

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

February 17, 2021

Attending: Ms. Lou Ali (Chair), Mr. Clyde Santana (Vice Chair), Mr. William Boone (Secretary), Ms. Mona Malik, Mr. John Kines, Dr. Andrew Heck, and Ms. Megan Miloser.

Absent: Dr. Danny Avula, MaryAnn Boyd, Kent Willis, and Jennifer Slack.

Also in Attendance: Mr. Duke Storen (Commissioner) and Ms. Ellen Malenke (Assistant Attorney General).

Meeting called to order at 10:01am – Ms. Ali

Review of Agenda – Karin Clark, Regulatory Coordinator

Comments from the Commissioner – Duke Storen

Commissioner Storen thanked everyone for participating in the virtual board meeting. He welcomed new Board member, Megan Miloser. He extended his appreciation to childcare providers, assisted living providers, community action agencies, and local departments of social services staff. He also acknowledged Dr. Avula for his work. He provided a presentation on Poverty and Hunger. He provided updates on the General Assembly; and he also provided local, state, and federal updates.

State Board of Social Services Bylaws Update – Ellen Malenke provided an update on the Board Bylaws.

Regulatory Refresher – Karin Clark provided the Regulatory Refresher Part 1.

COMMENT PERIOD

There were no comments from the public.

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

Comment from the Virginia League of Social Service Executives – Andy Crawford, President

Mr. Crawford shared the League submitted a budget amendment with the General Assembly. He shared some departments have gotten vaccines and some have not. Some departments are working the local vaccination sites. The League is working with IT on the bandwidth issues so they can hold virtual meetings. They are working on Workforce improvements and the barriers.

ACTION ITEMS

1. Approved December 2020 Meeting Minutes

On Motion Duly Made, (Mr. Boone), second (Ms. Malik), motion to approve the minutes with six in favor (Ali, Santana, Boone, Malik, Kines, Heck) and one abstained (Miloser).

2. **Resolution to Recognize April 2021 as Office Services Support Month**
On Motion Duly Made, (Ms. Malik), second (Mr. Kines), motion approved with all in favor.
3. **22VAC40-601, Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program - Proposed Regulation**
On Motion Duly Made, (Dr. Heck), second (Mr. Kines), motion approved with all in favor.
4. **Resolution Recognizing April 2021 as Child Abuse Prevention Month**
On Motion Duly Made, (Mr. Santana), second (Mr. Kines), motion approved with all in favor.

Board Member Requests for Future Information

There were no requests for future meeting topics.

Meeting adjourned at 11:14am



VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

**COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA
STATE BOARD OF SOCIAL SERVICES
*Resolution to Recognize April 2021 as
Office Services Support Appreciation Month***

WHEREAS, Social Services Office Support Employees, as an integral part of Social Services, are the initial contact for individuals and families in Virginia requesting services, utilizing all major systems to effectively provide valuable assistance to their employers, customers and all the people of Virginia; and

WHEREAS, Social Services Office Support Employees in Virginia promote excellence, interoffice efficiency, and productivity; and continually provide coordination and support in all areas of Administration, Eligibility and Social Work; and

WHEREAS, Social Services Office Support Employees consistently devote appropriate time and energy to developing productive and cooperative working relationships necessary to effectively serve the diverse population of Virginians in need; and

WHEREAS, Social Services Office Support Employees have proven to be a vital component in the use of automation in Social Services, providing technical assistance, support and advice to users and planning, coordinating and implementing the organization's information security; and

WHEREAS, Social Services Office Support Employees continually meet the challenges of a constantly changing environment in all areas of Social Services, ensuring job functions are handled in an accurate and timely manner; and

WHEREAS, Social Services Office Support Employees perform their duties admirably with diplomacy and dedication, improving upon past levels of quality, meeting the challenges envisioned for the future, providing stability and demonstrating a high level of performance and caring in executing policies and procedures under complex circumstances;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the State Board of Social Services does hereby commend Office Services Support Employees in Social Services across the Commonwealth of Virginia for a job well done, and recognize the month of April 2021 as Office Services Support Employee Appreciation Month, urging all the citizens of Virginia to join in recognizing and acknowledging their public service and contribution on this 17th day of February 2021.

Lou Brown Ali

*Lou Brown Ali, Chair
State Board of Social Services
Commonwealth of Virginia*



VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA STATE BOARD OF SOCIAL SERVICES

*Child Abuse Prevention Month
Resolution of Recognition*

WHEREAS, every child has the right to safe, healthy, and nurturing environments, with equitable access to resources and opportunities to thrive in their communities; and

WHEREAS, during Child Abuse Prevention Month, the State Board of Social Services, recognizes the courage it takes to raise a child and that all parents and families have the right to be treated with dignity, to have economic stability and to receive the support and knowledge that child rearing demands; and

WHEREAS, child abuse is considered to be one of our nation's most serious public health problems, with scientific studies documenting the correlation between the abuse and neglect of children and a wide range of medical, emotional, psychological, and behavioral disorders; and

WHEREAS, child abuse affects 121,787 families in Virginia, documented through reports to the local departments of social services. During SFY 2020, there were 33,880 completed reports of child abuse accepted by local departments of social services involving 52,554 children; and

WHEREAS, the Virginia Department of Social Services and local departments of social services play an integral role in child abuse prevention, keeping children with their families in their communities, and supporting parents and families to successfully thrive in their communities and prevent entry into foster care; and

WHEREAS, Virginia's child welfare stakeholders, through pass thru funding to communities, deliver critical services and supports to strengthen familial protective factors to prevent child abuse through programs such as: home visiting services, primary prevention programs, parent support programs, and other evidence-based strategies;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, on this 17th day of February 2021, the State Board of Social Services does hereby recognize April 2021 as Child Abuse Prevention Month; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the State Board of Social Services recognizes the critical role that local family services workers play in supporting families in stress and protecting children at risk of child abuse and does commend and thank them for their service; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the State Board of Social Services does hereby call on all local departments of social services and Community Action Agencies to plan with their partners to recognize April as Child Abuse Prevention Month by promoting and highlighting programs and actions in their own community that support families and safeguard and nurture our children utilizing a variety of activities to include the Virginia child abuse prevention toolkit developed by [Families Forward Virginia](#).

Lou Brown Ali

*Lou Brown Ali, Chair
State Board of Social Services*