

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

October 18, 2023

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

Absent: DeRonda Short and Rachna Heizer

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

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

Comments from the Commissioner – Dr. Avula provided local, state, and federal updates. Gena Boyle, Deputy Commissioner for Policy and Administration, provided an overview of the state budget update.

COMMENT PERIOD

There were no public comments.

There were no comments from local boards and community action agencies.

Comment from the Virginia League of Social Service Executives – Rebecca Morgan, President
Ms. Morgan provided highlights of local department activities. She shared the top two priorities are the replacement of VaCMS and CommonHelp, and the training academy. She talked about the impact of kinship care. She shared that the League conference is November 1-3 in Lynchburg.

Stephanie Coleman, Chair, TANF/ESP Committee – Ms. Coleman provided an update and presentation on TANF Employment Committee charges.

ACTION ITEMS

1. Approved August 2023 Meeting Minutes
On Motion Duly Made, (Johnn Kines), second (Sheryl Garland), motion approved with all in favor.
2. 22VAC40-325, Fraud Reduction/Elimination Effort- Notice of Intended Regulatory Action
On Motion Duly Made, (Don Carey), second (Leslie Ford), motion approved with all in favor.
3. 22VAC40-680, VA Energy Assistance Program-Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)- Proposed Regulation
The Chairman noted that the proposed regulation is still under development and the agency is working with the Office of Attorney General. No action was taken.

4. 2024 State Board of Social Services Meeting Schedule

On Motion Duly Made, (Maria Benjamin), second (Jennifer Slack), motion to approve the meeting schedule. Mr. Cary noted the June 2024 was scheduled for June 19, which is a federal holiday. Ms. Slack offered a friendly amendment to move the meeting to June 12. **On Motion Duly Made**, (Mr. Kines), second (Ms. Benjamin), moved to approve the 2024 meeting schedule as amended, showing the June 12, 2023 meeting date. Motion approved with all in favor.

Legal Analysis of Code and Regulation Language – Ellen Fulmer provided information on the legal analysis of code and regulation language.

Child Protective Services Appeals – Shannon Hartung provided a presentation on Child Protective Services appeals.

Medicaid Unwinding Update – Carl Ayers provided a presentation on the Medicaid Unwinding update.

Report on Chairman’s Meeting with HHR Secretary John Littel – Buckey Boone provided an update on the meeting with Secretary Littel regarding support for funding to replace the current VaCMS with a new integrated benefits system.

Member Comments and Requests

Ms. Benjamin requested the Board stay updated on the kinship initiative. Commissioner Avula suggested the agency provide a quarterly update.

Meeting adjourned at 12:20 pm