

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

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

October 19, 2022

Attending: William Boone (Chair), John Kines (Vice Chair), Megan Miloser (Secretary), Leslie Ford, Maria Benjamin, Don Carey, Jennifer Slack, DeRonda Short.

Absent: Zulma Santos, Sheryl Garland, and Rachna Heizer.

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

Meeting called to order at 10:04am – William Boone

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

Family Finding and Relative Engagement – Em Parente and Garrett Jones presented on the overview of the Family Finding and Relative Engagement.

Out-of-Family Investigation Advisory Committee – Buckey Boone appointed the Out-of-Family Investigation Advisory Committee.

COMMENT PERIOD

Comment from the Public – Amanda Banes

Ms. Banes spoke about extensive background research on case workers. She believes more needs to be done to investigate the workers.

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 discussed the League is working on the shared accountability for the Foster Care Workgroup. The League is also increasing their partnerships with outside organizations. Erik Johnston spoke at their last board meeting. The Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) will give a presentation at the League's fall conference. The Virginia Association of Counties (VaCO) invited her to their conference and she attended the Virginia Association of Local Human Services Officials (VALHSO) conference. She shared VACMS along with recruitment issues are at the top of their list. The League's fall conference is sold out.

Stephanie Coleman shared the committee is excited to know VIEW is becoming mandatory again. The Committee is working with the state on employment, policy and training issues. They worked with the

Work Force Board on the job fair held in September in their locality. Interviews were held and some were hired on the spot. The Committee will meet jointly with the League's Benefits Committee to discuss the staffing program and the possibility of having the program as a mandatory program. They are also working on the transportation and child care barriers in their county. Ms. Coleman also shared VACMS is also a struggle.

ACTION ITEMS

1. Approved August 2022 Meeting Minutes
On Motion Duly Made, (Ms. Ford), second (Mr. Carey), motion approved with all in favor.
2. 2023 Meeting Schedule
The Board requested further information on Zulma Santos request to change the Board meeting date. On Motion Duly Made, with all in favor to delay until the December meeting.
3. 22VAC40-191, Background Checks for Child Welfare Agencies – Periodic Review Report of Findings
On Motion Duly Made, (Ms. Slack), second (Mr. Kines), motion approved with all in favor.

CLOSED MEETING

On Motion Duly Made, (Mr. Kines), second (Ms. Ford) moved to go into a closed meeting for the purpose of consultation with legal counsel pertaining to the update on corrective action plan issued on 9/16/2022 and the accompanying litigation regarding the foster care case of the child, E.W. Attending the closed meeting were: Mr. Boone, Mr. Kines, Ms. Miloser, Ms. Ford, Ms. Benjamin, Mr. Carey, Ms. Slack, Ms. Short, Commissioner Avula, Ellen Malenke, and Carl Ayers. Motion approved with all in favor. Ms. Santos, Ms. Garland, and Ms. Heizer were absent.

Mr. Boone reconvened the open portion of the session at the conclusion of the closed meeting. He certified that the closed meeting was held in conformity with Virginia law and that only public business matters as identified in the motion by which the closed meeting was convened were discussed. Members unanimously agreed with the certification of the closed meeting.

Report from State Board of Social Services By-laws Committee – John Kines

Mr. Kines gave an updated report of the by-laws.

Draft Policy for Member Electronic Participation in Meetings – Ellen Malenke

Ms. Malenke provided an update on electronic meeting participation. Handouts were provided.

Board Member Requests for Future Information

Ms. Slack requested to know the process for the emails received by the Board regarding constituent correspondence and public comment.

Mr. Carey asked about whether, in the event that confidential information needs to be conveyed to members between meetings, the Chairman could flag the information as such. This would ensure that information not appropriate for the public is kept confidential and the members would be fully informed prior to meetings. Related, Ms. Ford expressed that, if possible, more substance be shared with members prior to meetings where a closed session is planned.

Meeting adjourned at 1:40pm.