

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

**Twin Hickory Library
5001 Twin Hickory Road
Glen Allen, VA 23029**

August 16, 2023

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

Absent: Zulma Santos and Rachna Heizer.

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

Meeting called to order at 10:00am – Mr. Boone

Comments from the Commissioner – Dr. Avula introduced Kevin Erskine, the new Chief Deputy Commissioner. The Commissioner acknowledged August is Child Support Awareness month. He provided local, state, and federal updates.

COMMENT PERIOD

There were no public comments.

There were no comments from local boards and community action agencies.

Comment from the Virginia League of Social Service Executives – Rebecca Morgan, President
Ms. Morgan talked about her top priority, which is LDSS recruitment and retention. The League and VDSS convened a workgroup that meets monthly, and she appreciates the support of Carl Ayers, Ty Parr, Leighann Smigielski, and Commissioner Avula. The League is preparing a roadmap for the 2024 General Assembly session. The replacement of VaCMS and the creation of the training academy for local staff will be the League's focus in 2024.

Comment from the VA Community Action Partnership – Erik Johnston, Executive Director
Mr. Johnston provided updates on community action agencies across the state. The VDSS and community action agencies were recognized as a true partnership in terms of how well they partner together on training and technical assistance on the whole family approach. He appreciates VDSS and all the team members and the Commissioner for the work. He shared that in Washington DC, at the end of June, the Whole Family Institute talked about some of the best in class across the nation and implementing the whole family approach. Virginia was spotlighted and this would not have been possible if the Governor and General Assembly invested in the pilot. He mentioned the ribbon cutting ceremony on August 31 with the Commissioner and two Secretaries attending.

ACTION ITEMS

1. Approved June 2023 Meeting Minutes
On Motion Duly Made, (John Kines), second (Don Carey), motion approved with all in favor.
2. 22VAC40-80, General Procedures for Licensure- Exempt Regulation
On Motion Duly Made, (Sheryl Garland), second (Jennifer Slack), motion approved with all in favor.
3. 22VAC40-705, Child Protective Services- Exempt Regulation
On Motion Duly Made, (John Kines), second (Megan Miloser), motion approved with all in favor.
4. 22VAC40-880, Child Support Enforcement Program- Fast Track Regulation
On Motion Duly Made, (Jennifer Slack), second (Leslie Ford), motion approved with amendments to strike section 320 and change section 430. The amendments were recommended by the Office of Attorney General in their 7/27/2023 certification memo to the agency.
5. 22VAC40-675, Personnel Policies for Local Departments of Social Services- Exempt Regulation
On Motion Duly Made, (Don Carey), second (Leslie Ford), motion approved with one opposed (Buckey Boone).
6. Recommendations from State Board of Social Services Legislative Committee – Sheryl Garland and Don Carey
Mr. Carey and Ms. Garland met with staff on August 3, 2023, to discuss the top 2024 legislative and budget priorities for the agency. The top priority will be replacing CommonHealth and VaCMS with a new integrated benefit system. The agency submitted a budget decision package for consideration by the Secretary of Health and Human Services and Governor, for inclusion in the Governor’s upcoming two-year budget.

The committee recommended that Chairman Boone meet with Secretary of Health and Human Services Littell, to express the Board’s support for replacing the current system with a new integrated benefit system. **On Motion Duly Made** (Don Carey), second (Leslie Ford), motion approved with all in favor.

Family Engagement Services – Antiqua Weaver provided an overview of family engagement services.

Local Allocation Formula Update – Ryan Kelly provided an update on the local allocation formula.

Licensing Overview – Tara Ragland provided an overview of the Division of Licensing, types of licensing and complaints, workforce issues and processes for assessing risk, civil penalties and sanctions.

Standing Item– Medicaid Unwinding - Carl Ayers provided an update.

Member Comments and Requests

The Board decided the 10/18/2023 meeting will be all-virtual.

Ms. Slack requested the Board meetings adjourn on time. She also requested more information from Tara Ragland on the licensing complaints and if regulation changes would help to ease the burden. She would also like more information on CPS appeals, as she is hearing from citizens in her area. In addition, she would like clarity on when Code language is required in regulation, and when it is not. Chairman Boone requested that Ms. Malenke address the questions regarding how the Code of Virginia and Virginia Administrative Code interface at the 10/18/2023 meeting.

Ms. Ford requested more information on Medicaid unwinding, and where and why cancelations are occurring.

Mr. Boone requested follow up on what is being done for the children who've been cut off from Medicaid.

Meeting adjourned at 1:33 pm