

**STATE & LOCAL ADVISORY TEAM (SLAT)  
CHILDREN'S SERVICES ACT  
Richmond/Henrico Rooms  
1604 Santa Rosa Road  
Richmond, VA 23229**

**MINUTES**

**November 10, 2022**

**Members Present:** Rebecca Vinroot, SLAT Chair, CPMT - DSS Representative; Mills Jones, SLAT Vice-Chair - CSA Coordinators Network; The Honorable Marilyn Goss, Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court Representative; Nina Marino DBHDS; Cristy Corbin, Parent Representative; Em Parente, DSS; Lesley Abashian, CPMT – Local Government Representative; Lisa Madron, CPMT – CSB Representative; Laura Reed, DMAS; Jeannine Uzel, VDH; Maria Altonen, VDH

**Members Absent:** Susan Aylor, CPMT – School Representative; William Stanley, CPMT – CSU Representative; Shannon Updike, VCOPPA; Sabrina Gross, DOE; Linda McWilliams, DJJ

**CSA Staff Members Present:** Scott Reiner, Anna Antell, Mary Bell, Annette Larkin, Marsha Mucha, Kristi Schabo, Courtney Sexton

**Welcome/Opening**

Rebecca Vinroot, SLAT Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:35 a.m. and welcomed everyone. Introductions were made.

**Public Comment Period**

There was no public comment.

**Approval of Minutes**

The minutes of the August 4, 2022 meeting were approved on a motion by Lesley Abashian, seconded by Lisa Madron and carried.

**Status Items**

- *Characteristics of a High Functioning FAPT* – Courtney Sexton presented the draft document to SLAT for their review and consideration. She noted that the draft document had been developed by the CSA Local Competencies Workgroup, which also developed the model job description for CPMT chairs.

During discussion, several edits to the draft document were suggested to include FAPT's collaboration with local CSA coordinators and or administrative offices and identification of service gaps by FAPTs to elevate this information to CPMTs. Also, members suggested spelling out names/organizations (in first instance) where acronyms are used.

After further discussion a motion was made by Em Parente, seconded by Cristy Corbin and carried to proceed with approval of the document pending the revisions agreed to today.

The document would then be issued by SLAT and presented to the SEC for their information.

- FAPT Retreat Resource Manual - Lesley Abashian reported that several CSA coordinators have been identified to work on the project. She and Mills Jones will also be meeting with the CSA Coordinators' Network to speak about the project and to gather feedback on the helpfulness of existing guidance documents. She will report back at the February 2023 SLAT meeting.

### **SEC Report on FAPT/CPMT Parent Representatives**

Anna Antell reported that 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 directed 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. OCS conducted a survey to collect information for the inventory.

Mrs. Antell presented highlights of the report, *Recruitment and Retention of Parent Representatives on Local Community Policy and Management Teams and Family Assessment and Planning Teams and Best Practices for Elevating Parent Voices*. The report was submitted November 1, 2022, to the Chairmen of the Senate Committee on Rehabilitation and Social Services and the House Committee on Health, Welfare, and Institutions. A copy of the report will be distributed to the SLAT membership.

### **Update on Intensive Technical Assistance**

Courtney Sexton reported that, pursuant to a recommendation from the 2020 Study of CSA conducted by the Joint Legislative Audit and Review Commission (JLARC), in 2021 the General Assembly changed the powers and duties of OCS to provide for the effective implementation of CSA in all localities. Based partly on their data and interactions with the OCS office, Ms. Sexton has been working with five local programs identified as consistently underperforming.

She has finished her assessments of those five localities and issued consultative reports to each. Common themes found during her assessments included lack of family engagement, lack of a cohesive CPMT and FAPT (community buy-in), use of outdated state and local policies, and lack of long-range planning. Next steps involve assisting those localities with developing program improvement plans for submission to OCS and for presentation to the SEC.

### **OCS Updates**

- Summary of CSA Utilization and Expenditure Data – Members received a copy of the summary report. Mr. Reiner noted that there was a slight drop in the number of children served in FY22. CSA expenditures have been flat for the past three fiscal years, including expenditures for private day special education.
- Status of Workgroup on the Transfer of Private Special Education to DOE – The Workgroup has held its final meeting on the plan for the transfer of private special education funding from CSA to DOE. Recommendations have been forwarded to the Secretaries of Health and Human Resources and Education for their final report due November 2022.
- Status of Private Day Special Education Rate Setting - The legislature has delayed the implementation of rate-setting until July 1, 2023. During the 2022-2023 school year, OCS is conducting a fiscal impact analysis using the new tiered rate structure model.

- Annual Conference Recap – Mr. Reiner reported that CSA had a wonderful conference in Roanoke with over 500 registered participants. He thanked Mary Bell for coordinating the conference on behalf of OCS. He also thanked those from SLAT who attended and/or presented at the conference. A program on adaptive leadership for CSA Coordinators and a strategic planning session for CPMT members was held on October 31, 2022, with approximately 60 CPMT representatives in attendance.
- Updated CSA User Guide – Mr. Reiner reported that OCS has updated and released the User Guide to their local partners.

### **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.

- The Health Department is seeing a drop in routine immunizations for children.
- Several members reported on workforce issues. Mr. Jones noted that there were less vendors at the recent Central Virginia Partnership on Youth vendor fair.
- The DMAS contract with Magellan is ending. A new contract is yet to be awarded. DBHDS has received \$2.5M for a 1-year pilot for school-based mental health services and is funding pilots in six localities. DOE will be assisting with technical assistance.
- On November 19, the Richmond Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court and several of its partner agencies in the city are hosting an event to commemorate National Adoption Day, an occasion that raises awareness about the needs of children in foster care and celebrates families that adopt.
- VDSS has developed a new on-line platform to help the state support local LDSS offices with recruiting foster families. The platform will offer families who are interested in the fostering process easier access to information and training.
- Several members noted the great turn out for the conference/workshops and the recognition given to those CSA coordinators who received the new award honoring the memory of Paul Baldwin.

### **Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 12:00 p.m. on a motion by Lesley Abashian, seconded by Jeannine Uzel, and carried. The next meeting is scheduled for February 2, 2023.