

MINUTES – April 3, 2014
STATE & LOCAL ADVISORY TEAM (SLAT)
COMPREHENSIVE SERVICES FOR AT RISK YOUTH & FAMILIES
Richmond Room
1604 Santa Rosa Road
Richmond, VA

Members Present: Victor Evans, SLAT Chair, CSA Coordinator Representative; Karen Tompkins, Vice-Chair, Private Provider Representative; The Honorable Anita Filson, Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court Judge Representative; Katharine Hunter, DBHDS; Shawn Rozier, CPMT – LDSS Representative; Pat Haymes, DOE; Cristy Gallagher, Parent Representative; Ronald Belay, CPMT - CSU Representative; Penny Combs, Private Provider Representative; Chuck Walsh, CPMT – CSB Representative; Angela Neely, CPMT – School Representative; Brian Campbell, DMAS, Denise Dickerson, VDSS, Jack Ledden, DJJ

Members Absent: Janet Lung, DBHDS; Jodie Wakeham, VDH; Alex Kamberis, VDSS

Guests and Staff Members Present: Carol Jellie, Shelly Wiles, Karen Reilly-Jones, Tammy Becoat-Eclou, Abigail Schreiner, Di Hayes, Shelly Latoski, Susan Clare, Scott Reiner, Anna Antell, Stephanie Bacote, Brady Nemeyer, Marsha Mucha

Introductions and Chair Remarks

Victor Evans, SLAT Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:35 a.m. He welcomed members and guests and asked for introductions. Mr. Evans reminded members of the purpose of SLAT as noted on the bottom of each meeting's agenda.

Mrs. Clare thanked members for attending and presenting at the 3rd Annual CSA Conference.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the February 6, 2014 meeting were approved on a motion by Cristy Gallagher, seconded by Shawn Rozier and carried.

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

SEC Goals and Strategies

Goal 1, Strategy 5

Inadvertent fiscal incentives (Medicaid match, family-of-one eligibility, education costs, adoption subsidy)

Mr. Evans provided background information on the assignment to SLAT from the SEC. He also noted the previous discussions on this topic. Mr. Evans asked Mrs. Clare to report on the public comment made during the March SEC meeting and the ensuing discussion that was held during that meeting.

Mrs. Clare noted that members had been provided with a copy of the public comment submitted on behalf of VCOPPA and VAISEF at the March SEC meeting. (*Attached*) The issue involves reimbursement for educational costs of children placed in Level C residential treatment facilities for non-educational reasons. Mrs. Clare further explained that, during the 2014 General Assembly Session, Delegate Bell, introduced legislation (*HB 221*), that would have required local school divisions to provide the funding to reimburse the educational costs for this population of children. The bill was “laid on the table” recognizing the issue may be incorporated into a two-year study by the Commission on Youth. HJR 196 directs the Commission on Youth to study the use of federal, state, and local funds for the public and private education placements of students with disabilities.

Mrs. Clare distributed a series of questions to assist in facilitating a dialogue on this issue. She asked members to consider how addressing this issue is relevant to the SEC strategic goal to “Support implementation of a singular, unified system of care that ensures equitable access to quality services for at risk youth across the Commonwealth”. The consensus of members was that the issue is relevant to the strategic goal and should be addressed. Members discussed:

- Factors that lead to the gap in funding:
 - Direct placement by parents through physician/treatment team (*the Certificate of Need completed by the Community Service Board or the Acute Care team*). Bed-to-bed transfers from acute care/treatment step-down
 - In accordance with federal limitations, Medicaid covers treatment costs, but not education costs
 - Cases are not reviewed through FAPT/approved through the CPMT
 - Use of private insurance (doesn't cover educational costs)
 - Adoption subsidies from other states
 - Willingness of private providers to accept children without ensuring that educational funding is available
- Barriers/disincentives to eliminating the gap:
 - Locality bears fiscal match on services when cases are approved through CSA process
 - Some localities do not accept parent/provider/physician referrals to FAPT
 - Some children may fall into “non-mandated” population and some localities do not utilize non-mandated funds

Mrs. Clare asked members for their thoughts regarding the use of public funds for educational services for direct placements. School representatives noted that public school divisions do not have a funding source to pay the educational costs of these children. Children in these placements are removed from the Average Daily Membership count of students in public education so public school divisions do not receive reimbursement for these children.

Members also discussed how youth in this population might meet the statutory definitions of CSA eligible populations. After reviewing the CSA statute for eligibility of pool funds and further discussion, it was decided that a comparison of the eligibility requirements for residential treatment, CSA funding, and CHINS should be presented at SLAT's June meeting.

At the end of the discussion, Mr. Evans asked members to review the last few questions that still need to be discussed and to be prepared to address them at the June meeting. Also, if members have data on these youth, please bring that to share as well.

Maximizing SLAT Role

Mrs. Clare reported that, several years ago at the SEC retreat, the SEC focused on how the SEC could maximize its effectiveness. This led to the formation of several sub-committees within the SEC: an Executive Committee, Finance Committee, and Outcomes Committee which is enabling SEC members' direct involvement in policy issues (e.g., carve-out policy and community-based behavioral health services). Mrs. Clare further reported that proposals and discussions during the General Assembly session highlighted stakeholder interest in greater participation, representation and voice in CSA policy making processes.

Based on the reasons stated previously and upon SLAT's statutory responsibility to advise the SEC, the SEC at its March meeting asked that SLAT examine ideas for improving SLAT's effectiveness to ensure that the SEC receives constituent perspectives on issues it addresses. Mrs. Clare noted that a review of SLAT activities over the past 5 years identified minimal SLAT activity.

During discussion it was explained that the SEC wants to receive different views and perspectives gathered by SLAT on an issue rather than a single recommendation. If there are differing points of views, the SEC wants that information to help inform their decision making. Mrs. Clare explained that SLAT members will be asked to join and participate in the June SEC Retreat which will include an interactive discussion with the SEC around improving the operational effectiveness of CSA administration.

In advance of the June SLAT meeting, Mr. Evans asked that SLAT members (paired by two) review a section of the SLAT bylaws to identify strengths and weaknesses in the bylaws and/or areas that need to be changed. Also, members were asked to think about ideas for engaging/representing stakeholder voices and/or changing current practice, such as whether there are additional organizations from which SLAT member nominations might be solicited.

Preparation for Election of Next SLAT Chair and Vice-Chair

Mr. Evans reported that it was time for SLAT to begin the process of electing a chair and vice-chair for the upcoming fiscal year. He appointed Cristy Gallagher, Ron Belay and Jack Ledden to serve as the Nominating Committee. The Nominating Committee will report at the June meeting at which time nominations will also be received from the floor.

SLAT Training Committee Report

Shawn Rozier reported for the SLAT Training Committee. He distributed a copy of statewide training events for April 2014 – June 2014 and a written Training Committee Report.

Mr. Rozier reported that the Training Committee had reviewed the revised OCS Training Plan for FY 2015 noting that the Plan provides an excellent strategic outline of training objectives, target audiences, topic areas, and training activities. The revised Plan was presented to the SEC for a first reading at its March meeting and will be presented to the SEC for adoption at their June meeting.

Mr. Rozier further reported that 10 responses were received to the Training Needs Assessment questionnaire that the SLAT Training Committee distributed to gather feedback from SLAT constituents. Local stakeholder priorities mostly involved topics that would be covered to meet the training plan goal of increasing knowledge, skills, and competencies of individuals holding CSA specific roles and

responsibilities to ensure effective implementation of CSA. Other suggestions from the survey responses included allowing supervisors of CSA coordinators to attend the new CSA Coordinators' Academy and the development of an Academy (shorter format) for existing coordinators.

SLAT Member Updates

Mr. Evans asked members to report on activities within their agencies or organizations. Members reported on issues such as Medicaid expansion, legislative activities, and new gubernatorial appointments. It was also reported that April has been designated as Child Abuse Prevention Month and May as Children's Mental Health Month. A number of activities have been planned in recognition of these designations.

Members also continue to work within their agencies, serve on workgroups, and advocate through their associations for improvements to services and service delivery to the children, youth and families of Virginia.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 12:25 p.m.