

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

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

August 17, 2022

Attending: William Boone (Chair), John Kines (Vice Chair), Megan Miloser (Secretary), Sheryl Garland, Leslie Ford, Maria Benjamin, Don Carey.

Absent: Jennifer Slack, Zulma Santos, Rachna Heizer, DeRonda Short.

Also in Attendance: Dr. Danny Avula (Commissioner) and Ms. Ellen Malenke (Assistant Attorney General).

Meeting called to order at 10:01am – William Boone

Comments from the Commissioner – Dr. Avula provided local, state, and federal updates.

P-EBT and Restaurant Meals – Angela Morse provided an overview of the P-EBT and Restaurant Meals.

Local Allocation Formula – Ida Witherspoon and Ryan Kelly provided an update from the Reallocation of Local Staff and Operations Funding Workgroup. Ms. Garland asked the Commissioner and team to outline a timeline for solidifying recommendations, so that requests for resources from the Governor and General Assembly and Board advocacy can be done timely. After some discussion, it was decided that it is feasible for the workgroup to bring a recommendation to the Board in April 2023. This will allow time in the interim to continue working with local partners and begin planning for the next biennium budget.

Changes to Procedures for Developing and Reviewing State Regulations – Karin Clark provided an overview on changes to procedures for developing and reviewing state regulations.

COMMENT PERIOD

Comment from the Public – Mary Othinot, RN, Virginia PRESS, Powerful People Parents & Providers for Reform and Equity is Social Services

Ms. Othinot shared that she is trying to sound the alarm and get everybody abreast of what is happening on the ground level in the state of Virginia regarding funding, oversight, accountability and monitoring of children's services systems and mental health systems. She is asking for the reimagining of human trafficking exploitation to be intentionally thought about when policies are written. She expressed her concerns of the oversight of public funds. Ms. Othinot provided handouts.

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

Comment from the Virginia League of Social Service Executives – Rebecca Morgan, President
Ms. Morgan explained the League represents every department of social services in the Commonwealth. Two conferences are held in the fall and spring and there are four quarterly board meetings. Ms. Morgan shared the Board is welcome to attend the conferences or the quarterly board meetings. She spoke about a communication plan with the State Board, VDSS, and the League. She expressed the Board is welcome to let her know of any topic they wish her to discuss. She is working to restructure the committee chairs and she will have a TANF employee services program committee update for the next Board meeting.

Mr. Boone requested to hear about successful collaborations between LDSS and community action agencies. Ms. Morgan noted that a new collaborative effort is about to start and that she would share information about it at a future meeting.

Comment from the VA Community Action Partnership – Erik Johnston, President
Mr. Johnston is traveling to meet with all thirty-one community action agencies in person and has been inspired by the work of the community action agencies and their partners across the state. VACAP is working to implement a return to in person conferences. He invited the Board and partners to the first annual Pathways from Poverty to Prosperity Summit scheduled for November 1 and 2 at the VA Housing Center in the Richmond area. VACAP also plans to hold a conference during next year's General Assembly session. In July the General Assembly's block grant subcommittee approved the two-year state CSBG plan. Their network heard from Commissioner Avula at the board meeting and were inspired by the Commissioner's commitment to public service and excited about his efforts with the Administration to highlight best practices in the workforce training/career readiness space, trauma informed care leadership and foster care/kinship efforts. They are amid a statewide wage study by community action agencies and support for fiscal services models in partnership with the Office of Economic Opportunity that are implementing best practices and saving funding by our network working together to address staffing challenges. He expressed appreciation for the partnership VACAP Racial Equity Committee has developed with OEO on providing trainings for our network and partnership with AmeriCorps Vista for support. He also thanked the Governor and General Assembly for their increased investment in TANF funds to support community action agencies and the new partially refundable state EITC. VACAP appreciates the support of DSS in implementing the CASH (Creating Assets, Savings and Hope) Campaign's efforts around supporting the free filing of taxes effort across the Commonwealth.

ACTION ITEMS

1. Approved June 2022 Meeting Minutes
On Motion Duly Made, (Mr. Kines), second (Ms. Miloser), motion approved with Don Carey abstaining.
2. 22VAC40-151, Standards for Licensed Children's Residential Facilities – Proposed Regulation
On Motion Duly Made, (Ms. Garland), second (Mr. Kines), motion approved with all in favor.
3. 22VAC40-211, Foster & Adoptive Family Home Approval Standards – Final Regulation
On Motion Duly Made, (Mr. Kines), second (Mr. Carey), motion approved with all in favor.

4. 22VAC40-601, Supplemental Nutrition & Assistance Program – Final Regulation
On Motion Duly Made, (Ms. Garland), second (Mr. Carey), motion approved with all in favor.
5. 22VAC40-201, Permanency Services – Exempt Regulation
On Motion Duly Made, (Ms. Ford), second (Ms. Garland), motion approved with all in favor.
6. 22VAC40-211, Foster & Adoptive Home Approval Standards – Exempt Regulation
On Motion Duly Made, (Ms. Miloser), second (Mr. Carey), motion approved with all in favor.
7. 22VAC40-705, Child Protective Services – Exempt Regulation
On Motion Duly Made, (Mr. Kines), second (Ms. Ford), motion approved with all in favor.
8. Child Welfare Workforce Month Recognition
On Motion Duly Made, (Ms. Garland), second (Ms. Miloser), motion approved with all in favor.

Appoint Bylaws Review Committee – William Boone

Mr. Boone appointed Zulma Santos and John Kines as the Bylaws Review Committee. The Committee will provide recommendations for any changes in draft form for discussion at the October Board meeting.

Board Member Requests for Future Information

Mr. Boone requested an update on the streaming of Board meetings so that the public can view the meetings. Staff shared that, once they receive training on the new equipment, streaming can begin. No date has been set for that.

Ms. Ford requested for a review of the 30-day intensive kinship search when a child enters foster care and an overview of the process.

Mr. Carey requested a future session on Foster Care and Permanency.

Meeting adjourned at 1:06pm.