

FINAL

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COURT APPOINTED SPECIAL ADVOCATE/CHILDREN'S JUSTICE ACT PROGRAM ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

April 28, 2017

A meeting of the Advisory Committee to the Court Appointed Special Advocate and Children's Justice Act programs was held on Friday, April 28, 2017 at the Richmond Police Training Academy, Richmond, Virginia.

Members Present

Hum Cardounel, Jr.
Julia Fuller-Wilson
Donna Gilles
Malcolm King
Alicia Lenahan
Robin Morgan
Jim Pope
Pat Popp
Eric Reynolds
Viola Vaughan-Eden
Ellen White

Sandy Karison*

Chris Spain*

*nominee with appointment pending

Staff Present

Tom Fitzpatrick
Laurel Marks
Melissa O' Neill
Mary Wilson
Quasean McLeod, Intern

Members Not Present

Robin Foster
Allison Gilbreath
Nancy Oglesby
Frederick Rockwell III

- I. **Call to Order:** Viola Vaughan-Eden, Chairperson, called the meeting to order at 10:00 AM. Attendees introduced themselves.
- II. **Approval of Minutes:** The committee received a copy of the draft minutes. Upon a motion by Judge White and seconded by Robin Morgan, the committee unanimously approved the minutes of January 27, 2017.
- III. **Appoint Nominating Committee:** Jim Pope and Pat Popp agreed to serve on the nominations committee for appointment of committee leadership for the upcoming year.
- IV. **Legislative Review and Discussion:** The committee reviewed the spreadsheet outlining the status of the 26 bills of interest (19 of which passed) of tracked during this General Assembly Session this year. The committee discussed details of the bills related to substance exposed infants regarding the changes in the mandated reporting threshold, plans of safe care, and HB2162 directing the Secretary of Health and Human Resources to convene a workgroup to study the barriers to treatment and services for substance exposed infants and their families.
- V. **CJA Program Update:** The committee was previously provided a written update regarding the Children's Justice Act Program. Mary Wilson, CJA Coordinator, highlighted the recent DCJS Intersections of Violence Conference held in Norfolk on April 12-14 with 450 attendees. Also highlighted was the development of upcoming one day training on child fatality investigation, which will be held in Roanoke on July 7 with a couple more dates to be planned. Ms. Wilson reminded the committee of the federal Child and Family Services Review (CFSR) which the Virginia Department of Social Services (VDSS) is leading with case reviews and stakeholder interviews. The committee was reminded that they are invited to participate on June 16, 2017 in the CFSR stakeholder group interviews, and several committee members are planning to attend.

2014 – 2017 Three Year Plan Review: The committee reviewed the final updates to the 2014 - 2017 Three Year Plan matrix. Upon a motion by Julia Fuller-Wilson and seconded by Alicia Lenahan, the committee unanimously approved the closeout of the 2014 - 2017 Three Year Plan.

2017 – 2020 Three Year Plan Review: The committee reviewed the new 2017 – 2020 Three Year Plan recommendations and strategies. Upon a motion by Malcolm King and seconded by Alicia Lenahan, the committee unanimously approved adopting the 2017 – 2020 Three Year Plan.
- VI. **Citizen Review Panel:** Chris Spain, VDSS Child Protective Services (CPS) Program Manager, provided an overview of areas where this committee's work and interests intersect the work of VDSS Family Services in the state's Child and Family Services Plan (CFSP). The committee was apprised of and provided

feedback on the following areas anticipated to be included in the Annual Progress and Services Report updates to the CFSP:

- Mr. Spain mentioned the state's funding and support of Child Advocacy Centers and other child abuse treatment grants including managing federal Victims of Crime Act funds for these programs.
- VDSS provides support for scholarships for CPS workers to attend ChildFirst™ Virginia forensic interview training and will continue to support that with DCJS and Children's Advocacy Centers of Virginia.
- Mr. Spain gave a brief overview of the VDSS foster care diversion study which is working with ChildTrends to review data and practices in identified diversion pilot localities. The committee noted concerns with the educational issues associated with diversion regarding the rights of the child and physical custodian if there is no formal court transfer of custody.
- Regarding child sex trafficking, the committee was informed that VDSS will be updating their case management system to track child trafficking victims identified by local departments of social services. Mr. Spain sought input on how and when CPS should become involved in child trafficking. The committee discussed concerns around the complexities of these cases with regard to the "caretaker" component of CPS policy, appropriate court involvement, services, and other issues regarding how local departments that respond to these cases are in need of clear policy and guidance.

VII. CASA Program Update: The committee was previously provided a written update regarding the Court Appointed Special Advocate Program. Melissa O'Neill, DCJS CASA Program Coordinator, highlighted the state and VOCA funding streams that support the development of local programs. She also mentioned that desk audits are underway, and National CASA will be releasing updated standards and quality assurance processes in the near future.

CASA Guidance Policy Review: The committee was previously provided a copy of all the current CASA policies and guidance. Ms. O'Neill asked the committee to review the policies in preparation to discuss any updates or changes at the July 28, 2017 meeting.

VIII. New Business: The committee had no new business.

IX. Adjourn: There being no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 11:59 AM.

Next meeting date July 28, 2017