

MINUTES – October 2, 2014
STATE & LOCAL ADVISORY TEAM (SLAT)
COMPREHENSIVE SERVICES FOR AT RISK YOUTH & FAMILIES
Dining Hall, UMFS
3900 W. Broad Street
Richmond, VA

Members Present: Ronald Belay, SLAT Chair, CPMT - CSU Representative; Karen Tompkins, Vice-Chair, Private Provider Representative; Tamara Temoney, Ph.D., CPMT – LDSS Representative; Pat Haymes, DOE; Audrey Brown, Parent Representative; Penny Combs, Private Provider Representative; Jack Ledden, DJJ; Victor Evans, CSA Coordinator Representative; Jeannie Decker, CSA Coordinator Representative; Carl Ayers, VDSS; Pam Fisher, DBHDS; The Honorable Frank Somerville, Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court Judge Representative; Jodie Wakeham, VDH; Angela Neely, CPMT – School Representative; Brian Campbell, DMAS

Members Absent: Cristy Gallagher, Parent Representative; Chuck Walsh, CPMT – CSB Representative

Guests and Staff Members Present: Karen Reilly-Jones, Shelly Latoski, Di Hayes, Tammy Becoat-Eclou, Mills Jones, Janet Areson, Beau Blevins, Leah Mills, Susan Clare, Scott Reiner, 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 and asked for introductions.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the August 7, 2014 meeting were approved on a motion by Victor Evans, seconded by Jack Ledden and carried.

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Executive Director's Report

Mrs. Clare reported on the following major initiatives:

Data: Collections and Reports - OCS is now in the fourth year of historical data collection. Data being collected include: CSA expenditures; Title IV-E foster care expenditures; Medicaid behavioral health services expenditures for those 18 and younger; demographics from OASIS, VEMAT; and CANS scores. In order to ensure meaningful analysis and reporting of data, a workgroup is addressing data elements to ensure that data are reported using standard and discrete data definitions. The goal is to have this work completed by the end of December with implementation scheduled for July 1, 2015.

The structure of Data Set reports available under the "Statewide Statistics" on the CSA website is being changed to a more user friendly format. Whereas in the past each report was static, the new report structure is interactive and will allow users to export reports into several formats.

Selected local users are assisting in final testing of reports.

Expanding System of Care

Mrs. Clare called attention to the visual representation of Virginia's System of Care model. She noted that the visual has been developed as a tool to enhance understanding of the concept of systems of care. Details have been added to show the components of system of care. A tag-line would help "brand" Virginia's System of Care and ideas for a tagline are invited.

Mr. Reiner noted several documents SLAT members received: a FAQ on Intensive Care Coordination and a document on ICC and the High Fidelity Wraparound model. These documents have been provided to localities to clarify and encourage expanded utilization of ICC.

Discussion focused on the shared interests of the child-serving agencies, addressing issues in a coordinated manner, sharing data, and the use of data to target resources. Members also discussed the use of common language and other system of care initiatives (i.e. Three Branch Institute and Children's Cabinet).

CANS Changes

Mr. Reiner presented a handout of and reported on the changes to CANS. The CANS software is being updated to CANVaS 2.0. The upgraded software will include additional assessment items to address areas of child safety, permanency, wellbeing and trauma. It is the intent of DSS to require the enhanced CANS for all children receiving foster care services.

Conference Planning – Mr. Reiner reported that OCS is accepting RFPs for conference breakout sessions. He noted that OCS would be reaching out to SLAT members for assistance as conference planning continues.

SEC Meeting Report

Susan Clare reported on the September SEC meeting. She noted that each of the SEC Retreat small groups reported out with the exception of Group 4:

Group 1 focused on youth being placed in residential settings without CSA involvement and without funding for educational services. Mrs. Clare explained that this issue was raised in public comment made during the SEC's April 2013 meeting at the CSA Conference. The issue was also addressed by way of legislation introduced in last year's General Assembly session by SEC member Delegate Bell but was laid on the table to allow further study.

During discussion at the SEC meeting, the SEC membership affirmed consensus on three points:

- The current situation is untenable
- The situation needs to be addressed immediately
- It is untenable to require provision of a service without assuring payment for that service

A task group of SEC members was appointed to develop recommendations to bring to the SEC's December meeting. Melanie Bond, representing CSA Coordinators and Brad Burdette, representing LDSS will participate in the meeting as subject matter experts to advise task group members. Mrs. Clare noted that, if an SEC policy is proposed, it will be disseminated for public comment in advance of any consideration by the SEC at their April 2015 meeting.

Group 2 focused on the inadequacy of system resources that often intervene too late and in ways that are inequitable, inconsistent and not well coordinated, resulting in too many youth placed in facilities. Discussion resulted in no immediate actionable items but rather aspirational ideas.

These ideas included scheduling presentations to the SEC from localities that have effectively implemented system of care focusing on providing prevention services and access to services/funding. The group also suggested that the SEC seek opportunities to work with DJJ to focus on decreasing rates and durations of incarceration and to use savings to promote community-based interventions.

Group 3 focused on ways that CSA could better service youth who are either truant or delinquent to prevent out-of-home placement. Discussion focused on the eligibility of children/youth for CSA funded services and access to services under CHINS criteria.

Specific recommendations included providing clarification regarding eligibility of truant and delinquent youth with behavioral/emotional difficulties for CSA funding and, specifically, eligibility under the mandated funding category. Guidance should also be provided regarding the consideration of a child's "condition" as included in the CHINS language.

Group 4 focused on the need to ensure appropriate representation of stakeholder interests in SEC decision-making processes. In the interest of time, Group 4 did not report at the SEC's September meeting.

Several of Group 4's recommendations have already been implemented including:

- Inviting a staff member of VACo or VML to represent local government officials in an unofficial (non-voting) capacity on the SLAT. This will assure inclusion of the unique perspective of local government officials in deliberations of the SLAT and reports to the SEC. Local government officials have specific desires to assess and report potential fiscal impact of proposed policies.
- Inviting the SLAT chair to participate in an unofficial (non-voting) capacity on the SEC.

Group 4 will report at the SEC's December meeting.

Intensive Care Coordination Target

Mrs. Clare reported that one of the performance measures included in the OCS Strategic Plan is the percent of youth receiving ICC against all youth placed in residential settings. The SEC's Finance Committee was asked to recommend a target for this measure which the Committee recommended setting at 75%. The SEC approved the recommendation without objection.

SLAT Bylaws

Mrs. Clare and Mr. Belay reported that the SEC reviewed SLAT's proposed amendments and statutory changes to the SLAT bylaws. All of the amendments to the SLAT bylaws that did not involve statutory changes were approved by the SEC.

SEC members discussed at length the statutory changes proposed by the SLAT. The SEC did not approve the proposed change regarding who could be eligible to serve as SLAT chairman. The SEC adopted an amendment that local government representatives need not be actively serving on a CPMT in order to serve on SLAT. An amendment was also adopted requiring the parent representative to SLAT to have a child who has received services that are within the purview of the

CSA. The adopted amendments will be forwarded to the Governor's Office for consideration of proposed legislative amendments.

There was discussion concerning the statutory requirements for membership to SLAT from each of five different geographical areas of the Commonwealth and ensuring that the regions are represented on SLAT. Mrs. Clare noted that OCS has and will continue to encourage that nominations to SLAT come from different geographic regions of the state. In making its appointments, the SEC will assure representation of the state's five geographic regions.

Service Gaps Survey

The SEC's Finance Committee reviewed the Survey. Survey results have remained static for a number of years. The Finance Committee recommended to the SEC that the Finance Committee develop specific recommendations concerning how the Survey could be improved so it could become a dynamic, proactive tool to be used by localities. The SEC concurred with the Finance Committee's recommendation.

SLAT Training Committee Report

Victor Evans, Committee Chair, asked SLAT members to review SLAT's charge to the Training Committee. He asked members to consider whether or not the charge was still relevant and applicable and to approve the charge if they found it to be so. The Committee's recommendation was approved on a second from Jack Ledden.

Mr. Evans further reported that, related to the SLAT Training Committee's charge, the Training Committee discussed:

- Improving state-wide feedback on training needs – ways to better collect input from the Commonwealth on training needs and collect feedback on existing training. Mrs. Clare noted that agencies do seek feedback in a variety of ways on training activities.
- Improving the system of training by including state agencies' training department or office staff on the SLAT Training Committee. Mr. Evans explained that the right people are needed at the SLAT Training Committee in order for the Committee to be effective. If the Committee can establish a comprehensive committee of members representing the training programs of CSA partners, the Committee will have a better chance of achieving its goals. Mr. Evans asked for SLAT's support in asking other agencies to participate on the Training Committee. State agency representatives agreed to identify appropriate agency staff to meet with the Training Committee.

Discussion focused on the manner of trainings and the shift in focus to on-line training opportunities that reach larger audiences. Mrs. Clare noted that OCS works closely with other agencies and provides trainings at sister agencies' trainings and conferences. There was general support for outreach to see if there would be interest in collaboration on the development side for e-learning.

- Completing the initiative to finalize and publish the CSA Community Inventory. Mr. Evans noted that the Inventory will be the focus for the next two Training Committee meetings.

Committee Member Updates

Mr. Belay asked members to report on activities within their agencies or organizations. Members reported on grant awards, regulatory changes, and the appointment of new juvenile and domestic relations district court judges. 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 12:00 p.m. on a motion by Pat Haymes.