

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

**Virginia Department of Social Services
5600 Cox Road
Glen Allen, VA 23060**

April 17, 2024

Attending: Buckey Boone (Chair), John Kines (Vice Chair), Leslie Ford, Don Carey, DeRonda Short, Zulma Santos, Sheryl Garland, and Maria Benjamin

Absent: Jennifer Slack, Megan Miloser, and Rachna Heizer

Also in Attendance: James Williams (Acting Commissioner) and Ellen Malenke (Assistant Attorney General)

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

Comments from the Commissioner – Acting Commissioner Williams provided local, state, and federal updates.

COMMENT PERIOD

Mary Ottinot – Ms. Ottinot would like the state to create a corrective action plan and have the localities use the plan.

Brittany Whitworth – Ms. Whitworth shared there is an alarming number of children placed in alternative living arrangements and pointed out formal procedures help protect family rights.

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 welcomed the Acting Commissioner and shared the VLSSE spring conference will focus on kinship care and the conference is happening in Williamsburg, VA. She expressed her deep appreciation for the Board’s advocacy during this past legislative session.

Kimberly Ayers, Chair, Child and Family Services Committee, acknowledged April is child abuse prevention and awareness month. She also shared the annual community appreciation day is April 24. The Child and Family Services Committee had the most active in the past year, specifically addressing kinship.

ACTION ITEMS

- 1. Approved February 2024 Meeting Minutes**
On Motion Duly Made, (John Kines), second (Zulma Santos), motion approved with all in favor.

- 2. 22VAC40-73, Standards for Licensed Assisted Living Facilities-Emergency/NOIRA**
On Motion Duly Made, (John Kines), second (Sheryl Garland), motion to establish a subcommittee to work with the agency on the proposed regulation that will replace the emergency regulation. The chair will appoint two members to the subcommittee at the June 2024 meeting.

On Motion Duly Made, (John Kines, second (Sheryl Garland), motion to approve NOIRA.

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

Child Abuse Prevention Month Activities – Traci Jones provided an overview of the child abuse prevention month activities.

Child Advocacy Centers – Kathi Roark provided an overview on child advocacy centers.

Appoint Nominating Committee for New Officers – Mr. Boone appointed Maria Benjamin and Leslie Ford as the nominating committee for new officers.

State Board of Social Services Bylaws Discussion – Mr. Boone referenced the previous meeting when a question arose on whether the chair should vote in situations other than to break a tie vote. The Board bylaws state that meetings should be conducted in accordance with Robert’s Rules of Order, except as otherwise stated in the bylaws. Ms. Fulmer noted her research of Robert’s Rules of Order on the matter, and indicated she would provide information to members following the meeting. Follow up discussion will be included on the June 12, 2024 meeting agenda.

Medicaid Unwinding & Kinship Updates – Frank Smith and Traci Jones provided updates on Medicaid Unwinding and Kinship Updates.

Board Member Comments

Ms. Ford requested: A list of 2024 legislation monitored by the agency that passed and related regulation changes that will be forthcoming; information on the capacity the LDSS SNAP Employment & Training programs (how many offer the program, number of adults enrolled SNAP that use or are assigned, and outcomes); information on the application process and interface with CommonHelp; and structure of the agreements between LDSS and local workforce boards.

Ms. Garland and Ms. Ford requested information related to kinship and other placement types including: data on kinship providers who are seniors or on fixed incomes; break out by funding pools; and capacity of LDSS to monitor families who are not being compensated.

Mr. Boone requested an update on the agency’s budget requests in the final budget.

Meeting adjourned at 1:08pm