICENSED FAMILY DAY HOMES

FINAL ACTION

This regulation includes additional requirements in the areas of care and services for children; staff qualifications; training and responsibilities; management of the family day home; physical plant features; disclosure of information to parents; and emergency preparedness.

ON MOTION DULY MADE (Ms. Hornsby) on behalf of the committee moved to approve the final regulatory package for publication in the Virginia Register subject to approval under the provisions of Executive Order 36 (2006) and the Administrative Process Act. The final regulatory package includes the promulgation of 22 VAC 40-111, Standards for Licensed Family Day Homes, and the repeal of 22 VAC 40-110, Minimum Standards for Licensed Family Day Homes. This regulatory action will become effective thirty days after publication. Motion carried with all in favor.

22 VAC 40-880, CHILD SUPPORT ENFORCEMENT PROGRAM

FAST TRACK ACTION

The proposed amendments will provide authority for the passport denial program.

ON MOTION DULY MADE (Danny Brown) on behalf of the committee moved to approve the fast track proposed action to amend 22 VAC 40-880, Child Support Enforcement Program for publication in the Virginia Register subject to approval under the provisions of Executive Order Number 36 (2006) and authorizes the regulatory coordinator to immediately file a Notice of Intended Regulatory Action to initiate this action if, during executive review, it is deemed that this action is not appropriate for the fast track process. Motion carried with all in favor.

22 VAC 40-601, FOOD STAMP PROGRAM

PROPOSED ACTION

The amendments to this regulation will change the title of the program from Food Stamp Program to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP). Additionally, the amendments streamline the processing of SNAP applications and allow for transitional SNAP benefits.

ON MOTION DULY MADE (Danny Brown) on behalf of the committee moved to approve the proposed regulatory package to amend 22 VAC 40-601, Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program for publication in the Virginia Register subject to approval under the provisions of Executive Order Number 36 (2006) and approve the fiscal impact analysis of this action for distribution to local boards of social services pursuant to § 63.2-22217 of the Code of Virginia. Motion carried with all in favor.

22 VAC 40-910, GENERAL PROVISIONS FOR MAINTAINING AND DISCLOSING CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION OF PUBLIC ASSISTANCE AND SOCIAL SERVICES RECORDS

EXEMPT FINAL ACTION

The federal Administration for Children and Families has directed the State Board of Social Services to make the regulatory language consistent with the Child Abuse and Prevention Treatment Act, which requires states to have procedures or provisions that allow the public to access findings or information about a child abuse or neglect case that results in the fatality or near fatality of a child.

ON MOTION DULY MADE (Ms. Hornsby) on behalf of the committee, moved to approve the exempt final regulation package for publication in the Virginia Register subject to approval under the provisions of Executive Order 36 (2006) and the Administrative Process Act. This regulation action will become effective August 19, 2009. Motion carried with all in favor.

AUTHORIZE INSTITUTING ADDITIONAL DAILY SUPERVISION RATE STRUCTURE PROCESS

Federal law requires states to have a rate structure in order to seek reimbursement for Title IV-E funds. Normally, the implementation of new procedures would follow the promulgation of the regulation. However, the timing of the next Title IV-E federal review is causing the department to alter the standard sequence.

The Board confirmed there would be a public hearing at a future date prior to this regulation becoming final. A copy of the presentation, including Virginia Rate Structure history, goals, and progress to implementation is attached to the official minutes housed at the home office.

ON MOTION DULY MADE (Ms. Hornsby) on behalf of the committee moved to institute the Additional Daily Supervision Rate Structure process effective October 1, 2009. Motion carried with all in favor.

Information Item

Fatherhood Initiative

Curtis Smith, Division of Community and Volunteer Services spoke to the Board on Family Strengthening Initiatives. The purpose is to encourage the active participation of each parent in the lives of their children; promote ongoing quality family relationships between parents and children and support the responsibility of fathers, regardless of marital or financial status, in raising children and in the health and well-being of their families.

Goals include serving as a central clearinghouse and coordinating body for governmental, nongovernmental, state-based groups and individuals interested in fatherhood activities and information regarding the promotion of healthy and safe family practices; sponsor regular training for caseworkers on the benefits of involving fathers in the case planning process; identifying and promoting best practices I programs and services that support and engage each parent; recommend public policies and practices; encourage programs designed to educate and train young men in effective parenting and communication skills, financial literacy, conflict resolution, issues of family violence and related behavioral and attitudinal skills; and knowledge.

The group identify and support solutions to obstacles that impede or prevent the involvement of fathers in the lives of their children; identify barriers that prevent parents from forming strong bonds with children; support, sustain and engage each parent in the lives of their children; raise public awareness of the importance of father involvement and the consequences of their absence to children and promote the establishment of paternity at childbirth.

Update on Prince William County Review

Vickie Johnson-Scott, Northern Regional Director and *Jack Ledden*, Director Prince William Social Services provided additional information on the recent death of a child. Findings and recommendations were made and an action plan developed.

2010 Legislation Update

Richard Martin shared three legislative proposals:

SHHR-DSS-2

Section 63.2-1300 of the Code states that a child must be in the custody of a local department of social services or a licensed child-placing agency, along with meeting other criteria, to be considered a child with special needs. Being a child with special needs is one of the criteria for being eligible for Title IV-E adoption assistance. DSS has been informed by the Administration for Children and Families that requiring a child to be in custody does not comply with federal Title IV-E requirements. In addition §63.2-1302 states that the adoption assistance payment is composed of two parts, the maintenance payment and the special needs, or services, payment. The special needs portion will continue to be paid from state funds. The eligibility requirements for the special services payment do not need to be identical to those for the maintenance portion.

This proposed legislation would amend §§63.2-1300 and 63.2-101 to ensure compliance with federal law for Title IV-E funding. It would remove “custody” by local departments and licensed child-placing agencies as a component of a child’s eligibility for adoption assistance. The legislative proposal would expand adoption assistance to all eligible children for adoption assistance. The legislative proposal would expand adoption assistance to all eligible children. Changes to §63.2-1302 would allow for the continuation of a custody requirement for the payment of special needs or services payments.

SHHR-DSS-3

Under the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families Program, the state must meet work participation rate requirements, or be penalized. The penalty is a 5.0 percent reduction in the TANF block grant plus a requirement to increase maintenance of effort spending from 75 percent to 80 percent of 1994 welfare spending . The work participation rate is the ratio of TANF recipients participating in work activities for a certain number of hours per week compared to the number of TANF recipients that are required to participate in a work activity. The federal work participation rate calculation subtracts from the denominator the number of parents of young children for up to 12 months following the child’s birth. Pursuant to federal regulations, families may be subtracted from the denominator for up to 12 months in a lifetime.

Virginia exempts all parents of children under 12 months of age. Therefore, there are situations in which the family may have additional children and would continue to be exempt from work participation, but are included in the work participation rate calculation. The purpose of the proposed legislation is to make Virginia’s work exemption consistent with the federal requirement.

SHHR-DSS-4

Children are generally in the custody of their parents, a local department of social services, or a licensed child-placing agency when they are placed in a children's residential family. While CRFs are part of the child welfare system, most do not take custody of children. The Department of Social Services is aware of one sibling group consisting of four children, where the court awarded custody to a CRF in calendar year 2009. When a LDSS or LCPA has custody of children they must follow laws, regulations, and policies that provide for permanency planning and court oversight. If a child is in the custody of a CRF this planning and oversight is not required. While DSS values the services provided to children by CRFs, DSS does not believe that CRFs should have legal custody of children. The proposed legislation would amend §63.2-1817 of the code to delete language that allows CRFs to take custody of children.

Budget Update

J. R. Simpson, Chief Financial Officer

State revenues continue to be below projected levels for fiscal year 2010. A new revenue forecast released today suggested the state would have to reduce current fiscal year spending by \$1.2B to ensure a balanced budget.

State agencies submitted budget reduction strategies to the Department of Planning and budget reflecting general fund reductions of 5, 10, and 15 percent on July 22nd. For further information, refer to the handout that accompanies the official minutes.

Recess 4:40 p.m.**Thursday, August 29, 2009**

Reconvene at 9:00 a.m., Chairman Trudy Brisendine presiding.

Board Planning and Work Session**The State of Poverty in Virginia**

A presentation was made to board members by Michael Cassidy, Executive Director of The Commonwealth Institute for Fiscal Analysis. The Commonwealth Institute for Fiscal Analysis provides credible, independent and accessible information and analyses of state fiscal issues with particular attention to the impacts on low- and moderate-income persons. Questions and discussions were around how poverty rankings are calculated and how do we break the poverty cycle of those coming from a lifetime of poverty. Education is known to be a key factor in breaking the cycle of poverty. Statistics indicate that Virginia is not reaching all our children and what can we do to alleviate this pattern.

Virginia ranks the 10th lowest nationally in poverty rating; however, we has a high level of eligibility for food stamps and an "anemic" unemployment program ranking thirty percent below the U.S. level.

In the Medicaid program there are only seven states that have more stringent rules. Our tax rate in Virginia is a flat rate tax thus low income people pay a disproportionate percentage.

The question was raised of how we can balance the budget and keep programs that we know will benefit our citizens in the long run? Mr. Cassidy stated that Virginia needs to change our single-minded goal of “reducing rolls” to one of “getting out of poverty”.

Ms. Brisendine asked for some suggestions that the board can work toward to reduce poverty. Mr. Cassidy suggested the following:

1. Maximize our resources
 - what is on the table
 - what is available and how do we best use them
 - Medicaid reimbursement
2. Preserve pressing priorities – costly area
3. Put package together that brings revenue to the state through various means such as taxes, etc. Change the formula of revenues – look for sources other than raising taxes.

Go to www.thecommonwealthinstitute.org to learn about what this organization does and how it is assisting Virginians to become knowledgeable about the state of the commonwealth during the recession.

Update on “Act on Poverty”

Marianne McGhee and Melissa Perdue with the office of Public Affairs gave an update on recent actions in Virginia to move toward the goal of reducing poverty. Virginia hosted a summit in Virginia Beach in May with many outstanding attendees who participated in discussions on poverty. The Poverty Reduction Taskforce was created to develop strategies to reduce poverty in Virginia by addressing the key areas of: Asset Development; Enhancing Individual and Community Resilience; and Workforce Training and Education. If you have ideas and thoughts that you would like to add to these strategies on reducing poverty go to <http://www.hhr.virginia.gov/PovertySummit/> and take the online survey.

A report with recommendations is due to the Governor for his presentation to the General Assembly. If you have suggestions you would like to be considered for the interim report, please send them to Jim Schuyler, Executive Director of the Virginia Community Action Partnership, by early September to vacap@vacap.org.

Budget

J. R. Simpson updated board members on the status of the department's budget for FY 2010. TANF is intact for this fiscal year but some changes will be necessary to fund TANF in FY 2011. The Governor will speak on state-wide reductions the first week of September, including those he has chosen to be implemented by our agency.

FY 2010 State Board of Social Services Priorities

Priorities established are as follows:

1. Child Welfare Transformation
 - fatherhood
 - permanency regulation
 - rate setting regulation
 - child placing licensure regulation
 - CPS
 - Training – innovation
 -
2. Self-sufficiency
 - education
 - training
 -
3. Other Board Issues
 - community partnership and collaboration
 -

State Board Meetings

Michelle Larkin led the discussion on how members wish to conduct their future meetings. Results are as follows:

- Structure: - committee reports to stay at the same time but will have more extensive report on key issues.
- Theme: - committee chairs and Richard to talk before the meeting
- Schedule: - repetition of topic
- flow of August 19 meeting was good
- Regulations: - more information – reminders on past
- Board activity – historical perspective
- Coaching on how to interpret regulations
- Public Comment: -time sensitivity for speakers
- separate on agenda

State Board Committees

Update from Margaret Luca. The Poverty Committee will go back to the full board leaving two existing committees. In order for board members to receive more in-depth reports from the committees, Ms. Brisendine suggested the committees begin meeting for one and half hours instead of the one hour. There was also a suggestion that the existing committees be renamed to reflect 1) Child Welfare; and 2) Self-Sufficiency.

Review of State Board By-Laws

Barbara Manual passed out the draft of the by-laws that will be on the agenda for adoption at the next board meeting. The committee name changes will be incorporated in this draft document.

Chair Comments

Ms. Brisendine shared that a regulatory item will be initiated that will require child day centers each day to call parents of children that are not present at the day care center. This is a new requirement spurred by deaths of children left in hot vehicles.

The meeting adjourned at 3 p.m.