

**STATE & LOCAL ADVISORY TEAM (SLAT)
CHILDREN'S SERVICES ACT
Twin Hickory Area Library
5001 Twin Hickory Road
Glen Allen, VA 23059**

MINUTES

August 4, 2022

Members Present: Mills Jones, SLAT Vice-Chair - CSA Coordinators Network; The Honorable Marilyn Goss, Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court Representative; Nina Marino DBHDS; William Stanley, CPMT – CSU Representative; Shannon Updike, VCOPPA; Sabrina Gross, DOE; Cristy Corbin, Parent Representative; Lora Smith, DSS; Lesley Abashian, CPMT – Local Government Representative; Linda McWilliams, DJJ; Lisa Madron, CPMT – CSB Representative; Laura Reed, DMAS

Members Absent: Rebecca Vinroot, SLAT Chair, CPMT - DSS Representative; Susan Aylor, CPMT – School Representative

CSA Staff Members Present: Scott Reiner, Mary Bell, Marsha Mucha, Courtney Sexton

Welcome/Opening

Mills Jones, SLAT Vice-Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:35 a.m. and welcomed everyone. He noted that Rebecca Vinroot, SLAT Chair was not able to attend today's meeting. He called for introductions and welcomed Marilyn Goss as a new member to SLAT representing juvenile and domestic relations district court judges.

Public Comment Period

Public comment was made by Lori Anderson, the grandmother of a youth involved in the CSA/FAPT process and the former custodian of the youth prior to foster care placement. Additional comment, concerning the same youth, was made by Charlotte Talley the family support partner for this youth and family. Ms. Talley presented comments on behalf of the aunt of the youth, Danielle Albano, who resides in New York; now has custody of the youth and is hoping to have custody of the youth transferred from Virginia to her and her husband later this year.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the May 5, 2022 meeting were approved on a motion by Lesley Abashian, seconded by Sabrina Gross and carried.

Virtual FAPT Meeting Best Practices

Lesley Abashian reported that a workgroup from the CSA Coordinators' Network developed the draft guidelines for virtual FAPT meetings and was seeking SLAT's endorsement of the guidelines. If endorsed by SLAT, the guidance would be shared with localities for use with their local policies and/or for guidance in developing their own virtual FAPT meeting policies. The guidance would also be posted on the CSA website.

The Virtual FAPT Meeting Best Practices guidance was endorsed by SLAT on a motion by Christy Corbin, seconded by Lisa Madron and carried.

Model Job Description for CPMT Chair

Mrs. Abashian presented a final draft of a model job description for CPMT chairs that the CSA Local Competencies Workgroup developed and she asked for SLAT's endorsement of the document. During review, one clarification was suggested under administration functions – operating as the signatory for local CPMT documents including contracts. The suggestion was to add “as so authorized by the local government.”

The revised model job description for CPMT chairs was endorsed by SLAT on a motion by Shannon Updike, seconded by Cristy Corbin and carried. The document will be shared with localities and posted on the CSA website.

Development of a FAPT Manual

Mrs. Abashian reported that one of the recommendations from the CSA Local Competencies Workgroup was to develop a FAPT retreat resource manual that includes ideas and suggestions for FAPT specific trainings and activities.

During discussion, it was suggested that a workgroup be convened to develop the resource manual. Mr. Jones will reach out to coordinators for several volunteers to serve on the workgroup. Mrs. Abashian will serve as liaison, with assistance from Courtney Sexton at OCS, to get this effort underway. If assistance is needed for recruitment of workgroup members, please let Mr. Reiner know.

Next Steps in the Development of a Family Guide to CSA Video

Mr. Reiner reported that last year OCS produced a written *Family Guide to CSA*. OCS would now like to create a 10-minute video that would orient parents to the CSA process. Mary Bell and Courtney Sexton from OCS are working on a draft script and OCS is working on procuring the necessary video production team to produce the video.

Safe and Sound Task Force Status and Discussion

Mira Signer from the Governor's Office provided an update on the Governor's Safe and Sound Task Force. Ms. Signer reported that Governor Youngkin established the task force to address the issue of children in foster care with complex needs and no satisfactory placement. These children are often being housed temporarily in hospital emergency rooms, hotels, and at local DSS offices because placements are not available.

Since the first of April, small teams comprised of staff from child-serving agencies have been meeting to address the situations specific to each child in this cohort and to collaboratively brainstorm and identify a placement for each child. These teams have reached out to private providers, community partners, and other stakeholders for assistance to meet these needs. The task force is also receiving updates on children that may be at risk of not having a placement in the near future.

Ms. Signer noted that this is a systemic issue and does not belong to just one agency. It is also a situation that is not unique to Virginia. She noted that the next steps include the development of a sustainable process to meet complex placement needs and a plan/vision to address child welfare in Virginia.

OCS Updates

- Annual Conference – OCS Program Consultant, Mary Bell, updated members on the CSA Conference that will be held November 1-2, 2022 at the Hotel Roanoke and Conference Center. The title of this year's Conference is “Connections Matter.” A program on adaptive leadership

for CSA Coordinators and a strategic planning session for CPMT members is being planned for October 31, 2022.

- Required Report on FAPT/CPMT Parent Representatives – Legislation in the 2022 General Assembly session removed the provisions that prohibit a parent representative from serving as a member of a CPMT or a FAPT if the parent representative is employed by a public or private program that receives funds to serve children or agencies represented on a CPMT or FAPT. The legislation directs an inventory of current efforts by CPMTs and FAPTs to recruit and retain parent representatives be conducted, along with compiling a list of best practices for distribution to CSA programs.

A survey (due date August 5, 2022) is underway to collect information for the inventory. A report is also due to the Chairmen of the Senate Committee on Rehabilitation and Social Services and the House Committee on Health, Welfare, and Institutions by November 1, 2022.

- Budget Actions Impacting CSA – Mr. Reiner reported that the state budget has been approved. CSA received a \$500,000 increase in local support for CSA administration/operations and an additional \$50,000 in training funds. Medicaid received rate increases for psychiatric residential treatment and certain home and community-based services and local CSA programs will typically increase reimbursement rates in these same areas.

Implementation of rate-setting for private day special education programs has been delayed by one year. During this time, OCS is directed to provide training and conduct a fiscal impact study of the new, tiered rate structure.

Legislative Ideas – 2023 Session

Mr. Jones briefly noted several legislative ideas provided to him by Mrs. Vinroot:

- Increasing CSA administrative funding
- Updating the CSA funding formula
- Adding a representative from DARS to the SEC and the SLAT
- Transferring special education funding back to DOE

Mr. Reiner noted that state agency budget requests are due in September and agency legislation may not be an option. If SLAT wants to pursue these items, they may need to consider legislative member channels (i.e., legislative member bills and/or legislative member budget amendments).

Member Updates

Members reported on the statuses of ongoing projects, new programs, training, and grant opportunities. Members continue to work within their agencies and advocate through their associations for improvements to services and service delivery for the children, youth, and families of Virginia.

- Linda McWilliams from DJJ reported on a new pre-court initiative to offer services to juveniles as soon as possible upon court involvement.
- Lora Smith from VDSS reported that their agency received funding from the General Assembly for housing support for youth that age out of foster care. VDSS also received funding to tap into the “I Foster” portal so Virginia can add its resources to the portal.

- Nina Marino from DBHDS reported that their agency has received \$2.5M for a 1-year pilot for school-based mental health services. DBHDS has also received \$1.4M in funding for mental health access programs targeting pediatricians. In conjunction with Chesterfield Mental Health, a recovery high school is opening in Chesterfield County.
- Laura Reed from DMAS reported that DMAS has been an active participant in the Safe and Sound Task Force. Project Bravo has added nine new services over the past year. In the next six months, DMAS will be launching a new learning collaborative for providers.
- Sabrina Gross reported that DOE is receiving more complaints around behavioral issues.
- Lisa Madron reported that CSBs are seeing a trend in youth with substance abuse issues who are being sent to juvenile detention in order to be detoxified and to receive certain drugs prescribed for substance abuse.
- William Stanley reported that CSUs are in conversation with DSS and CSBs regarding proper placements for youth in DSS custody.
- Mills Jones reported the following dates for CSA regional vendor fairs:
 - September 12, James River Collaborative in Lynchburg
 - September 16, Central Virginia Partnership on Youth in Richmond
 - September 30, Southwest in Roanoke
- Judge Goss reported that a mandatory judges' conference will be held at the end of this month in Roanoke. She also reported that Judge Frank Somerville has been serving on the Safe and Sound Task Force.
- Cristy Corbin reported that training is being developed and planned to advance parent and youth leadership and advocacy roles. Peer support continues to grow. A breakout session is planned for the CSA Conference highlighting youth and young adult voices.
- Shannon Updike reported that private providers continue to struggle with staffing concerns and the delay in processing background checks.
- Lesley Abashian reported that she has been part of a Health and Human Services Labor Committee reviewing workforce issues in the human services field. The committee will issue a report and she expects to talk about the report and next steps at the VALHSO meeting at the end of September.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 12:00 p.m. on a motion by Lesley Abashian, seconded by Laura Reed, and carried. The next meeting is scheduled for November 3, 2022.