

MINUTES – October 1, 2015
STATE & LOCAL ADVISORY TEAM (SLAT)
CHILDREN’S SERVICES ACT
Dining Hall, UMFS
3900 W. Broad Street
Richmond, VA

Members Present: Ronald Belay, SLAT Chair, CPMT - CSU Representative; Audrey Brown, Parent Representative; Cristy Corbin, Parent Representative; John Dougherty, Private Provider Representative; Kellie Evans, Private Provider Representative; Shannon Updike, Private Provider Representative; Tamara Temoney, Ph.D., CPMT – LDSS Representative; Janet Lung, DBHDS; Pam Fisher, DBHDS; The Honorable Frank Somerville, Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court Representative; Brian Campbell, DMAS; Chuck Walsh, CPMT – CSB Representative; Karen Reilly-Jones, CSA Coordinators Network; Jodie Wakeham, VDH; Sabrina Gross, DOE

Members Absent: Angela Neely, CPMT – School Representative; Jack Ledden, DJJ; Carl Ayers, VDSS

Guests and Staff Members Present: Kyle McMahon, Mills Jones, Alisha Vines, Letitia Douthit, Dreama Harrod, Tammy Becoat-Eclou, Amy Smith, Ahnjayla Hunter, Penny Combs, Leah Mills, Scott Reiner, Stephanie Bacote, Brady Nemeyer, Marsha Mucha

Introductions and Chair Remarks

Ron Belay, SLAT Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:35 a.m. He welcomed members and guests. Introductions were made.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the August 6, 2015 meeting were approved on a motion by Audrey Brown, seconded by Janet Lung and carried.

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Executive Director’s Report

Mr. Reiner reported on the following:

FY15 Final Expenditures – A chart with CSA expenditures by category over the last four fiscal years was provided. Yesterday, September 30, was the last day for localities to file FY15 expenditure reports with OCS. Expenditures for FY15 (\$343M) were up approximately 8% over FY14 (\$316M). The number of children served has increased along with an increase in expenditures in special education private day placements.

Budget Requests for CSA – A number of budget requests have been proposed including additional support for local CSA administrative costs as recommended by the SEC; increasing the MEL and funding to add two auditor positions; and collaborative planning with DJJ to increase use of protected funds to provide greater intervention with certain at-risk populations by supporting evidence-based interventions and removing the local match requirements on those funds.

In response to the discussion, DJJ staff will be asked to make a presentation to the SLAT at a future meeting on cost savings that have been achieved through the DJJ transformation.

Update on SEC Governance Study - The Work Group has met twice with two more meetings planned, one in October and one in November. The notes from the meetings are available for review on the CSA website. Draft recommendations will be available for comment in advance of the November meeting. The Performance Management Group at VCU is facilitating the meetings.

- **Plans for Integration of Local Reporting (Data and Expenditures)** – OCS has begun planning for this project with projected implementation in FY17.

Report on Increasing Public Awareness of CSA and Access to Multidisciplinary Planning

Brady Nemeyer reported on behalf of the Work Group. He provided background information on the need for the work group and reported that the group's charge was to identify and recommend actions by which the SEC can improve family and public awareness about CSA on the local level, and to identify and recommend actions by which the SEC can ensure a coordinated, consistent, and timely point of entry to the public service system for families in every community across the Commonwealth. He reported that the SEC, at its September meeting, endorsed the following recommendations. He stressed that these are recommendations for localities to use not requirements.

- Use of Model Family Referral Policy (*as stated in Recommendation 1*) – Direct access for families to FAPT through CSA offices. Of note: the 2015 General Assembly requires local CPMTs to establish a process for parents to refer children to the local CSA teams. The Model Family Referral Policy is available to localities as an option in meeting this requirement.
- Improvement of public awareness of CSA – Local CSA offices should consider meeting with identified stakeholders in order to provide information on local processes for CSA and FAPT.
- Use of best practices – Use of protected funds; FAPT should be the entity determining CSA eligibility, use of written materials (brochures) to assist families in understanding the local CSA process.
- Suggested topics for localities to consider displaying on their website (i.e. contact information for local CSA office; information about CSA, CSA eligibility requirements and parental co-pay policy.

After his presentation, Mr. Nemeyer noted that the Model Family Referral Policy will be posted to the CSA website and the recommendations will be distributed to CPMT Chairs and CSA Coordinators.

Report from SEC Meeting

Mr. Belay noted that all items of note from the SEC meeting had/were being addressed on today's agenda.

Report to the General Assembly on Funding Education for Children Placed in PRTFs Outside of the CSA Process.

Mr. Reiner reported that, at the SEC's September meeting, members reviewed the final draft of the report and approved the report for submission. He noted that the report was required pursuant to Item 279 (N) of the Appropriation Act and has been submitted as required. Mr. Reiner noted that, over the

past year, several task forces and work groups attempted to address the issue of funding the educational costs for children placed in PRTS by their parents and outside of the CSA process. Public comment was also solicited. The final report presented to and approved by the SEC summarized the consensus from this process and provided the following recommendations:

- Allocation of state general funds to cover the full cost (no local match) of educational services for children placed through Medicaid without CSA involvement in a PRTF. This should be a short-term solution while additional work is completed to fully integrate “Medicaid-only” placements into the CSA system or to determine another funding mechanism.
- Consideration of elimination or recalculation of the local Medicaid match requirements for children placed through CSA in PRTFs.
- Development and implementation of a practical, short-term data collection project that would provide necessary information about the process of accessing residential treatment.

During discussion, Karen Reilly-Jones asked about a “Plan B” if the recommendations to provide funding or make changes to and/or elimination of the match rate are not achieved. She noted that this will continue to be an ongoing issue and there is still work that can be done toward a solution. During the Workgroup meetings a number of good ideas were suggested that need to be explored further (i.e. the universal notice to parents).

Mr. Campbell spoke briefly about DMAS activities related to this issue. For instance a DMAS workgroup is addressing the residential treatment regulations. Mr. Reiner suggested including this issue as part of the planning for the joint SEC/SLAT meeting in December.

Planning for Joint SEC/SLAT December Meeting

Mr. Reiner reported that it was necessary to reschedule the December SEC meeting. This provides an opportunity for the SEC and SLAT to meet together on December 3, which is SLAT’s regular meeting date. The joint December meeting will be used to discuss goals and objectives for the SEC’s biennial plan. He asked member if there were topic areas they would like to consider for the December meeting. The Commission on Youth study/recommendations on special education day placements and other types of residential placements were mentioned. Mr. Reiner asked that members submit proposed topics for discussion to Mr. Belay.

Committee Member Updates

Mr. Belay asked members to report on activities within their agencies and organizations. Members 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.

New/Other Business

There was no new or other business to discuss.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 11:15 a.m.