

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

**February 15, 2023**

**Attending:** Buckey Boone (Chair), John Kines (Vice Chair), Megan Miloser (Secretary), Leslie Ford, Maria Benjamin, Don Carey, Jennifer Slack, DeRonda Short, Zulma Santos, Sheryl Garland, and Rachna Heizer.

**Also in Attendance:** Dr. Danny Avula (Commissioner) and Ellen Malenke (Assistant Attorney General).

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

**Comments from the Commissioner –** Dr. Avula provided local, state, and federal updates.

**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 –** Rebecca Morgan, President Ms. Morgan acknowledged Commissioner Avula and Mr. Boone for reaching out to the League regarding their legislative platform. Ms. Morgan noted this was the first time in League history this type of meeting has taken place. She noted the League supports SB923 and SB1219. She commended the Commissioner and VDSS for their openness and willingness to meet, discuss, and fine solution-focused outcomes. The League has a budget request to extend the stipend program for students at local colleges and universities.

Tiffany Gordon, Chair, Benefit Programs Committee, shared February is the month they celebrate the Benefit Programs Specialists for their work and services they provide. She spoke about the specialists embarking on unwinding and of frustrations with VACMS. She also spoke about Broad-based Categorical Eligibility cases.

**ACTION ITEMS**

- 1. Approved December 2022 Meeting Minutes**  
*On Motion Duly Made*, (John Kines), second (Don Carey), motion approved with all in favor.
- 2. Resolution to Recognize April 2023 as Child Abuse Prevention Month**  
*On Motion Duly Made*, (Sheryl Garland), second (Jennifer Slack), motion approved with all in favor.
- 3. 22VAC40-131, Minimum Standards for Licensed Private Child Placing Agencies- Proposed Regulation**  
*The agency is still working with the Office of Attorney General on this regulation; therefore, it is not ready for action.*

4. **22VAC40-221, Additional Daily Supervision Rate Structure- Withdraw Current Action**  
***On Motion Duly Made***, (John Kines), second (Don Carey), motion approved with all in favor.
  
5. **Update State Classification Plan, Occupational Title & Pay Band Structure for Local Departments of Social Services**  
***On Motion Duly Made***, (Sheryl Garland), second (Zulma Santos), motion approved with all in favor.
  
6. **Consider Board Support for Budget Requests and Legislation Before the 2023 General Assembly**  
***On Motion Duly Made***, for the resolution supporting SB923 (Jennifer Slack), second (Don Carey), motion approved, with DeRonda Short abstaining.  
***On Motion Duly Made***, for the resolution supporting SB1219 (John Kines), second (Megan Miloser), motion approved, with DeRonda Short opposing. Zulma Santos needs more information.  
***On Motion Duly Made***, for the resolution supporting additional funding for CPS staff and the stipend program (Don Carey), second (Jennifer Slack), motion approved with all in favor.

In response to member feedback regarding the Board's supporting legislation moving forward, Chairman Boone will look into establishing a Board committee that can monitor relevant legislative activity and keep the Board informed.

**Relative Maintenance Payments Comparison** – Craig Patterson provided an update on the relative maintenance payments comparison.

**Division of Child Support Enforcement Overview** – Barbara Lacina and Matt Gomez provided an overview of Child Support Enforcement.

**Medicaid Unwinding Update** – Carl Ayers provided an update on Medicaid Unwinding.

#### **Board Member Requests for Future Information**

Sheryl Garland:

- Requested that the outreach tool kit referenced during the Commissioner's comments be shared with the Virginia Hospital & Healthcare Association. Deputy Commissioner Ayers will follow up.
- Would like the Board to stay informed on outreach efforts regarding post-pandemic unwinding. Deputy Commissioner Ayers will distribute dashboard information with the Board as it becomes available.

Leslie Ford:

- Information on the number of social work stipend students employed and their length of employment. Deputy Commissioner Ayers will follow up.

- Agency efforts to connect with workforce services, particularly in relation to TANF, SNAP waivers & Medicaid redeterminations. Commissioner Avula and Deputy Commissioner Ayers will follow-up.

Don Cary would like to understand the metrics used to determine the General Assembly's proposed increase of the Auxiliary Grant rate. Deputy Commissioner Boyle will follow up.

**Meeting adjourned at 1:08pm**