



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

Susan Cumbia Clare, M.Ed
Executive Director

OFFICE OF COMPREHENSIVE SERVICES
Administering the Comprehensive Services Act for At-Risk Youth and Families

ADMINISTRATIVE MEMO #11-08

TO: CPMT CHAIRS
CSA COORDINATORS

FROM: SUSAN CUMBIA CLARE

DATE: NOVEMBER 21, 2011

SUBJECT: GOVERNMENT REFORM COMMISSION - CSA INITIATIVES

The purpose of this memorandum is to inform you of CSA improvement initiatives adopted by the Government Reform Commission. On November 14, 2011, the Commission voted to approve recommendations that will be put forward for consideration by Governor McDonnell. At the Governor's choosing, recommendations will then be put forward as legislation for consideration by the General Assembly.

The initiatives adopted by the Commission for CSA improvement include the following:

- 1) Support the efforts of a comprehensive information system that will enable integration of data across current systems and agencies,
- 2) Continuing internal revenue maximization efforts within DSS and exploring options to establish experts to assist local agencies in improving agency compliance,
- 3) Support the authority of the State Executive Council to adopt principles of care coordination as policy and to require compliance with such policies for access to state Pool Funds,
- 4) Support hiring auditor position to enhance the ability of the OCS to successfully meet the need to utilize expenditure data for program accountability and improvement,

- 5) Support the Office of Comprehensive Services in contracting for local financial audits and the implementation of ongoing monitoring activities,
- 6) Support internal agency audits among CSA participating agencies and have agencies report back to the committee on the results of their efforts, and
- 7) Require the Office of Comprehensive Services to identify core outcomes aligned with best practices to be used as the basis for performance-based contracting by localities when purchasing services.

The Commission acknowledged that the improvement strategies are not fiscal initiatives, but are intended as mechanisms to enhance administration of the CSA for improved services to youth. The Commission further acknowledged that the ability to successfully implement the proposed initiatives is dependent upon the collection and analysis of meaningful data, per recommendation #1.

The Office of Comprehensive Services is presently collaborating with the Virginia Department of Social Services (VDSS) to pilot a process for collection and integration of data across various systems within CSA and VDSS. Successful completion of the pilot will lead future activities to enable utilization of data for program improvement and accountability.

cc: The Honorable William Hazel, Chair, State Executive Council
State Executive Council Members
State and Local Advisory Team Members