

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

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

April 19, 2017

Attending: Mr. Darrell Jordan (Chair), Ms. Veronica Washington (Secretary), Ms. Lou Ali, Ms. MaryAnn Boyd, Ms. Joan Brennan, Mr. Willie Greene, Mr. John Kines, Ms. Mona Malik, Mr. Clyde Santana, Mr. Kent Willis.

Absent: Dr. Danny Avula

Also in Attendance: Ms. Margaret Ross Schultze (Commissioner), Ms. Ellen Malenke (Assistant Attorney General).

Meeting called to order at 10:04am – Mr. Jordan

Review of Agenda – Ms. Karin Clark, Regulatory Coordinator

Comments from the Commissioner – Ms. Margaret Ross Schultze
Commissioner Schultze shared information regarding the Department of Justice settlement of the quality control operation of the SNAP program.

Commissioner Schultze provided updates on the following four major agency projects:

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

Human Trafficking – Carl Ayers gave a presentation on human trafficking. Handouts were provided.

Division of Family Services Overview – Mr. Ayers gave a presentation on the overview of the Division of Family Services. Handouts were provided.

COMMENT PERIOD

Comment from the Public

Kim Hulcher – Virginia Child Care Association

Ms. Hulcher asked if there is any data on how many child care centers have left the subsidy program in the last year. Mr. Jordan shared that he has not seen any extensive numbers since many of the rules are new, and Commissioner Schultze also shared she does not have any information. Jack Frazier, Deputy Commissioner of Operations, informed Ms. Hulcher he can provide her the information and she is welcome to contact him or his staff for the information at any time.

Jane Jones – Early Challenges Child Care Center

Ms. Jones referenced her concerns about the federal Child Care and Development Fund Block Grant and CPR certification requirements for staff.

There were no comments from local boards and directors of social services.

There were no comments from boards and directors of community action agencies.

Comments from the Virginia League of Social Service Executives – Sherry Flanagan, Third Vice President

In Cathy Pemberton’s absence, Ms. Flanagan provided updates on VaCMS and shared they are working diligently on CPS training and are also working with the state on personnel issues and retention of staff. Ms. Flanagan also shared that the Virginia League of Social Services Executive annual conference is in May at the Homestead and anyone interested in attending can get in touch with her.

Organizational Development Division Overview – Stephanie Larson, Director and Angela Morse, Director gave an overview of the Organizational Development division. Handouts were provided.

Regulatory Update – Karin Clark, Regulatory Coordinator

Ms. Clark provided the status update on 22VAC40-60 and 22VAC40-72, both highlighted on page 1 of the Report; 22VAC40-211 highlighted on page 3; and 22VAC40-700, 22VAC40-705, and 22VAC40-720 each highlighted on page 5.

ACTION ITEMS

1. **Approve February 2017 minutes**
On Motion Duly Made, (Ms. Malik), second (Mr. Greene), motion approved with all in favor.
2. **22VAC40-41, Neighborhood Assistance Tax Credit Program – Exempt**
On Motion Duly Made, (Ms. Ali), second (Ms. Washington), motion approved with all in favor.
3. **22VAC40-880, Child Support Enforcement Program – Fast Track**
On Motion Duly Made, (Mr. Santana), second (Mr. Kines), motion approved with all in favor.
4. **22VAC40-601, Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program – Proposed**
On Motion Duly Made, (Ms. Malik), second (Ms. Boyd), motion approved with all in favor.
5. **22VAC40-325, Fraud Reduction/Elimination Effort – Final**
On Motion Duly Made, (Ms. Ali), second (Mr. Greene), motion approved with all in favor.

Select Officer Nomination Committee – Darryl Jordan

Mr. Jordan appointed Veronica Washington, Mona Malik, and Lou Ali as the nominating committee for new officers.

Board Member & Chair Comments

Ms. Boyd shared that every meeting is informative and the presentations were good and she learns so much every time. She is particularly excited about the safe sleep awareness campaign and the baby box idea.

Mr. Santana enjoyed the overview of the Organizational Development division and appreciates that training is available to employees and how more automated systems can promote more face to face and client intervention meetings.

Mr. Kines thought it was a good meeting and he learned a lot. In looking at the different types of operations and how they work, he feels communication is key. He expressed he would be interested in finding how many small group homes there are for foster care children and if there are group homes for disabled people, he feels smaller environments may be beneficial. Mr. Kines also expressed the more the localities can work together as a group, the more motivated they may be.

Mr. Greene enjoyed the meeting and he expressed he would like to be more supportive and have more mentors for families. He thought the information on the baby box was interesting and thought Carl did a great job with his presentations. Mr. Greene requested an extra five minutes after the next Board meeting during the comment period.

Mr. Jordan appreciated Carl's presentations and expressed appreciation for the work Virginia is doing. He shared that his family started foster care four years ago with a fourteen year old girl and his family is still a part of the young person's life.

Ms. Washington agreed with Mr. Greene in that more mentorships and more community support of families and children are needed. Ms. Washington thanked Carl for his presentations and she is proud of the number of adopted children and children out of foster care. She also appreciated the overview of Organizational Development. Ms. Washington asked about the funding support to be offered for child care and Mr. Frazier offered to provide more detail.

Ms. Brennan expressed she is happy to know the child care funds will be available and she thanked the workers for doing good work and finding funds. She thought Carl's presentations were enlightening.

Mr. Willis thought the meeting was more focused on several topics and he was impressed with the innovation and modernization of the programs. He made the link between foster care and human trafficking and thought the information presented by Carl was very informative.

Ms. Malik thought there is so much interesting information presented at the meetings. She applauded the Commissioner and her team on the way SNAP and DOJ was handled. She thought the presentations were interesting and the baby boxes are a phenomenal idea. Ms. Malik thought it was unfortunate to hear about the low salaries of some of the social workers but that it is nice to see staff advocating to

bring change. She shared information about New Mexico being the first state to pass the hunger free student bill and she'd like Virginia to consider the bill.

Ms. Ali thought there was a lot of good information and appreciated hearing about the components of sex trafficking and encouraged to hear about the foster care program with the intentional focus on normalizing placements. She applauded the Commissioner's leadership with the SNAP error rate and she was also encouraged to hear about the new exemption for the passport denial and child support payments.

Meeting adjourned at 2:54pm.