

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

December 16, 2020

Attending: Lou Ali (Chair), Clyde Santana (Vice Chair), William Boone (Secretary), Mona Malik, John Kines, Dr. Andrew Heck, MaryAnn Boyd, Kent Willis, and Jennifer Slack.

Absent: Dr. Danny Avula.

Also in Attendance: Duke Storen (Commissioner) and Ellen Malenke (Assistant Attorney General).

Meeting called to order at 10:02am – Lou Ali

Review of Agenda – Karin Clark, Regulatory Coordinator

Comments from the Commissioner – Duke Storen

Commissioner Storen thanked everyone for participating in the virtual board meeting. He welcomed new Board member, Jennifer Slack. He thanked the leaders and workers across the social services system for being resilient and effective. Commissioner Storen acknowledged Nannette Bowler and announced she is moving to a local department in North Carolina. He also provided local, state, and federal updates.

General Assembly Update – Gena Berger provided an update on the General Assembly.

COMMENT PERIOD

Sarah Menon asked the Board to create regulations that would enable licensing of forest preschools in Virginia. She will pass along to the Board additional information about Washington state's standards and the benefits of forest preschools.

Comment from the Virginia League of Social Service Executives – Andy Crawford, President

Mr. Crawford shared they are working to come up with a committee to work on the reallocation formula. He met with the VDSS Research and Planning staff to look at the time study tool.

Comment from the Virginia Community Action Partnership – Jim Schuyler, Director

Mr. Schuyler expressed his thanks to the department and local agencies. He thanked the Commissioner and the Community and Volunteer Services team for their collaborating network. Mr. Schuyler recognized Dr. Avula and his team, and their work with the CDC Foundation. He gave a snapshot of the COVID response by the community action network from March 2020 through September 2020. He also shared VACAP, along with VDSS, is assisting to provide training on risk management and business continuity plans, fundraising and fund development, strategic and crisis communications, and remote work innovations.

ACTION ITEMS

1. Approved October 2020 Meeting Minutes

Mr. Boone requested that the October minutes be amended to add the Benefit Programs Specialist Recognition Resolution to the October 2020 minutes. ***On Motion Duly Made***, (Mr. Kines), second (Mr. Santana), motion to approve the minutes as amended with eight in favor (Ali, Boone, Boyd, Heck, Kines, Malik, Santana, Willis) and one abstained (Slack).

Board Member Requests for Future Information

Ms. Ali asked members for closing comments and suggestions for future meeting topics. Mr. Boone requested to hear more about the benefit programs eligibility renewals and if it has a negative effective on the local agency score cards.

Meeting adjourned at 11:00am.