

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

**Department of Social Services
Central Regional Office
1604 Santa Rosa Road
Richmond, VA 23229**

October 18, 2017

Attending: Dr. Danny Avula (Chair), Mr. Kent Willis (Vice Chair) Ms. Veronica Washington (Secretary), Mr. William Boone, Mr. John Kines, Mr. Clyde Santana, Dr. Andrew Heck.

Absent: Ms. Lou Ali, Ms. Joan Brennan, Ms. Mona Malik.

Also in Attendance: Ms. Margaret Ross Schultze (Commissioner), Ms. Ellen Malenke (Assistant Attorney General), and Mr. Eric Reynolds (Assistant Attorney General).

Meeting called to order at 10:00am – Dr. Avula

Review of Agenda – Ms. Karin Clark, Regulatory Coordinator

Comments from the Commissioner – Ms. Margaret Ross Schultze

Commissioner Schultze introduced Toni Washington, new director of the Division of Benefit Programs. Ms. Washington thanked the Commissioner and she gave brief remarks.

The Commissioner provided updates on the following four major agency projects:

1. Permanency for Children in Foster Care
2. Child Support Modernization
3. Safe & Quality Child Care in the Commonwealth
4. Eligibility Modernization

Commissioner Schultze shared the legislative and budget proposals have been submitted for the 2018 General Assembly session. A proposal on how to retain workers at the local level and transition documents for the next administration are being put forth. The Commissioner also shared that Senators Wyden and Hatch introduced a child welfare bill in Congress.

The Commissioner introduced Penny Hall, Piedmont Regional Director. Ms. Hall provided an overview of the Rockbridge QMR process. The Commissioner provided a brief overview on Rockbridge and the local board.

Update on Child Support Enforcement – Craig Burshem gave a presentation on the Division of Child Support Enforcement.

Briefings on Kinship Care & Upcoming December 2017 Action on Home Approval Standards – Carl Ayers gave presentations on upcoming regulatory changes to foster and adoptive home approval standards and kinship care. Handouts were provided.

COMMENT PERIOD

Comment from the Public

Jane Jones – Early Challenges Child Care Center

Ms. Jones expressed her concerns about the new training guidelines and child care providers.

Susan Lawrence – Rockbridge, VA

Ms. Lawrence expressed her concerns about the challenges with Rockbridge DSS and requested the State Board to investigate the matter.

Andy Crawford – Director of Bedford Department of Social Services

Mr. Crawford thanked the state office for help with day cares issues. He also thanked Carl Ayers and the division of Family Services for the coaching training.

Suzanne Adcock – Director of Rockbridge Area Department of Social Services

Ms. Adcock shared agency and staff updates that have occurred at the Rockbridge agency since she became the new director.

There were no comments from boards and directors of community action agencies.

Comments from the Virginia League of Social Service Executives – Cathy Pemberton, President

Ms. Pemberton elaborated more about interns working at her local agencies. She also shared her agency is battling system issues and she provided insight on local board operations. Ms. Pemberton shared that her organization is concerned about the situation that happened in Rockbridge Co. and she elaborated on the importance of child welfare. She referenced her strategic plan and that she has encouraged membership to meet with each other. She asked to meet with the Commissioner and her staff to talk about the role of the regional offices. She would like to strengthen their support from the regional offices and work with them to identify a risk assessment guideline.

Licensed Family Day Home Final Regulation & Upcoming December 2017 Action – Charlene Vincent gave a presentation on upcoming regulatory changes to licensed family day home standards.

Response to Rockbridge Correspondence – Dr. Avula thanked the Commissioner and staff for helping the Board understand their role in the process. He also thanked Susan Lawrence for being a passionate advocate for children in her community. Dr. Avula shared that the Board received a request to initiate an investigation to the Rockbridge DSS board. Dr. Avula asked Ellen Malenke to walk through the process in a closed session.

CLOSED MEETING

On Motion Duly Made, (Ms. Washington), second (Mr. Willis) moved to go into a closed meeting for the purpose of consultation with legal counsel pertaining to the correspondence and requests received by the Board concerning the Rockbridge local board of social services, pursuant to Virginia Code § 2.2-3711A.8. Attending the closed meeting were: Ms. Boyd, Mr. Santana, Dr. Heck, Dr. Avula, Mr. Willis, Ms. Washington, Mr. Boone, Mr. Kines, and Ellen Malenke. Motion approved with all in favor.

Dr. Avula reconvened the open portion of the session at the conclusion of the closed meeting. He certified that the closed meeting was held in conformity with Virginia law and that only public business matters as identified in the motion by which the closed meeting was convened were discussed. Members unanimously agreed with the certification of the closed meeting.

(Mr. Kines), second (Mr. Santana) motioned with all in favor to conduct an investigation of the Rockbridge Area Department of Social Services administrative board.

Regulatory Update – Karin Clark, Regulatory Coordinator

Ms. Clark provided the status update on 22VAC40-72 highlighted on page 1 of the Report; 22VAC40-201 highlighted on page 3; 22VAC40-211 highlighted on page 4; and 22VAC40-705 and 22VAC40-910 both highlighted on page 6.

ACTION ITEMS

1. **Approve August 2017 meeting minutes**
On Motion Duly Made, (Dr. Heck), second (Mr. Willis), motion approved with all in favor.

2. **Benefit Programs Specialist Appreciation Month**
On Motion Duly Made, (Mr. Boone), second (Ms. Boyd), motion approved with all in favor. Elaine Burgess and Deana Bennett were present to accept the resolution.

3. **2018 State Board of Social Services Meeting Schedule**
On Motion Duly Made, (Mr. Santana), second (Ms. Washington), motion approved with all in favor.

4. **22VAC40-72, Standards for Licensed Assisted Living Facilities - Exempt**
On Motion Duly Made, (Dr. Heck), second (Mr. Willis), motion approved with all in favor.

Board Member Requests for Future Information

Dr. Avula asked members for suggestions for closing comments and suggestions for future meeting topics. Members provided reflective comments on the meeting in general. Mr. Kines asked if information could be provided on adult care facilities and the licensing process and provisions of the treatment of employees. Mr. Boone would like to hear of ideas and ways the department may be able to collaborate with other partners in the state to support the unlicensed child care providers to become subsidy eligible. He would also like to hear if progress has been made on interstate compact on TN and NC and other boarder states around subsidy providers. Mr. Willis would like to know more information on the exact procedures on the Rockbridge investigation. Dr. Heck referenced recent research team findings on anti-psychotic usage in assisted living facilities. He would like for the research team findings to be presented to the Board. Ms. Boyd is interested in knowing what the requirements are in other states around CPR and first aid in child care facilities.

Meeting adjourned at 2:50pm.