

**Minutes  
CPS Out-of-Family Advisory Committee  
Petersburg Department of Social Services  
400 Farmer Street  
Petersburg, VA**

**May 20, 2008**

**Attending:** Irv Beard, Sylvia Lovelace, Stacey Cook, Linda Caudle, Steve Jurentkuff, Kerthy Herne, Leslie Knachel (on behalf of Lynne Williams), Nettie Simon-Owens (SBSS Chair).

**Absent** Ernest Madison, Carol Lane, Mary Robinson, LaVerne Morris, and Johanna Schuchert

VDSS Staff: Nan McKenney and Pat Rengnerth.

**Call to Order**

The Child Protective Services (CPS) Out of Family Advisory Committee was called to order at 1:00 p.m. by State Board Chair Nettie Simon-Owens. Ms. Simon-Owens welcomed the committee and thanked the new and returning members for their valuable work on this committee; stating that their mission was so important that this committee was formed and codified in the *Code of Virginia*.

**Welcome and Introductions**

The committee members introduced themselves and spoke of their background as related to support of this committee. Ms. Simon-Owens advised that all areas of the state will be represented on this committee while she continues to fill vacancies. She and Ms. McKenney will send a thank you note to former member and Chair Maria Timoney for her valuable work on this committee.

**Background on Committee**

Ms. McKenney provided members with information on the history of this Advisory Committee and spoke on their purpose as related to the State Board of Social Services (SBSS).

**Election of Officers**

Members elected a new slate of officers from those present. By general consensus, Steve Jurentkuff was chosen to serve as Chair and Irv Beard as Vice Chair. Members decided to meet at least annually and on other occasions as deemed necessary by their work.

**Group Direction/Focus**

It was reported that the SBSS asked this group for additional information about unfounded CPS OOF investigations of public school employees to assess the impact of amendments to §63.2-1511 of the *Code of Virginia* on child safety and services. The legislation established additional requirements to validate a report in public school settings.

Ms. Nan McKenney provided members with a report entitled "*Unfounded Investigation Report in Public Schools*" dated March-October 2007. The overall results of this review indicate that 96% of the investigations were unfounded due to lack of evidence. Three percent of these unfounded investigations would have been founded had it not been for the additional requirement to prove willful misconduct or gross negligence. The data seems to indicate child safety has not been adversely impacted by the legislative changes affecting investigations in public school settings.

This group discussed the Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs) between schools and social service agencies that is required by the *Code of Virginia* and the possible need to develop a plan to recommend review of them. The committee asked Ms. McKenney how many local departments have developed an MOU with the local school board.

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She agreed to provide this information to the committee, and develop a plan for local departments of social services to review these MOUs.

The committee also discussed the need of a public awareness campaign for recognizing mandated reporters in designated out-of-family settings to improve the recognition and reporting of child abuse and neglect. Ms. McKenney discussed the materials and training currently available to mandated reporters and will work with other committee members to publicize this information to a broader audience.

Ms. Simon-Owens requested a report for the SBSS that outlines the plans to address these two issues identified by the Out-of-Family Advisory Committee.

**Membership includes:**

Linda Caudle, represents a religious organization with program for children  
Johanna Schuchert, represents Prevent Child Abuse Virginia  
Irv Beard, represents public school employees  
LaVerne Morris, represents hospital for children  
Ernest Madison, represents juvenile detention home  
Sylvia Lovelace, represents a local department of social services  
Stacey Cook, represents a children's residential facility  
Carol Lane, represents a family daycare home  
Mary Robinson, represents licensed child care center  
Steve Jurentkuff, Kerthy Herne, and Lynne Williams serve in At Large positions

There are three at-large positions that are currently vacant.

Peppy Linden will serve as the SBSS liaison to this group. Nan McKenney will serve as principal staff and Pat Rengnerth as scribe.

**Future Meeting**

May 2009 (Unless the workload necessitates meeting prior to this date.)

**Adjourn**

The meeting adjourned at 4:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted  
Pat Rengnerth