

Minutes
VA State Board of Social Services
April 19-20, 2006

Shenandoah Dept. of Social Services
Woodstock, Virginia

Members Present

Danny Brown, Vice Chair
Trudy Brisendine
Peppy Linden (Wednesday only)
Maggi Luca
Marilyn Rigby
Nettie Simon-Owens
William Mitchell

Members Absent

Bela Sood

Wednesday, April 19, 2006

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m., Vice Chair Danny Brown presiding. Mr. Brown announced that Julie Christopher has resigned her position on the Board to accept the position of Commissioner with the VA Dept. of Aging. Best wishes in her new position were expressed.

Welcome and Introductions

Jane Clements, Operations Director, Division of Quality Management and John Ayers, Director of Shenandoah County Department of Social Services welcomed the Board. Dennis Morris, Chairman of the County Board of Supervisors welcomed members to Shenandoah County.

Members were asked to consider allowing localities flexibility when working with citizens in need. He shared his appreciation of Mr. Ayers and his staff; remarking on their enthusiasm, professionalism, and caring of the citizens they serve.

Mr. Don Powers was introduced as Assistant Attorney General representative that would be sitting in for Al Wilson at this meeting.

Kenneth McCabe, analyst from the Dept. of Planning and Budget was recognized.

Local directors were recognized and thanked for their attendance to the meeting.

Regulation Status Report

Richard Martin reported that as of April 18, the department has 62 regulations in place. 28 of the 62 are currently in process:

- Of those 62, 18 are in the process of being repealed
- Of those 62, 9 are in the process of being amended
- Of those 62, 1 is currently in periodic review
- 11 additional new regulations are in the process of being promulgated

That totals 73 regulations and proposed regulations, 41 of which are currently active.

There are no regulations currently in public comment.

Regulations currently pending:

Department and Budget	10 (actually two actions)
Secretary of Health & Human Resources	4 (actually two actions)
Governor	15 (13 separate actions)

Legislative Update

Mr. Martin reviewed legislation of concern to the Department of Social Services. A copy of this presentation is attached to the official Minutes housed in the home office.

Annual Child Fatality Report

Rita Katzman, Manager of Child Protective Services provided members with a copy of the Annual Child Fatality Report. A copy of this report is housed with the Official Minutes housed in the home office. She advised April is Child Abuse Prevention Month. A packet of information and blue ribbons were provided to Board members.

Ms. Brisendine questioned whether CPS training had been developed for hot line staff and if Board members were allowed to attend the training. It was advised that a training DVD can be provided to members or they can access the training on the VCU website. (Mr. Martin provided members with the web address later in the meeting.)

Public Comment

Ron King, Warren County Dept. of Social Services Director spoke on CSA and the impact on local DSS agencies. He advised that FAP funding would be better spent on prevention services working with families as a whole. He suggested the Commissioner's Office do a study on what the hidden cost are for CSA to local and state governments.

John Ayers, Shenandoah County Dept. of Social Services Director reinforced and confirmed the remarks of Mr. King.

Mark Jaccard, Director of Evans Home for Children shared his concerns on CSA; suggesting a financial review of direct and indirect cost associated with this program.

Sharon Sponaugle, Highland County Dept. of Social Services Director and Social Worker spoke on the need to fill a position. She advised she had been on call 24/7 since January 2005. She is having difficulty hiring and keeping staff due to low salary and double duties required of this position.

Commissioner's Comments

Commissioner Conyers advised he was celebrating his one-year anniversary in the position of Commissioner. He spoke of challenges being faced in Virginia.

He advised progress continues to be made in terms of staff structure and serving the needy in the Commonwealth. He commented that progress continues toward implementing change management.

He advised the department has one of the most complicated programs due to working with 120 different localities, 26 CAP agencies, and across secretariats. He spoke of better working relationships we now have with the feds.

He advised he felt we are very close to resolving long standing IV E issues that will benefit both the state and feds.

He reiterated CSA concerns addressed during public comment.

He spoke on challenges to be faced in the next few months. The Deficit Reduction Act caused challenges by adding an estimated 3000 people into VIEW monthly with an estimated cost of 37 million dollars annually. (Required to meet work participation rate of new TANF legislation.)

He continues to work and communicate on the issue of special needs adoption. He advised this is not an entitlement program. The Code is clear that the state is to fund special needs adoption at the local level up to the amount of funds available. This is not a program change; just that the facts about the program are now been shared.

ACTION ITEMS

Change in Locality Grouping King George Dept. of Social Services

Bill Tignor, Locality Consultant advised the King George County Board of Social Services requested a change in TANF payment grouping for King George County from Group 1 to Group 111 due to residential and commercial growth and it's close proximity to the financial pressures of Northern Virginia.

On review of the submitted information and fiscal impact assessment, the Department of Social Services recommended approval of reclassification from Group 1 to Group II for TANF cash assistance to be effective July 1, 2006.

ON MOTION DULY MADE (Mr. Mitchell) and seconded (Ms. Simon-Owens) moved to approve the Department of Social Services recommended approval of reclassification from Group 1 to Group II for TANF cash assistance to be effective July 1, 2006. This is contingent upon sufficient funds being appropriated by the 2006 session of the General Assembly. Motion carried with all in favor.

Change in Locality Grouping Caroline County Dept. of Social Services

Bill Tignor, Locality Consultant advised the Caroline County Dept. of Social Services requested a change in TANF payment grouping for Caroline County from a Group 1 to Group 111 due to rent costs in bordering localities including Hanover, Spotsylvania, Essex, King and Queen, King George and King William.

On review of the submitted information and fiscal impact assessment, the Department of Social Services recommended approval of reclassification from Group 1 to Group II for TANF cash assistance to be effective July 1, 2006.

ON MOTION DULY MADE (Ms. Nettie Simon-Owens) and seconded (Ms. Rigby) moved to approve the Department of Social Services recommended approval of reclassification from Group 1 to Group II for TANF cash assistance to be effective July 1, 2006. This is contingent upon sufficient funds being appropriated by the 2006 session of the General Assembly. Motion carried with all in favor.

POSSESS Resolution

Bonnie Peery reviewed the POSSESS Resolution; requesting for Board approval.

ON MOTION DULY MADE (Ms. Linden) and seconded (Ms. Luca) moved to approve the week of April 24-28th as Office Services Support Employee Appreciation Week, calling upon all Virginians to join in acknowledging their public service and contributions. Motion carried with all in favor.

Locality Salary Maximum(s) with Contingency

Sandra Fox, HR Manager II advised the Division of Human Resource Management had received and reviewed 44 Compensation Plans for fiscal year 2005-06 containing salary data in excess of the State's reimbursable salary range maximum for employees assigned various job classifications.

ON MOTION DULY MADE (Ms. Brisendine) and seconded (Ms. Simon-Owens) moved to approve the 44 Compensations Plans as presented. Included were Accomack, Alleghany-Covington, Amelia, Appomattox, Bath, Bedford, Botetourt, Buchanan, Campbell, Caroline, Carroll, Charles City, Charlotte, Culpeper, Dinwiddie, Essex, Fluvanna, Frederick, Goochland, Greensville-Emporia, Halifax, Hopewell, Isle of Wight, King George, Lee, Madison, Mecklenburg, Northampton, Northumberland, Nelson, Page, Prince Edward, Pulaski, Richmond County, Russell, Shenandoah, Smyth, Southampton, Surry, Sussex, Tazewell, Warren, Washington, and Westmoreland, using local funds. Motion carried with all in favor.

Approval of FASTFORWARD Pilot Program for Isle of Wight Dept. of Social Services

John Catron, Director and Tharon Greene, Consultant reviewed the pilot program with members.

ON MOTION DULY MADE (Ms. Luca) and seconded (Ms. Brisendine) moved to approve the FASTFORWARD Pilot Program for Isle of Wight. Motion carried with all in favor.

Mr. Brown suggested that Mr. Catron come back before the Board in six months to share the progress of this program.

Ms. Simon-Owens confirmed with Mr. Catron that the pilot would be implemented by July 1.

22 VAC 40-810, Fees for Court Services Provided by Local Dept. of Social Services Notice of Intended Regulatory Action

Richard Martin advised this regulatory action will begin the process to repeal 22 VAC 40-810. Standards on this topic are now included in a new comprehensive regulation currently being promulgated. An outdated, stand-alone regulation is not necessary.

ON MOTION DULY MADE (Ms. Brisendine) and seconded (Ms. Simon-Owens) moved to approve the regulatory action to begin the process to repeal 22 VAC 40-810. Standards on this topic are now included in a new comprehensive regulation currently being promulgated. Motion carried with all in favor.

Overview of Shenandoah County Department of Social Services

John Ayers, Director provided an overview of his department, staff and programs. Mr. Ayers advised, that as a rural agency, they have become self-reliant; mentioning the development of an after school care program.

He advised that child abuse prevention is his number one job, advising that 30% of child abuse cases nationwide are poverty related. In his agency, an eligibility worker accompanies a social worker into the home as eligibility workers are viewed as helpful by the people they serve.

He spoke of rising foster care numbers due to juvenile justice kids being added to the rolls.

A tour of his office was offered to members.

Ms. Brisendine asked if department staff could do a follow up on the outcomes of CSA Best Practices.

Recess

Poverty Committee Meeting 4:00 p.m. to follow recess

Thursday, February 16, 2006

Meeting resumed at 9:00 a.m.; Danny Brown presiding.

Joint Legislative Audit and Review Commission of the Virginia General Assembly

Ashley Colvin, Principal Legislative Analyst provided an overview of HJ 103 (2004) on the impact of an aging population on state agencies. Copies of this report and agency response are available on the JLARC website. A copy of the presentation is attached to the Official Minutes housed in the home office.

VLSSE Comments

Ben Owen, President of the League advised that localities do not have a system to measure what they are doing or not doing; however, he knows they are not providing enough services to those in need. Funding is a concern and affects levels of services.

Concerns on the adoption and foster care regulations and divergence of opinions continue.

He advised there was language in the Budget to establish a Legislation Commission to review concerns. The League looks forward to working with the department and the Legislative Branch.

A copy of a letter sent to Commissioner Conyers on Adoption Subsidy will be shared with Board members.

May 1-3 is the date for the League Convention. It will be held at the Wyndham Hotel in Roanoke. Information will be provided to Ms. Rengnerth for distribution to Board members.

The League will hold its election in May. Sarah Snead, Director of Chesterfield/Colonial Heights is unopposed as President. Mr. Owen advised he looks forward to her leadership.

Minutes

ON MOTION DULY MADE (Ms. Brisendine) and seconded (Ms. Luca) moved to approve Minutes of the previous meeting as presented. Motion carried with all in favor.

Unfinished Business

Nominating Committee was appointed by Vice Chair Danny Brown. Ms. Luca, Ms. Rigby and Mr. Mitchell will serve on this committee and provide their recommendations to members at the June meeting.

Future Business

Board Elections- June

Future Meeting Schedule

June 14-15	Accomac Dept. of Social Services
August 16-17	Alexandria Dept. of Social Services
October 18-19	Roanoke Dept. of Social Services
December 13-14	Petersburg Dept. of Social Services

Committee Reports

Poverty Committee

Trudy Brisendine introduced committee members. A power point presentation was provided to Board members highlighting the charge of the committee. A copy of this presentation is attached to the Official Minutes housed at the home office.

ON MOTION DULY MADE (Ms. Brisendine) and seconded (Ms. Simon-Owens) that the State Board of Social Services is committed to raising public awareness of the growing number of children in poverty in Virginia; the various causes and effects of poverty; successful programs that eliminate or ameliorate the effects of poverty; and how individuals and organizations can help government to address these issues; further the Board endorses the identification of six poverty issues impacting children's lives; and authorizes DSS staff to develop materials for wide distribution to individuals and groups able to assist the Board with an outreach program to the community; and the Board requests the Poverty Committee to continue working with DSS staff and other agencies in refining methods to raise public awareness of poverty in Virginia.

Ms. Brisendine requested future Board input into identifying six poverty issues to begin the outreach program. Examples of issues which might be targeted include: EITC Program, hunger, early childhood education, day care, health care, living wages, parenting skills and mentoring, and marriage and fatherhood. Methods of outreach will be recommended to the Board by the Committee at a later date.

Much discussion followed this motion. Ms. Rigby thanked the committee for its work but voiced concern about how these activities tie into the Board's charge.

Ms. Luca stated these tie back to the Board Retreat outcomes.

Ms. Simon-Owens stated she liked the ideas but felt we should hear from the Attorney General's representative.

Mr. Brown felt this issue should be further studied with input from the Commissioner and Al Wilson.

Mr. Martin commented that as an Advisory Board to the Governor, he felt Mr. Wilson would agree that the Board would be working within its legal authority.

Mr. Mitchell stated this is a worthy effort; however, he hasn't heard that the department is in agreement to use its resources to follow through with the initiatives.

Ms. Brisendine stated that Commissioner Conyers had attended the meetings and voiced his enthusiasm in guiding the committee with its role. He further endorsed this effort by providing two staff to assist the committee.

A subsequent motion was provided.

ON MOTION DULY MADE (Mr. Mitchell) and seconded (Ms. Luca) moved to table this issue until June so comments from the Commissioner and Al Wilson could be reviewed and provided to members. Motion carried with approval by Ms. Rigby, Mr. Mitchell, Mr. Brown, and Ms. Simon-Owens. Opposed by Ms. Brisendine and Ms. Luca.

Board Member Comments

Ms. Rigby thanked Mr. Ayers for hosting the Board meeting and for his hospitality. She thanked Ms. Rengnerth and Mr. Martin for their continued support to the Board.

Mr. Mitchell thanked Mr. Ayers for his hospitality and for sharing views and commitment to Virginians. He echoed his appreciation of department staff to the Board.

Ms. Luca thanked Mr. Ayers for his hospitality. She thanked Mr. Martin for a rewarding presentation on Legislation. She advised she will not be in attendance at the June meeting due to a prior commitment. She shared her concern over Poverty Issues and the response to the motion made by the Chair of this committee. Mr. Brown was thanked for his role as Chairman of the meeting.

Ms. Simon-Owens thanked Mr. Ayers and his staff and mentioned her enjoyment in meeting his wife at dinner. She thanked Ms. Rengnerth and Mr. Martin for their support. She thanked Ms. Brisendine for her presentation and advised she hoped tabling this discussion would not hamper the committee's enthusiasm. She advised she appreciates the process for voting and the responsibility for clarity and understanding when questions arise. Mr. Brown was thanked for his leadership of this meeting.

Ms. Brisendine thanked Mr. Ayers for his hospitality and the pleasure of meeting his wife at dinner. She thanked the Poverty Committee for their work and thanked Mr. Brown for his leadership during the meeting.

Mr. Brown thanked Mr. Ayers for his hospitality and willingness to host the meeting and for the pleasure of meeting his wife. Mr. Martin was thanked for his Legislative Report and to Ms. Rengnerth for her tremendous assistance to the Board. He thanked the Poverty Committee for their work; advising he wants to ensure the Board is doing what they are charged to do.

Adjournment

ON MOTION DULY MADE (Ms. Simon-Owens) and seconded (Ms. Luca) moved for adjournment. Motion carried with all in favor.

Respectfully submitted by Pat Rengnerth

Approved June 2006