

Minutes
Commonwealth of Virginia
State Board of Social Services

Central Region Office
1604 Santa Rosa Road
Richmond, Virginia

June 17-18, 2009

Members Present

Trudy Brisendine, Danny Brown, Shirley Culpepper, Peppy Linden, Maggi Luca, Barbara Manuel, Michelle Larkin, and Bela Sood.

Members Absent

Brenda Hornsby

CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Trudy Brisendine called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

Announcements

Brenda Hornsby has a meeting conflict and will not be present.

Commissioner Conyers is participating in a federal fatherhood initiative in North Carolina and will not be present at the meeting. Deputy Commissioner Margaret Schultze will sit in his place.

Committees met from 9:00-10:00 a.m.

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Chairwoman Brisendine thanked Jane Clements for hosting this meeting and members, in turn, introduced themselves to the attendees. Jane Clements, Regional Director welcomed the Board to Central Regional Office and introduced staff in attendance.

Al Wilson introduced Laura Ulmer and Jessica Laine, two interns working with the Office of the Attorney General.

REVIEW OF THE AGENDA

Richard Martin, Manager of the Office of Legislative and Regulatory Affairs reviewed the meeting agenda.

Mr. Martin reviewed the history of the State Board and shared a copy of Board appointments dating 1974 to present.

Status of Regulations

Richard Martin advised that the department has 58 regulations in place. Nine of the 58 are currently in the process of being amended, 18 are being repealed, and eight additional new regulations are being promulgated. That totals 66 regulations and potential regulations. This report is attached to the minutes.

Child and Family Services Review

Betty Jo Zarris, Assistant Director of Division of Family Services provided an update on behalf of Paul McWhinney. An on-site review for the week of July 13, 2009 is scheduled.

Exit interviews will be held at each locality July 16. The State exit interview will be held in Richmond July 17, 2009, and State Board members were invited to attend.

Concurrent Planning Updates

Ms. Zarris advised that concurrent planning is a structured approach to case management that seeks to eliminate delays in attaining permanent family placements for children and youth in foster care, and focuses on permanency planning beginning when the child enters care. It holds the concept and value that each child deserves to be placed into a permanent family as soon as possible.

The child's sense of time must be primary in all decisions regarding placement and permanency. Expected outcomes include decreased length of stay in foster care and increased number of voluntary relinquishments versus involuntary terminations.

Concurrent planning outcomes help Virginia by less placement moves and means greater emotional and physical stability for children. Increased voluntary relinquishments versus court terminated parental rights reduces court caseloads and backlogs due to appeals and length of time children spend in unnecessary foster care placement awaiting permanent homes.

Concurrent Planning Casework practices include establishing and maintaining firm timelines in service delivery, achievement of outcomes, and reminders to parents of time available to correct problems. These practices also use full disclosure with parents to tell them about reunification standards and expectations, parental rights and responsibilities, importance of parental connection with their child, implications of foster care, importance of permanency for children and family factors that work against reunification.

Steps to Implementation include developing stakeholder support, developing specialized recruitment and retention strategies, building community service networks, identifying program policies and procedures, and providing training and support.

Rate Setting for Foster Care and Adoption

Ms. Zarris provided the history of rate structuring to the Board.

House Document 25-policies and procedures related to the management of the special needs adoption subsidy program.

Key findings- related increases and inequities in adoption subsidies to additional daily supervision (ADS) payments. By incorporating a rate structure IV-E could be claimed for what is currently all general fund (GF). A rate structure would also provide equity for what children would receive across the Commonwealth by basing payments on child needs.

Research Document 2224

Establishing statewide rates for treatment foster care

Key findings- VDSS would develop and implement a statewide rate structure to govern the administration of additional daily supervision payments to foster and adoptive parents on behalf of the children they foster and/or adopt. A point system was favored over a level of care or anchor system.

A steering committee worked to develop the final proposal. Membership included state VDSS staff, local department of social services staff, Office of Comprehensive Services staff, and private providers (VALCPA, FFTA, VACOPA).

The final proposal was presented and approved by Secretary Tavenner at the SEC meeting on November 21, 2008. While the desired implementation date was July 1, 2009, the date has been pushed back to October 1, 2009 due to issues being identified.

Rate structuring relates to reimbursement of additional supervision rates only and does not address cost of services to children. Questions on rate structuring can be forwarded to rate.structure@dss.virginia.gov

COMMENT PERIOD

Public Comment

Felicia Higgans advised she had been a foster parent for the past 10 years in Henrico and a correctional officer for five. She is opposed to the proposed daily rate structure, saying that children will suffer. In closing, she remarked that cutting dollars from foster care today will just increase the number of prisons needed in the future.

Cate Newbanks, Executive Director of FACES of Virginia Families shared their position on the proposed daily rate structure tool. She advised that consistent use of enhanced maintenance payments is an important positive step and the proposed methodology for assessing the supervision level and funding has been used successfully in Iowa. They oppose any proposal that decreases the supervision rates when a child's behavior improves. They suggest that the regulation include a process for taking immediate action if foster parents are not providing the necessary supervision and the child's behaviors are continuing or increasing.

They believe that foster parents must be held accountable for providing adequate supervision that results in positive changes in children's behavior and cautioned the department to consider that there are rare cases in which the proposed methodology could actually result in rewarding foster parent's who are not providing appropriate supervision.

Nancy Holcomb, from the Barry Robinson Center and representing VA Association of Licensed Child Placing Families shared concerns of the rate setting instrument and plan. This has a potential negative financial impact and potential negative impact on recruiting for foster parents. She asked that the department reconsider the current plan in place of the proposed plan. She urged the Board to encourage the steering committee to consider the regulation and think first of children and families.

Kellie Evans, is employed by the UP Center in Hampton Roads. She spoke on behalf of FFTA-VA and VALCPA, about private provider concerns with the VEMAT. She advised that the tool was made available to private providers in February. One agency found that nearly 50 percent of the ADS payments decreased significantly while the other half increased. The problem was that the pay for the most competent foster parents went down while the less skilled foster parents saw an increase. This consequence will have a predictable impact on recruitment and retention across the state and undermine the state's transformation agenda that children are best raised in families.

She advised they believe the VEMAT does not adequately address caregiver efforts. The focus is almost solely on the child's behavior/needs. If the foster parent is providing proper supervision and structure while balancing the development of healthy attachments with the child, their score will predictably go down.

The VEMAT also does not address some behaviors that are present in the therapeutic/treatment foster care population. Children with attachment disturbances, Autism Spectrum disorders, teen mothers, pregnant teens, and intellectual disabilities are not adequately addressed in this instrument. It also does not address those teens that need independent living skill training by their foster parent.

The VEMAT also presents issues with scoring and reliability. A child who is medically fragile to such a degree that it requires help bathing, dressing, toileting, assistance with physical devices, is tube fed, requires frequent medical care and has therapies three times a week, their score get foster parents \$21.05 a day. This payment falls seriously short of appropriate compensation for ADS.

In summary, the tool does not adequately address risk, risk of the child to the foster family, the school, the community, and themselves. In order to determine ADS needs, risk needs to be determined. The Board was urged to reconsider the implementation of the VEMAT in its current form.

In closing, she quoted a foster parent by saying that we do not do foster parenting for the money but rather the money allows us to be foster parents.

Brad Bryant, Executive Director of People Places, Incorporated in Staunton expressed concerns and offered strategies regarding the current State Rate Structure Plan for foster and adoptive caregivers. He disagreed with important parts of the proposed system and regulation and asked that a public hearing be held specifically to consider the proposed regulation.

He stated the VEMAT does not appear sensitive to the level of difficulty specific needs represent for caregivers nor the skill required of them to respond to those needs. This model was adapted from Wisconsin, where it continues to undergo remedies to address oversights and omissions. He and other providers are asking that a similar focused revision effort take place in Virginia before the VEMAT becomes the single means of determining children's needs and caregiver remuneration.

The current proposal calls for repeated administrations of the VEMAT tied to a child's score. When the score goes down as the result of effective caregiving and the support of agency staff for caregiver families, so will the stipend paid to caregivers. Good parents with good parenting skills will be punished for doing good work. Such a reverse incentive will result in the long run in a loss of our most effective caregivers. That outcome will undermine the State's efforts to achieve a Transformation in children's services through which more children are served in homes and communities rather than residential facilities. He asked that the current fixed schedule be replaced by an on-demand re-testing that can be initiated by any stakeholder at any time. This simple change would reduce the number of automatic re-testings and thus the disincentive effect of the proposed schedule as well as the additional costs associated with its implementation.

Recommendations included to formally invite input from stakeholders in the Rate Structure/VEMAT assessment process on the construct of the VEMAT instrument itself and set a time of two months, then incorporate the changes into a final document. Put this stronger VEMAT into effect and continue to assess its efficacy on a regular basis to improve it over time.

The current Plan calls for a re-evaluation of the most severe cases every three months. Moderate cases would be reviewed every six months and minimal every year. This schedule unfortunately will multiply the punishment effect described above for our most effective caregivers.

Frequent administration of the VEMAT will come with an increase in administrative costs including the time and personnel for doing the assessment and the costs associated with changes in financial agreements between providers and caregivers and providers and localities. Title IVE does not require the re-evaluation scheduled included in the Rate Structure Plan as it currently stands.

We can access IVE funds simply by having an acceptable Rate Structure. The VEMAT Assessment would qualify as an acceptable Structure without the frequent re-assessments called for now and suggested changing the fixed scheduled of administration.

He suggested that the VEMAT be administered when a child comes into care and when he leaves or moves from one program or locality to another. These would be the only fixed criteria for administering the assessment. He suggested that any stakeholder in the FAPT process have the right to request a VEMAT be done—either to account for significant increases in severity or significant decreases. This more flexible approach would reduce, though not eliminate, some of the anxiety and ambivalence caregivers will feel as an automatic VEMAT assessment approaches.

Carolyn Barner stated she has been a foster parent for five years and is opposed to the Noira on rate structure. As a foster parent to two therapeutic children, she asked why they were not involved in these discussions. No one asked any questions of her or any other therapeutic parents to her knowledge. She feels that the state is punishing them for doing a good job with the children by removing funds. These funds are needed to provide clothing, attend sports events, and other functions to raise the child's self-esteem. The Board was urged to reconsider this rate structure plan.

Lisa Monroe spoke on permanency issues. She has been a therapeutic foster parent for 15 years. She advised the state wants permanency for the children but demands they put up their personal insurance coverage first. Parents are having to turn children over to the state because of enormous hospital and related medical bills. She encouraged the Board to speak with a group of special needs parents and listen to their concerns.

Sherry Confo from the Virginia Office for Protection and Advocacy (VOPA) advised they provide legal advocacy and representation for individuals with disabilities. They are developing their 2010 action plan and requested input. A survey was provided to members. Goals adopted for next year include that people with disabilities are free from abuse and neglect; children with disabilities receive an appropriate education; people with disabilities have equal access to government services; people with disabilities live in the most appropriate integrated environment; people with disabilities are employed to the maximum potential and people with disabilities have equal access to appropriate and necessary health care.

Paula Williams opposes the Noria on rate setting. She has been a therapeutic foster parent for four years specializing in medically fragile children. She stated that the quality of care will decline if rate setting takes place. Numerous training sessions are involved in taking care of these children. She told stories of parents that found it necessary to return children because they could not afford the high medical bills and were made to pay child support.

She asked the Board to be proactive and use dollars on the front end to encourage a loving home environment. Please reconsider the rate structure.

Jacquelin Harris is a therapeutic foster care parent who left a government job to take care of children because of her love for them. She is dedicated and rewarded for her care. Rate setting will not pay her for doing this job. She asked how much is paid to group homes and said they also provide care 24/7. She asked the Board to reconsider this rate structure—it would hurt her to lose her children.

Hattie Weatherless has been a foster parent for four years. The job is 24/7 and told the Board a story of a foster child. There are many challenges they face as foster parents and they do the job because they love what they do. She has children ages 13, 8 and 13 months in her that she considers her children. She wants them to be successful and not labeled as foster children.

Chairwoman Brisendine said the Board had heard these concerns and would work with staff to consider them. She advised they would hear additional comments in August and October and a public hearing would also be held.

Local Boards and Directors of Social Services

Ben Owen, Director of King William Department of Social Services greeted the members and remarked he had interacted closely with the Board in the past, while representing the VLSSE. He advised that rate setting was done away with when CSA was implemented; acknowledging that foster care rates are woefully inadequate.

The Board was asked to pursue rate setting and provide care for at-risk children.

Eddie Harrison, Director of Russell County Department of Social Services remarked there is a place in heaven for these foster parents, saying we have no idea what they go through on a daily basis. Caseloads have doubled. He said children are our future and children with problems affect other children. If we do not spend the money now, where will we be in 10 years? We need to look at what is fair and equitable.

He said everyone is having budget cuts and locals do more for less. He appreciates the Commissioner absorbing financial cuts to local agencies as more and more cases are being opened.

He said substance abuse impacts the numbers of children in foster care. Russell County continues to work with faith based organizations and providing a detox program to prisoners.

Local Boards and Directors of Community Action Agencies

No comments.

Virginia League of Social Services Executives' (VLSSE)

Sarah Snead, President of the VLSSE provided greetings from the League. Their membership is passionate about social work systems and shared concerns over increasing applications and lack of resources. They are seeing many first time clients due to the economy.

She thanked Kathy Glazer and others for placing stimulus funds in childcare automation that will better serve clients.

CORE- as rolled out is critical to have local support and encouraged the Board to look at the impact on local agencies. Please do not impose additional burdens on locals. Without resources, services to youths could be impacted.

She asked for collaboration with locals, and to resist imposing mandates and said that if the state cannot afford to pay for it, locals cannot either.

Virginia Community Action Partnership (VACAP)

Jim Schuyler, Executive Director of VACAP, spoke on expansion, stimulus, and EITC. He advised that if the Governor designates all of the jurisdictions, which have requested designation, there would be four new agencies and seven expanded existing agencies as of July 1—serving 30 new counties and cities and an additional 98,000 low-income Virginians living in areas served by CAAs. A map was provided to reflect expansion based on all areas that have requested designation from the Governor by July 1. The new areas are clustered in Central and Northern Shenandoah, Northern Neck and Middle Peninsula, and the far suburbs of Northern Virginia and Richmond as well as the Fredericksburg area.

He advised that expansion of the network would not have happened without the strong support of Governor Kaine, Secretary Tavenner, Commissioner Conyers, and their staffs as well as support of the existing network. Only 13 areas in Virginia remain unserved and only three with substantial numbers of low-income people: Henrico and Chesterfield counties and the City of Harrisonburg.

He advised they have worked closely with Mark Grigsby and his staff in the Office of Community Services since ARRA (stimulus) was introduced in Congress. The State Plan has been submitted to our federal partners based on descriptions of projects from each of the eligible CAAs. These program areas include emergency services, employment programs, summer youth programs, childcare, vocational training, employment transportation services, housing counseling, homeless shelter operations, ex-offender services, financial counseling, energy-related home repairs and many other services. These programs will begin on July 1 and continue to September 30, 2010.

Agencies are beginning a strategic planning process to determine which new and expanded sources of funding—which partnerships and collaborations—will allow these positive outcomes and accomplishments to continue beyond ARRA.

VACAP has applied for federal training and technical assistance funding to assist our agencies with this process, as well as with strategic communications and reporting on the outcomes and accomplishments of AARA. They plan to work with the Commonwealth Institute for Fiscal Analysis on an annual report on CAAs experience with ARRA funding and with other experienced consultants on the strategic planning and communications efforts –if the grant application is approved by the federal government.

He advised they are planning in an uncertain environment—politically with the statewide elections in November, the tight state budget for the 2011-12 biennium and the speculation about federal CSBG funding for FY2011 after ARRA ends.

He advised this is a unique opportunity to have an impact on poverty policy through the Poverty Reduction Task Force. Governor Kaine asked for specific policy recommendation to reduce poverty for his legislative and budget package submitted to the General Assembly in January 2010.

Mr. Schuyler also advised that the numbers from the Virginia Cash Campaign are almost final. This year's EITC initiative continues to show substantial increase in number of federal returns, number of returns with EITC refunds, direct deposit and state returns. He is hopeful that with CAA expansion, they will be able to serve a number of additional regions with free tax preparation in the next tax filing season.

Copies of the three handouts are attached to the official minutes housed in the home office.

Commissioner's Report

Deputy Commissioner Margaret Schultze conveyed the following remarks from Commissioner Conyers.

I am certainly sorry that I am not able to attend your June State Board of Social Services meeting.

I am happy to report however, that I am in Chapel Hill, NC at the invitation of the ACF at a conference which has as its major focus "The African American Family" ACF is bringing together scholars and practitioners from around the country to focus on ways to deal with many of the issues impacting families generally and disproportionately impacting the African American family.

In a recent conversation with a senior member of the ACF staff, we explained the approach Virginia was taking in regard to addressing issues of poverty. Based on that discussion he extended the invitation to Chapel Hill and expressed his interest in visiting Virginia to learn more about our approach.

Poverty is seldom caused by just one factor. Likewise, persons living below the poverty level are there for a variety of reasons to include lost of employment options, single parent households (one worker), need for job training, lack of transportation or childcare, and many others.

We recite the mission of VDSS often but not always with listening to the words.

American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA)

J. R. Simpson, Chief Financial Officer, provided an update to the Board on funding streams.

Title IV-D Child Support Enforcement funding is approximately \$40M over two years. Title IV-E Foster Care and Adoptions funding is approximately \$13.2M over two years. Temporary Assistance to Needy Families funding is a maximum of \$79M over two years. Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program funding is \$5.2M over two years. Child Care and Development Block Grant funding is \$38M over two years. Community Services Block Grant funding is \$16M over two years and Americorps maximum funding over two years is \$750K. A copy of this complete report is attached to the official minutes housed in the home office.

Committee Reports

The Committee on Adults' Issues was chaired by Danny Brown. State Board members attending were S.E. Culpeper, Maggie Luca, and Peppy Linden. Members heard from VDSS staff on the changes in the following regulations:

22 VAC 40-740 – Adult Protective Services

- Amend the Definition of Adult Neglect to include an exemption for religious non-medical treatment
- Provide for EMS mandated reporters to be able to report suspected adult abuse to a hospital attending physician who would then make the report
- Change the name of the Department of Mental Health , Mental Retardation and Substance Abuse Services to Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services

22 VAC 40-35 – Virginia Independence Program

- Change the frequency that an individual can receive a diversionary assistance payment from once every 60 months to once every 12 months

22 VAC 40-41 – Neighborhood Assistance Tax Credit

- Move the authorizing language from §63.2 (DSS code) to §58.1 (TAX code)
- Moves responsibility for education-related programs from DSS to the Department of Education
- Sets the income-eligibility threshold for education at 180% of poverty
- Includes veterinarians as an approved professional service
- Defines scholastic assistance
- Specifies the value of a vehicle when donated to an approved organization

All changes were as a result of legislation from the 2009 General Assembly session. The Committee voted unanimously to propose adoption of all three regulations.

The Children's Committee was chaired by Barbara Manuel due to Brenda Hornsby's absence. The committee discussed NOIRAs for the Child Care Program and the Minimum Standards for Licensed Private Child Placing Agencies regulations. Leslie Knachel answered a few questions about licensing and explained these regulations date back to the 80's and several unsuccessful attempts have been made to update them. She also explained they are closely allied with the "Permanency" regulations. The Permanency regulations are in the proposed stage, but the Board was being asked to consider a change recommended by DPB. The recommendation was to make the required visits to the foster home consistent with the requirements in the licensing regulation. Because rate setting was to be discussed later by Board, there was also some general discussion of the needs of children in treatment or specialized foster care. The consensus of the committee was to recommend approval of the three requested actions this date.

ACTION ITEMS

Approval of April 2009 Minutes

ON MOTION DULY MADE (Mr. Culpepper) and seconded (Ms. Luca) moved to approve the Minutes of the April 2009 meeting. Motion carried with all in favor.

22 VAC 40-201, Permanency Services=Prevention, Foster Care Adoption and Independent Living

Proposed Regulation

The State Board approved a proposed regulatory action for the establishment of 22 VAC 40-201 at the February meeting. As part of the Executive Order Number 36 (2006) executive review of the action, the Secretary of Health and Human Resources has requested that 22 VAC 40-201-90 be amended to agree with the final regulation 22 VAC 40-211, Resource, Foster and Adoptive Family Home Approval Standards which the Board approved in April. That change has been made and is the only change that has been made to the regulation since it was approved in February.

ON MOTION DULY MADE (Ms. Sood) and seconded (Mr. Culpepper) moved to approve the proposed regulatory packages for the following regulations 22 VAC 40-201-10; 22 VAC 40-200; 22 VAC 40-210; 22 VAC 40-240; 22 VAC 40-250; 22 VAC 40-260; 22 VAC 40-280; 22 VAC 40-800; and 22 VAC 40-810 for publication in the Virginia Register subject to approval under the provisions of Executive Order Number 36 (2006) and approve the fiscal impact analysis of this action for distribution to local boards of social services. Motion approved.

22 VAC 40-740, Adult Protective Services

Exempt Final Adoption

This action is required by chapters 538, 705, and 840, 2009 Acts of Assembly. The changes amended the definition of neglect to include a religious non-medical treatment exemption and changed the description of mandated reporting requirements for emergency medical services personnel to allow for direct reporting to the attending physician at the hospital to which an adult is transported; changed the name of the Department of Mental Health Mental Retardation and Substance Abuse Services to the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services.

ON MOTION BY COMMITTEE recommended to approve the exempt final regulatory package for publication in the Virginia Register subject to approval under the provisions of Executive Order 36 (2006) and the Administration Process Act. This regulatory action will become effective August 19, 2009. Motion carried with all in favor.

22 VAC 40-35, Virginia Independence Program

Exempt Final Adoption

The action is required by Chapters 61 and 547, 2009 Acts of Assembly. During the 2009 Session, the General Assembly approved House Bill 1714 and Senate Bill 1045 now allows receipt of diversionary cash assistance up to once every 12 months instead of once every 60 months.

ON MOTION BY COMMITTEE recommended to approve the exempt final regulatory package for publication in the Virginia Register subject to approval under the provisions of Executive Order 36 (2006) and the Administration Process Act. This regulatory action will become effective August 19, 2009. Motion carried with all in favor.

22 VAC 40-41, Neighborhood Assistance Tax Credit

Exempt Final Adoption

This action is required by Chapters 585 and 463 of the 2008 Acts of Assembly and chapters 10 and 851 of the 2009 Acts of Assembly. Changes are being made to the regulations to update obsolete Code citations that resulted from the Neighborhood Assistance Program statutes being moved from title 63.2 of the code of Virginia, to Title 58.1.

ON MOTION BY COMMITTEE recommended to approve the exempt final regulatory package for publication in the Virginia Register subject to approval under the provisions of Executive Order 36 (2006) and the Administration Process Act. This regulatory action will become effective August 19, 2009. Motion carried with all in favor.

22 VAC 40-661, Child Care Program
Notice of Intended Regulatory Action

This regulation action will further the department's effort to standardize statewide guidance and implementation of the child Care Subsidy Program and to incorporate changes that streamline the program. Consistent program implementation will allow implementation of statewide automation. These changes will assure that all clients receive similar services throughout the Commonwealth.

ON MOTION DULY MADE (Ms. Larkin) and seconded (Mr. Culpepper) moved to approve the notice of intended regulatory action for publication in the Virginia Register subject to approval under the provisions of Executive Order 36 (2006) and the Administrative Process Act. Motion carried with all in favor.

22 VAC 40-131, Minimum Standards for Licensed Private Child-placing
Agencies

Notice of Intended Regulatory Action

This action will improve clarity; incorporate current requirements of federal and state law; align home approvals, supervision, and monitoring practices and responsibilities of private child-placing agencies with public child-placing agencies; relieve intrusive and burdensome language, and provide greater protection for children in care.

ON MOTION DULY MADE (Ms. Sood) and seconded (Ms. Larkin) moved to approve the notice of intended regulatory action for publication in the Virginia Register subject to approval under the provisions of Executive Order 36 (2006) and the Administrative Process Act. Motion carried with all in favor.

Election of Officers

ON MOTION DULY MADE (Ms. Luca) on behalf of the Nominating Committee and seconded (Mr. Brown), moved to approve Gertrude Brisendine as Chair; Brenda Hornsby as Vice Chair and Michelle Larkin as Secretary. Motion carried with all in favor.

Information Item

Office of Early Childhood Development Overview- Kathy Glazer, Director advised this program provides funding to enhance the quality, affordability, and supply of childcare available to Virginia's families. Childcare programs are child-centered, family-focused services that support the family goals of economic self-sufficiency and child development by providing substitute parental care, protection, guidance, and early childhood education.

Toward this end, policies and service strategies are designed to meet the following goals:

To provide low-income families with the financial resources to find and afford quality child care for their children to ensure that the family childcare program contributes to the broader objective of self-sufficiency. To provide child care to parents trying to achieve independence from public assistance

To promote parental choice in the selection of childcare. To empower working parents to make their own decisions on the childcare that best suits their family's needs.

To provide consumer education to help parents make informed choices about childcare.

To ensure that subsidy dollars are provided to the neediest families.

To enhance the quality and increase the supply of child care for all families. To improve the coordination among childcare programs and early childhood development programs.

Ms. Glazer spoke to the Board on Smart Beginnings; Virginia's Star Quality Initiative and Professional Development Initiative.

Recess 4:25 p.m.

Thursday, June 18, 2009

Reconvene at 9:00 a.m., Chairperson Trudy Brisendine presiding.

Poverty Summit

Marianne McGhee, Director of the Office of Public Affairs provided an update on Poverty Awareness. Members were asked to participate in a two-minute drill where they could recommend to Governor Kaine one strategy to reduce poverty in Virginia. A copy of the suggestions from the Summit were shared with members and attached to the official minutes.

Act on Poverty will take place on July 18 at some Virginia Community Colleges and is open to the public. Virginia Cooperative Extension and Virginia Community Actions agencies will provide outreach and marketing support. Public Affairs will provide an event guide. A conference call with participants to review all logistics will take place on June 24.

An update was provided on Virginia 211 PSA.

Family and Children's Trust Fund (FACT) Presentation

Fran Inge, Executive Director provided an overview of the FACT Board and its powers and duties, and shared the Strategic Plan and goals for 2006-2011.

A collaboration conference is convened every other year, with the next date being June 2010. A report card (social indicator project) on the state of family violence in the Commonwealth is issued at the end of the conference.

FACT initiatives include funding participation in the new parent tool kits; creating videos for training and Hampton Roads Child Fatality Awareness Program.

Although FACT is not a service provider, they provide funds for needs of service providers.

For further information, please visit www.vakidsfirst.org

Presentation to Outgoing Member

Peppy Linden was honored with an engraved silver reverse bowl as a memento of her service on the Board and to the citizens of the Commonwealth. Ms. Linden's accomplishments included serving on the local DSS Board for eight years; serving as a foster parent; and for her work with disabled children. Members and staff shared their appreciation for her dedication, knowledge, and educational expertise while serving on this Board for the past four years. Ms. Linden will be truly missed.

Central Regional Office Presentation

Jane Clements provided an overview of the regional office, delegation of authority, and insight into the work performed at the regional level.

Denyse Bonaparte spoke to the Board on Licensing Programs, the work they perform and challenges faced with financial cuts.

Gwen Epps spoke to the Board on Quality Assurance and the work they perform.

Paula Mercer, Child Care Supervisor and Cynthia Power, SNAP supervisor were introduced.

The Chair thanked Ms. Clements and staff for their comprehensive overview of their office and for hosting this meeting.

2010 Legislation Update

Mr. Martin shared a copy of the 2010 Preliminary Legislative Proposals with the Board. Further details on the proposals will be discussed at the August meeting.

Key dates include submission to Mr. Martin and Budget Office no later than July 17; affected constituents notified for input on proposals by July 24; Divisions to have their final packages to Mr. Martin for Commissioner review by August 10, and ready for submission to the Secretary by mid-August.

A copy is attached to the official minutes housed in the home office.

Board Member Comments

Members shared their appreciation to Ms. Clements on the hospitality shown them during this meeting and to Reta Heins for the homemade goodies provided.

Special thanks to Peppy Linden for her dedicated service on the Board. Members and staff commented how much she will be missed.

Members congratulated Trudy Brisendine, Brenda Hornsby, and Michelle Larkin for accepting their positions on the Board as Chair, Vice Chair, and Secretary.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Discussed the Child Support Letter to clients mentioned at the last meeting. Ms. Linden will not develop language for this letter as she felt it might be micro managing.

NEW BUSINESS

The next Assisted Living Facility Meeting will be held in Richmond on July 15. Mr. Culpepper serves as liaison on this committee. Ms. Rengnerth was asked to provide further meeting details to Mr. Culpepper.

Chairwoman Brisendine mentioned the possibility of a Board Retreat on Thursday, August 20. She will communicate via email with members.

FUTURE MEETING SCHEDULE

August 20-21, 2009 Central Office

October 14-15, 2009 Henrico Dept. of Social Services

December 16-17, 2009 Central Office

CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS

Ms. Brisendine thanked members for their vote of confidence in reelecting her Chair and said it is an honor to continue serving.

The next meeting agenda will include the following:

Child Welfare Transformation presentation from Ray Ratke

Commonwealth Institute Presentation (from Poverty Summit)

Stimulus Update

Child Support Enforcement Division Overview

Adjournment

With no further business to discuss and by consensus, the meeting adjourned at 12:05 p.m.

Submitted by:
Pat Rengnerth