



CSA TODAY

A NEWSLETTER OF THE OFFICE OF CHILDREN'S SERVICES

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Director's Blog

by Scott Reiner, Executive Director



Welcome to 2019 from the Office of Children's Services. The new year brings continued excitement as we work together with our state and local partners to improve the effective and efficient delivery of services to children and families. Important developments are emerging from the DMAS/DBHDS-led work on redesigning the behavioral health system including a "hot off the press" proposal for a continuum of services for children, adolescents and adults, beginning with health promotion and prevention and including a full array of services across settings and intensity levels (home, school, community and when necessary, out-of-home). The emphasis is on continuity, quality, and a trauma-informed recovery and rehabilitation framework. Consideration for development of the behavioral health workforce (which includes service providers and public agencies who provide case management) and defining and measuring meaningful outcomes are part of the next steps. This is extremely cutting edge work and more information will be forthcoming.

The work to implement the Family First Prevention Services Act (Family First, for short) and to bring an array of evidence-supported services to safely prevent children from entering foster care continues apace. Multiple work groups under the umbrella of the Three Branch model continue to develop implementation plans, identify needed resources, and build consensus. Three Branch includes state and local government representatives from multiple agencies, legislative members, the courts, private providers, and others. The implementation of Family First has implications for CSA as federal Title IV-E funding shifts from congregate care placements for children in foster care to community-based foster care prevention services. Several of the staff here at OCS are deeply involved in this work and we expect additional participation from local CSA leaders in the coming months.

The new year brings the convening of the General Assembly. As I am writing this, there are only a few bills introduced directly impacting CSA and these relate to funding for educational services for students with disabilities. I expect additional proposals related to the private day special education outcomes report (discussed elsewhere in this newsletter), and no session even adjourns without at least one surprise. There are many bills proposing changes in the foster care system that are of interest to the CSA community and these bear watching as well.

We are deep into the planning for the annual CSA conference. I am confident that you will find this year's program highly diverse and informative. I hope you will be able to join us in Roanoke on April 30 – May1.

Please enjoy the winter newsletter and as always, let us know how we can improve our success in "empowering communities to serve youth."



Registration is currently underway for the 8th Annual CSA Conference, which will be held on April 30-May 1, 2019 at the Hotel Roanoke (www.cpe.vt.edu/ocs).

Follow the "Annual Commonwealth of Virginia CSA Conference" on Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/CSAConferenceVA/>) for conference pictures and updated information on conference events.



Office of Children's Services Recognition Initiative

8th Annual CSA Conference

"Resilience: Achieving the Possible"



"The mission of the CSA is "empowering communities to Serve Youth" with a vision of "a collaborative child-centered, family-focused and community-based system of care that effectively meets the needs of youth and their families in the Commonwealth". With this charge, the Office of Children's Services (OCS) acknowledges that this mission could not be achieved without the dedicated service of our community partners working on the front lines helping our youth and their families remain intact. OCS will continue the annual recognition initiative first awarded in 2014 to acknowledge and celebrate, our unsung heroes, specifically CSA Coordinators, for their countless efforts and commitment to serving youth and their families in the Commonwealth. [Read more...](#)

Resource Round Up

The Office of Children's Services (OCS) strives to provide valuable resources to stakeholders through the OCS resource library (on the CSA website) and the Virginia Learning Center. Our most recent Learning Center release is a four-module training series for CPMT members. While the modules were created with CPMT members in mind, many CSA stakeholders will find the information contained within the modules useful.

As you explore the OCS website (<http://csa.virginia.gov/>), be sure to check out the 2018 updated User Guide for the Children's Services Act (CSA User Guide); 2019 Policy Manual for the Children's Services Act; Model IFSP and UR Addendum; New Editions of CSA Today; Administrative Memos; Program Audit Reports, and uploaded presentations from the 7th Annual CSA Conference.



CANVaS Update

by Carol Wilson, Program Consultant, OCS

Hear Ye, Hear Ye! New CANS Policy!



Why was a CANS policy developed?

The purpose of the new policy was to:

“create a clear and consistent policy framework which will enhance the use of the CANS in service planning and outcome measurement...by minimizing requirements and well-defining expectations, it will be easier for local staff to maximize the assessment.”

The policy was created to assist case managers in incorporating the assessment more easily into their practice by providing specific, but flexible, parameter for when the assessment is administered. [Read more...](#)

SPECIAL EDUCATION WRAP AROUND FUNDS

TIPS FROM THE BUSINESS MANAGER

BY MARIS ADCOCK

You may be wondering if there are still Special Education Wrap Around funds available for the 2019 fiscal year. The answer to this question is **YES!** In order to access these funds, localities must complete a SPED – WRAP funding request. The request form is located under the resources/forms section of the CSA website (http://csa.virginia.gov/content/doc/SPEDWRAP_Request_Form.pdf).

The form must include a brief description of the services these funds will be used to support and the CPMT Chair, as well as the CSA Fiscal Agent must sign the form. Once completed, the form must be scanned and submitted electronically to Maris Adcock (maris.adcock@csa.virginia.gov). Please contact Maris Adcock, OCS Finance & Business Operations Manager with any questions..

Guidelines for Newsletter Submission

If you have information you would like to share with your CSA colleagues around the state, please follow the guidelines for submission located

[HERE...](#)



Positive Organizational Culture

Audit Corner

by Annette Larkin, Program Auditor, OCS

In the Children's Services Act (CSA), a positive organizational culture can be envisioned as a community that collectively strives:

- to "improve outcomes for children and their families",
- to "create a collaborative system of services and funding that is child-centered, family-focused and community-based", and
- to be a "national model in providing effective and innovative systems of care".

[Read more...](#)



TA Questions of the Quarter

by Kristi Schabo, Program Consultant, OCS

Who is responsible for the educational services for a child with a disability who has been residentially placed for non-educational reasons outside of the CSA/FAPT process? Can CSA pay for Therapeutic Day Treatment (TDT) services in public schools for students with an educational disability if the child is eligible for CSA under a category other than special education, such as CHINS, foster care, or foster care prevention? Can CSA pay for Therapeutic Day Treatment (TDT) services in public schools for students who do NOT have an educational disability? Can the Proposed Standard Contract, available on the OCS website be modified for local use? Click [HERE](#) for the answers...

SPOTLIGHT ON SUCCESS-CVPY TRAINING DAY

by Kristi Schabo, Program Consultant, OCS

The Central Virginia Partnership on Youth (CVPY) held their 17th Annual CSA Training and Resource Day on September 21, 2018 at the Chesterfield Career and Technical Center in Chesterfield, Virginia. The resource day featured Maia Szalavitz, award-winning author and journalist, who engaged an audience of over 500 in "Conversations about addiction." This training was provided at no cost to participants thanks to the vendors who sponsored and attended the event to share information regarding supportive services. The Central Virginia Partnership on Youth consists of professionals and private providers committed to fulfilling their mission "To educate central Virginia on social issues related to children and families in need of service." If you would like to learn more about the CVPY, please visit their website at:

www.cvpy.org





OCS Workgroup Updates

CQI

Over the last few months, the State Executive Council (SEC) Utilization Management Workgroup has refined newly developed dashboards which will equip and help local CPMTs to analyze and digest their data. As reported in the last newsletter, this improvement effort has a new name- CSA Continuous Quality Improvement or CQI. A key goal of the CSA CQI workgroup is to develop easy-to-use tools that CPMTs can use as they review aggregate data and develop plans for their local CSA programs. A CSA CQI dashboard has been developed. In addition to existing financial, utilization/demographic, and outcome data, the CQI dashboards will also include some census or other demographic data that can be used for comparison and analysis activities. The good news is that the dashboard will have all of this information in one easily accessible place.

Training sessions for a small number of CSA CQI pilot sites will be held beginning in mid- February and continue through the end of March. Six localities have had CSA coordinators or SEC representatives who have participated in the workgroup and will participate in the project's pilot phase. These localities are: Goochland, Newport News, Suffolk, Isle of Wight, Petersburg, Hopewell and Montgomery County. CSA CQI pilot sites will be trained onsite, in their communities, and will be asked to provide essential feedback and user perspectives on the CQI training materials and tools. Look for sessions about CSA CQI at the annual CSA conference in May. Please contact Zandra Relaford (zandra.relaford@csa.virginia.gov) if you have questions regarding this effort.

Private Day
Outcomes

The 2018 Appropriation Act (Chapter 2, Item 282. O.) required the Office of Children's Services (OCS) and the Virginia Department of Education (VDOE) to *"facilitate a workgroup to identify and define outcome measures to assess students' progress in private day placements."* During the summer and early fall of 2018, the workgroup held four meetings where they received presentations on state data collection and reporting by the Virginia Department of Education (VDOE) and outcome measures currently compiled in private educational settings by the Virginia Association of Independent Specialized Education Facilities (VASIF) and the Virginia Coalition of Private Provider Associations (VCOPPA). The workgroup also examined the Commonwealth of Virginia's Public Schools Special Education Performance Report, which is a compilation of indicators used to satisfy the public reporting requirements of the federal Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), in an effort to assess which of the special education indicators, if any, would be viable outcome measures for students in private day school settings. With considerable input from stakeholders, the workgroup considered modifications to, and outcomes beyond, the existing VDOE Special Education Indicators and recommend ten outcome measures, which address the following categories:

- Graduation Rates
- Attendance
- Individual Student Progress
- Standardized Test Scores
- Return to Public School Setting
- Post-Secondary Transition
- Suspension and Expulsion
- Restraint and Seclusion
- Parent Satisfaction
- Student Perspectives

The workgroup recommended that the data collection on these outcomes begin with the 2019-2020 school year; however, there is still substantive work which needs to be completed before the collection of many of the proposed outcomes can be implemented. The Report to the Chairman of the House Education and Appropriations Committees and the Senate Educational and Health and Finance Committees pursuant to Item 282 (O) of Chapter 2 of the 2018 Appropriation Act can be accessed at <https://rga.lis.virginia.gov/Published/2018/RD434>.

Private Day
Rate Setting Study

Special education private day services funded through the CSA continue to attract considerable attention from many groups including state and local government and the General Assembly. In the most recent fiscal year (FY2018), 4101 students with disabilities received IEP determined private day education through the CSA, an increase of 7% from the prior year, and an increase of 38% since FY2013. As you are no doubt aware, costs to both the state and local CSA budgets have increased at corresponding rates and in FY2018, state and local net expenditures for special education private day programs was over \$172 million. Elsewhere in the Newsletter, you can read about efforts undertaken by a broad group of stakeholders to define and initiate the process of collection data on outcomes for these students. Additionally, the 2018 General Assembly (Appropriation Act Item 282 (M)) directed the Office of Children's Services to contract for a study on the current rates paid by localities to special education private day programs licensed by VDOE to include:

- Examination of the adequacy of current rates
- Recommendations for implementing a rate-setting structure
- Consideration of the impacts of potential changes to the rate setting process on local school districts, local government, and public and private educational service providers.

After issuing a Request for Proposals, OCS entered into a contract with the Public Consulting Group to carry out this work. Phase 1 included engagement sessions with private day providers, local school divisions, and local governments. This helped inform the methodology for the collection of cost data which is ongoing through the end of January. Additionally, PCG conducted a "scan" of how other states funds these services. A preliminary report was issued to the General Assembly on December 1, which can be found at

<https://rga.lis.virginia.gov/Published/2018/RD544>.

The next steps include completing the data collection, preliminary analysis of that data and a preliminary set of recommendations, a more in depth round of stakeholder engagement to react to the initial recommendations and then a final report due to the General Assembly by July 1, 2019.

CANS

The Office of Children's Services wishes to express its appreciation to the members of the CANS Policy Work group. The level of expertise and experience with local CANS administration demonstrated by the group was impressive and invaluable in drafting a CANS policy which will assist local staff in improving the statewide use of CANS.

Training Calendar

CLICK **HERE** 

TO LEARN ABOUT TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES AVAILABLE
THROUGHOUT THE STATE!!