



# CSA TODAY

A NEWSLETTER OF THE OFFICE OF CHILDREN'S SERVICES

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## Director's Blog

*Scott Reiner, Executive Director*

I wrote this piece one day after returning from the annual CSA conference in Roanoke. All of us at the Office of Children's Services at still "buzzing" from the energy and excitement of over 500 CSA state and local partners, providers, and sponsors coming together for the first time in almost three years. Our keynote speaker, Tori Hope Peterson, inspired us with her story of resilience and reminded us of why



we should never give up on even the most seemingly challenging youth and families. Our speakers shared their expertise in over 35 breakout sessions. CSA Coordinators and CPMT members participated in two specialized pre-conference sessions on strategic planning and adaptive leadership, respectively. We hope that all of you who participated and those who could not attend this year will join us in celebrating the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the CSA when we convene October 16 – 18, 2023, for the next statewide conference.

As you read, the final report to the General Assembly by the Secretaries of Education and Health and Human Resources concerning state management of private special education programs will be complete. The workgroup of public and private school educators, advocacy groups, local and state government representatives, legislators, and legislative staff deliberated over the past 18 months on this challenging subject. Data was reviewed, public and private programs highlighted their excellent work in meeting the needs of students with disabilities, and policy considerations and options were debated. The report is or will soon be available on the Legislative Information System (LIS) (<https://rga.lis.virginia.gov/?OpenForm&StartKey=2018&ExpandView>), and the members of the General Assembly will take it under consideration when they convene in January.

The final numbers from the FY2022 CSA year are now complete. The number of children and families served declined slightly and expenditures were essentially unchanged from the prior year. The residual impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic are still unclear, so it is difficult to determine what is behind these recent trends. Placements

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## Director's Blog (cont'd.)

and expenditures in residential settings continue to decline and the percentage of CSA-funded youth receiving only community-based services hit an all-time high of 87%, supporting our system of care mission of being a community-based model. The number of students in private day special education settings was at its lowest in the past five years. We continue to monitor this information as we move into FY2023 to aid in understanding the shifting landscape and plan for the future.

In closing, as I look ahead at the calendar, the end of the year approaches. This often prompts me to look back on the year coming to a close, to revisit successes and what could have gone better, and to be reminded of all I have to be thankful for. At the top of that list are the dedicated people who share my commitment to doing what I can to make our world a little better place. We do that through our shared values of a child-centered, family-focused, and community-based system of care, our belief in the resilience of those we serve, and, if nothing else, our determination to come to work each day and give our best efforts. Thanks to all of you and I wish you and those you love a joyful holiday season.

Scott





## 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Commonwealth of Virginia Children's Services Act Conference

After two years of being virtual due to the COVID pandemic, it was refreshing to return to an in-person event at the 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Virginia CSA Conference in Roanoke, Virginia! This year's theme, "Connections Matter," reminded us that we are better together, and it was an enjoyable experience to rekindle those meaningful relationships. Over a two-day period, over 500 participants were able to attend various breakout sessions offered by community partners, agency colleagues, and OCS staff. There were plenty of opportunities to visit with sponsors and service providers. This year, we enhanced the conference experience through the use of an interactive mobile app, *Guidebook*, which assisted participants in navigating the session schedules and vendor visits. Click [here](#) to access the breakout session presentations (*Click Conference Agenda* → *Select a session* → *Click Presentation*).

The conference event was kicked off by the CSA Coordinator pre-conference led by Erica Mann (UMFS), in which participants explored the topic of *Adaptive Leadership*, a concept that mobilizes individuals to manage challenges successfully in changing environments. Participants were encouraged to "get on the balcony" to gain a clearer view and to act from a reflective position.

CPMT members were also engaged in a newly developed pre-conference session on *Strategic Planning* led by Kimberly Carlson and Charity Boyette (Tractus Strategic Partners). Participants learned about the key elements of the strategic planning process while assessing their organization's existing structure. They were then able to practice their newly gained knowledge and connect to resources that grow their planning processes.



There were notable highlights of the conference, including the keynote speaker, **Tori Hope Petersen**, who courageously shared her journey as a former foster care youth now turned speaker, author, and advocate for youth in foster care. Tori's experiences and her faith have been the driving forces to obtaining success in finding permanency within her life and becoming a voice for the voiceless. Through her advocacy work, Tori has founded several programs (The Beloved Initiative, Fostering the Good Scholarship at Hillsdale College, "F" the File, and Survivors Thriving & Writing Retreat) that is a reflection of her heart—creating space to welcome in and love more people.

With the support of her husband, they have opened their home and hearts to foster and adopt youth, and to demonstrate what was shown to her—loving these youth despite their beginnings.

Her message to the audience was clear: The challenges and sufferings in life does not define who you are nor who you will become. Tori is proof that healing is possible when surrounded by a supportive community and resources. She recently published her memoir, *Fostered*, which details the circumstances that led to her life in the foster care system and her journey to overcoming despite the odds. Tori believes that "hardship isn't wasted; you can still do something good."

For more information on Tori's life and work, visit her website at [www.torihopepetersen.com](http://www.torihopepetersen.com).

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## CSA Conference cont'd.

The Office of Children's Services resumed its annual recognition of CSA Coordinators for the Outstanding CSA Coordinator award. This award celebrates CSA Coordinators for their countless efforts and commitment to serving youth and their families throughout the Commonwealth. In honor of a dynamic Coordinator, OCS commemorated the award by renaming it the **Paul Baldwin Outstanding CSA Coordinator Award**.

**CONGRATULATIONS!**

to our unsung heroes for their contributions and dedication to servicing the children and families of the Commonwealth. The review committee and OCS staff would like to acknowledge all the nominees and recipients of the 2022 *Paul Baldwin Outstanding CSA Coordinator* award:

- ❖ Rudy Zavala (Accomack/Northampton)
- ❖ Jacqueline Roberts (Carroll County)
- ❖ Kenya Ratliff Youngblood (City of Chesapeake)
- ❖ Angel Young-Gill (Dinwiddie County)
- ❖ Bryan Moeller (Fluvanna County)
- ❖ Phillip Blankenbecker (Wythe County)
- ❖ Julie Dubee (Hanover County) – recipient
- ❖ Caryl Allen (Giles County) – recipient
- ❖ Rachel Schulhof (City of Winchester) – recipient

We extend a special thanks to the review committee, Annette Larkin, Program Auditor, (Chair) Carol Wilson, Lead Program Consultant, Courtney Sexton, Program Consultant, Kristy Wharton, Business Manager, and Nirjara Pillai, IT Business Analyst, on their efforts in selecting this year's recipients.



A special thanks to everyone that had a part in the success of the conference. We look forward to seeing everyone in 2023 to celebrate 30 years of the Children's Services Act!



# CSA Mentoring Group

The CSA Coordinator Mentoring Group is actively recruiting experienced CSA Coordinators to be mentors to new Coordinators.

## What is Needed?

Through your commitment and dedication, it is expected that you encourage the development of knowledge and skills that are beneficial to the role of a new Coordinator. This connection promotes a sense of belonging (less isolation) while offering opportunities for new Coordinators to be an integral part of the larger statewide CSA community. Mentors must have at least **3 years** of experience as a CSA Coordinator and must have participated in the audit process performed by the Office of Children's Services (OCS).

## Your Commitment

Many of us remember the early beginnings of our tenure as new Coordinators. Some may have felt adrift or lost while trying to learn policy and navigate the nuances of the local CSA Program. As a mentor, you have the opportunity to ensure that our newer colleagues gain an invaluable advantage at the start of their careers because they will have YOU!

Mentors are expected to:

- Maintain regular, non-email contact with the new Coordinator
- Commit to supporting the new Coordinator for at least one year
- Bi-monthly meetings with the CSA Mentoring Group

Here are a few examples of information to discuss when meeting with a new Coordinator:

- Tips on running a successful and productive CPMT and FAPT meeting
- Where to find relevant CSA policies and statutes
- Topics of common interest external to CSA

To learn more information or to sign up as a mentor, please contact Bryan Moeller ([bmoeller@fluvannacounty.org](mailto:bmoeller@fluvannacounty.org)) or Rudy Zavala ([rudy.zavala@dss.virginia.gov](mailto:rudy.zavala@dss.virginia.gov)).





# State Level Management of the CSA

The Children’s Services Act (CSA) represents a shared responsibility between state and local governments to provide a collaborative system of care that includes services and funding that is child-centered, family-focused, and community-based when addressing the strengths and needs of youth and families in Virginia. The state provides the majority of funding, guidance for implementation, and oversight of local CSA programs. In this edition, we will focus on the various bodies that make up the state structure of the CSA.

| <b>State Executive Council (SEC)</b>   | <b>Office of Children’s Services (OCS)</b>   | <b>State and Local Advisory Team (SLAT)</b>  |
|--|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Oversees the administration of CSA through the establishment of program and fiscal policies</li> <li>Ensures all relevant federal and state laws, regulations, and SEC policies are followed</li> <li>Comprised of 21 representatives from various public agencies, state and local government, private providers, former CSA recipient, and parent representative</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Administrative agency of the SEC that implements decisions of the SEC</li> <li>Supports localities and other partners in CSA implementation and enactment of SEC policies</li> <li>Provides training and technical assistance in the provision of efficient and effective services</li> <li>Develops and implements standards for data collection and expenditure reporting to the SEC</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Manages cooperative efforts among stakeholders at state and local levels and private sector</li> <li>Advises SEC about program and fiscal policies that support the CSA mission</li> <li>Provides support to local community efforts through training and technical assistance</li> <li>Membership inclusive of state, local, and private sector representatives, similar to the SEC</li> </ul> |

The [SEC Policy Manual](#) and the [CSA User Guide](#) provides additional information on these established bodies.

In the next edition of *CSA Today*, we will review the local structure of the CSA: CPMT and the FAPT.



## Responding to the Current Opioid Crisis for Youth

*Janet Bessmer, Ph.D.*  
CSA Director  
Fairfax-Falls Church CSA

Many communities are seeing a rise in the number of reported incidents of youth using opioids and having fatal and non-fatal overdoses. In the Fairfax-Falls Church community, schools, public safety (i.e., fire/rescue and police), and the CSB are managing multiple calls for youth with non-fatal overdoses per week. Our local CSA program has been part of a collaborative effort to respond to this need.

Our locality has researched private providers both in-state and out of state who offer adolescent detoxification, short-term residential treatment, partial hospitalization (PHP), and intensive outpatient (IOP). Many providers accept private insurance and can accept direct parent referrals. CSA contracts have also been offered to providers to add to our continuum of care. There continues to be a service gap for adolescent detoxification and short-term residential care for primary Substance Use Disorder (SUD). There is currently only one residential Addiction Recovery Treatment Service (ARTS) program funded by Medicaid in Virginia for youth. Many of the providers are located out of state for these more intensive levels of care.

In collaboration with CSB staff, CSA has developed a process to expedite access to treatment services and supports for youth with primary SUD. The CSB receives direct referrals, reaches out to the youth and family, assesses the needs, and offers appropriate services. The CSB assigns a case manager and uses the expedited process if CSA funding is needed. As part of the CSA System of Care, transportation, language interpretation, and after-care services are included as part of a comprehensive plan of care. Inclusion of the family in treatment, coordination of care, and supports for re-entry into the community are critical elements of effective intervention and are part of the CSA service model. As a new process for our locality, we will be focusing on implementation and monitoring its utilization.



Fairfax County Department of  
**Family Services**



## Bringing CANS Strengths to Life

By Carol Wilson, Senior Program Consultant

We're going to take a break from our series on the CANVaS Longevity Reports in this edition of the newsletter to focus on a "real-life" example of the applicability of the CANS.

Many of you attended the state CSA conference a week or two ago in Roanoke. I hope your experience was like mine, enjoying seeing old friends and connecting faces to names I've known only through email over the last 2+ years. It was heart-warming to witness people delighted to see each other after so long, reflecting the truth of the conference theme that "Connections Matter."

Perhaps not surprisingly, I tend to see the applicability of CANS in numerous environments, which is what happened as I sat in the ballroom at the Hotel Roanoke, listening to our conference keynote speaker, Tori Hope Petersen. Ms. Petersen is a former foster child who spent much of her youth, mostly during adolescence, in a total of 12 different foster homes. Today, she is a successful author/writer, speaker, foster care advocate, and even though she didn't mention it, she holds the title of "Mrs. Universe" for 2022. (If you were her, wouldn't you mention that?!!) She is married with three children (one adopted, two biological) and credits all that she is and does to her belief in God's love.



So, what does that have to do with CANS Strengths items? As Ms. Petersen spoke, she shared what she had experienced in foster homes, such as the security of a sense of belonging in a family and community (for example, being in the foster family's pictures, living with a biracial family that looked like her), and the spiritual connection created and nurtured when she attended church with her foster parents. CANS research has supported the idea that two of the most important indicators of a child's ability to improve their functioning rests on the strengths of Community Life and Spiritual/Religious beliefs. If children feel like they belong somewhere, that they matter in a family and community, and that their lives have hope and a greater purpose, it's more likely they will be successful in overcoming traumatic early years. Ms. Petersen is a real-life example of how those strengths helped her become the person she is today.

We all know the importance of a permanent caregiver, mentor, an adult involved in the life of a youth in foster care who commits to always being there for the youth. Although Ms. Petersen moved from placement to placement, she found that her high school track coach became a constant in her life. His support, and that of his family, helped her attain four All-American titles and won her a track scholarship to college. After she graduated from high school and was emancipated from foster care, this coach remained in her life, so she had a family to go home to for breaks and holidays, and he gave her away as a father would at her wedding.

The track coach took the time and made the effort to nurture her interest and potential talent (Talents/Interests item on the CANS), consistently supporting and encouraging her. Ms. Petersen spoke of how her interest in track became such an important strength for her because she felt like if she did well, not only did her success validate her worth to others, but more importantly it made her believe in herself. From there, she launched herself into college and her life's work, providing education and advocacy about foster care while relying on her faith in God to counter and heal trauma with love.

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### CANS Strengths cont'd.

Whenever you can, think about how to “foster” these strengths in all the youth with whom you work, not only children in foster care. Being a part of a group, maybe just a school choir or a child youth group, or a sports team can create the feeling of “community life” a youth needs to be resilient. Nurturing their interests (like running track) or supporting their search for meaning through spiritual or religious avenues may help a youth to feel confident enough to continue to succeed. You may never know the impact you’ve had on a child’s life simply by taking these steps. For all of you that work with children and families, thank you.

## Virginia’s Faster Families Highway

Every child needs and deserves to grow up in a safe and loving environment, but sometimes, children end up in foster care through no fault of their own. That is where **YOU** come in!

Are you or do you know someone who has an interest in providing a safe and nurturing environment as a foster parent? Are you uncertain of the path to becoming a foster parent? Look no further...

Virginia has established the *Faster Families Highway* in an effort to create an expedited pathway to becoming a foster parent and beginning a journey to supporting youth and families in your community. Foster parents play a vital role in ensuring that youth who enter foster care can remain in their schools, communities, and connected with their family, which eases the disruption of their lives while providing an opportunity for youth to thrive. Their involvement promotes the possibility of reunification while parents work to get their lives back on track.

The Faster Families Highway connects prospective foster parents with their local department of social services to streamline the process of starting the journey to fostering Virginia’s youth.

Check out this [link](#) to learn more information!



## Best Practice for Elevating Family Voice

Anna Antell, LCSW



In October 2022, as directed by Senate Bill 435 and House Bill 427, the Office of Children's Services published a report titled, *The 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*. This report included a survey of local CSA Parent Representative recruitment and retention efforts as well as a summary of national best practices for elevating the voice of families with lived experience. A copy of this report can be found in the Reports and Publications section of the OCS website: [Elevating Parent Voice](#)

A review of national literature found the following five standards of best practice for elevating parent voice:

1. Comprehensive Family Engagement
2. Intentional Recruitment
3. Compensation
4. Preparation
5. Partnering with Families

**Comprehensive Family Engagement** is the foundation of family voice. A shared definition of family and family engagement, a vision for implementation, and clear policy and training to guide the work creates a unifying commitment to cultivating the voice of families. **Intentional Recruitment** of parent representatives is essential to promoting family voice. Such recruitment cannot be a one-time activity. Robust parent recruitment requires planning, partnerships, and ongoing investment in a recruitment strategy. Such recruitment also includes a commitment to prioritizing families with lived experience navigating the child-serving system and ensuring parent representatives represent the diversity of the population served. Parent representatives are equal partners in the CSA system. As a result of their expertise and the time commitment, best practices recommend **compensating** and publicly recognizing parent representatives.

**Preparation** ensures parent representatives begin their work with a clear understanding of the duties and expectations of the parent representative role, as well as foundational understanding of CSA. In order to maximize the role of the parent representative, preparation is vital for the parent representatives and all child-serving agency staff. Meaningful **family partnership** embodies the expression, "Nothing about us without us!" It is a choice that assures families have a seat at the Systems of Care table. The multi-disciplinary structure of CSA, which includes the requirement for parent representatives, provides a framework for centering family voice. By implementing the five standards of best practice, CPMTs and FAPTs can elevate the voice of family members; thus, realizing a central component of Systems of Care philosophy and improved outcomes for children and families.

"Do For, Do With, Cheer On....!!" .... Send questions to Anna Antell ([anna.antell@csa.virginia.gov](mailto:anna.antell@csa.virginia.gov)).



## Monitoring Quality Improvement Plans to Completion and Beyond

Submitted By: Annette E. Larkin, Program Auditor

The audit report has been published. What's next you ask? The answer.... Document the quality improvement plan (QIP). The QIP is a set of actionable steps identified by management to remedy non-compliance or internal control deficiencies and/or achieve a targeted outcome. Essentially, the QIP is a plan to improve overall program performance and mitigate perceived risk. An effective QIP will have the following elements:

- Description of the deficiency;
- Detailed description of actions to be taken (be sure to note any critical milestones or measurable criteria to evaluate/monitor successful implementation);
- Reasonable target dates for completion; and
- Responsible party for implementation and ongoing monitoring.

Upon completion of the QIP, at least one member of the team muses... "Our work here is done." Not just yet. There's still the matter of monitoring the QIP to ensure that planned tasks have been implemented AND working as intended. More importantly, you want to be ready when the auditor contacts you to follow-up on the status of the QIP?



A year later, the auditor requests a status update. You're probably scratching your heads and thinking... How do we respond? When can we say that a specific QIP task is really complete (if ever)? The answers should come easy if your team has monitored the implementation of your QIP over the course of the year. In case they have not, follow the scenarios discussed here as a guide for assessing satisfactory completion of your QIP.

### SCENARIO 1.

Task: Develop written customer satisfaction policy by June 2023.

**Actions:** CPMT convenes and formally adopts the policy at their October 2022 meeting.

The task is deemed complete upon the CPMT approval and effective date of the new policy (where after the date of policy adoption).

**Monitoring:** The CPMT periodically reviews and updates the policy to ensure alignment with current laws, regulations, policies, practices, etc. The CPMT confirms policy is working as intended by periodically reviewing the results of compiled surveys.

### SCENARIO 2.

Task 1: By September 2022, establish process with the local social services agency to identify money collected (i.e., refunds) to offset cost of services funded by CSA that are required to be reported with pool fund reimbursement requests at least quarterly.

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Task 2: Establish a quality improvement subcommittee to be responsible for implementation, monitoring, and reporting on the status of the QIP by October 2022.

Task 3: Starting January 2023, the subcommittee will review refund reports quarterly to ensure refunds are recorded accurately and timely.

**Actions:** The subcommittee, assembled September 2022, devised a process to improve communication between the CSA office and the local social service department (LDSS). Starting October 2022, the LDSS will provide the CSA Office with a monthly report listing the prior month's collections of child support and/or social security payments for all CSA-funded clients. Comparisons of the collection reports provided by the LDSS, and the refund reports published by OCS using pool fund reporting data will be performed by the CSA Office and reviewed by the subcommittee quarterly.

**Monitoring:** In October 2022, the CSA Office receives the report of collections from the LDSS and shares the results with the subcommittee. The subcommittee compares the data to the refund report and confirms the refunds have been accurately reported. Should the subcommittee report to the CPMT and OCS that the QIP has been fully implemented? If you answered "no", you are correct. A one-month success does not mean that the new process is working. The committee should continue to monitor and evaluate the control process to ensure its continual operation and effectiveness. Overtime, gaps in the control may be identified that will need to be addressed to reach the ultimate goal of reporting refunds at least quarterly. Let's delve deeper....

The LDSS successfully provides the report in November and December 2022. However, the CSA Office did not receive the collections reports for January and February 2023. The subcommittee determined that the reports were not furnished due to the extended absence of LDSS staff responsible for the task. As a result, the process is not working as intended. The subcommittee met with LDSS senior management to establish backup protocols to mitigate future occurrences and obtained all of the aforementioned reports. The CSA Office receives monthly reports on-time thereafter.

In May 2023, the committee learned that the LDSS did not notify the CSA Office that a report would not be provided for the prior month due to no collections in that period. The effectiveness of the reporting process was affected by the poor method of communication. The subcommittee met with LDSS senior management again and modified the process to include negative confirmation when there are no collections.

To confirm that refunds collected were recorded accurately each quarter, the subcommittee met in January 2023, April 2023, and July 2023 to review the documentation gathered by the CSA Office including the year-to-date (YTD) Refund Report. The committee reports to the CPMT included printouts of the refund reports used to verify compliance and confirmed that refunds collected were recorded accurately each quarter. At the June 2023 CPMT meeting, the subcommittee reported to the CPMT that the QIP regarding refund reporting has successfully been implemented and they will send notice to the OCS auditor.



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As you can see from Scenario 2, the subcommittee had to reevaluate the QIP and make adjustments along the way to achieve the goal. The monitoring process is depicted in the diagram as a circle because it is ongoing. Even after you have determined that the task has been completed to satisfaction, periodically conduct spot checks to confirm whether the controls put in place are still effective and functioning as intended 6 months to a year from now and beyond.

If you found this article useful and would like more information on this topic, please contact any Program Audit staff. Contact information is available on the CSA website (<https://www.csa.virginia.gov/>). Also, be sure to check the OCS newsletter, *CSA Today*, for future articles.



We salute the men and women of the United States armed forces, of all eras, for their sacrifice and services to this great country!





## Activities of the CSA Competencies Workgroup



**Courtney Sexton**  
OCS Program Consultant

As you may know, a workgroup comprised of local CSA Coordinators, SLAT Members, and OCS staff, has worked together to develop the *Core Leadership Competencies for Local CSA Leaders, Community Policy and Management Teams, and Family Assessment and Planning Teams*. This document identifies skills and knowledge pertinent for CSA Coordinators and local FAPT and CPMT members and provided resources for each. Subsequently, a workgroup has been meeting to address the activities necessary to ensure ease of access to all competencies for new and existing members.

This workgroup has developed several documents that you may have seen recently. The workgroup began by developing the *CPMT Chair Job Description*. This document acts as an important tool which lists high-level duties of the CPMT Chair, applicable across localities. The document lists fundamental responsibilities that can assist each CPMT with improving and instilling best practices into their local program. The workgroup has also developed and published the *Characteristics of a High Functioning Family Assessment and Planning Team*. This document provides some best practice guidance for local teams who wish to enhance the functioning of their program. Both documents can be located under the Resources tab on the Office of Children's Services website at [www.csa.virginia.gov](http://www.csa.virginia.gov).

The workgroup continues to develop resources to assist local teams and staff with best practice operations. The next task the group will take on is developing a *Resource Manual for FAPT Retreats*. Several local CSA Coordinators have agreed to work on this project. As the work of this workgroup continues to grow, we are searching for local voices to serve on this workgroup and to assist in developing resources for wider use across the state. Please reach out to the OCS Liaison, Courtney Sexton ([courtney.sexton@csa.virginia.gov](mailto:courtney.sexton@csa.virginia.gov)), if you are interested in participating.

## Virginia Adolescent Substance Use Needs Assessment

The OMNI Institute and the Office of Children and Family Services (DBHDS) collaborated to develop a comprehensive needs assessment relating to adolescent substance use services in an effort to better understand adolescent substance use behaviors and service needs. Their report describes the nature and frequency of adolescent substance use (both alcohol and drug), highlights barriers and gaps to service access and delivery, and provides recommendations to address this important issue in Virginia.

To access the report, click [here](#).



Virginia Department of  
Behavioral Health &  
Developmental Services





## Spotlight on Success

# CVPY TRAINING DAY

On September 16, 2022, the Central Virginia Partnership on Youth (CVPY) hosted its first in-person **CSA Training and Resource Day** at the Chesterfield Career and Technical Center in Chesterfield, Virginia since 2019! This year's training featured esteemed educator, businessman, and speaker, Dr. Dale Henry, who engaged an audience of various community partners in a conversation about "Service to Others: Some Things Don't Change." Through his unique talent of storytelling and humor, Dr. Dale captivated participants with real-world examples of overcoming and thriving in the face of adversity.



CENTRAL VIRGINIA  
PARTNERSHIP ON YOUTH

This training was provided at no cost to participants thanks to vendors who sponsored and attended the event to share information regarding supportive services. The Central Virginia Partnership on Youth consists of professional and private providers committed to fulfilling their mission: "To educate central Virginia on social issues related to children and families in need of service." If you would like to learn more about the CVPY, please visit their website at: [www.cvpy.org](http://www.cvpy.org).



## Training Calendar

CLICK [HERE](#)



TO LEARN ABOUT TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES  
AVAILABLE THROUGHOUT THE STATE!!



# WELCOME BACK!

*Kristi Schabo, EdS*, has taken the position of Senior Policy and Planning Specialist with the Office of Children's Services (OCS) where she will be responsible for providing policy and operations functions, such as assisting with legislative issues, improving internal operations, and representing OCS on various workgroups. Kristi comes to OCS with 16 years of experience with the Children's Services Act (CSA) where she has served as the CSA Program Administrator for Chesterfield County and Colonial Heights, Program Consultant with the Office of Children's Services, and School Services Manager with the Chesterfield County/Colonial Heights CSA Office.



Prior to working with the CSA, Kristi worked in the field of special education where she has served as a building administrator, curriculum developer, and lead special education teacher for school divisions in Virginia and Upper Michigan. She holds bachelor's degrees in Special Education, Elementary Education, and Cognitive Impairments, a master's degree in Learning Disabilities, and a post-master's certificate in disability leadership from Northern Michigan University. Kristi also holds a post baccalaureate certificate in autism spectrum disorders, master's degree in professional counseling, and an educational specialist degree from Liberty University.

In her free time, Kristi enjoys reading, baking, and watching Green Bay Packers football. Please help us welcome back Kristi to the OCS team!







Want to learn more about the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA)? Click [here](#) for training opportunities!



*Mental Health Topics: Pathways for the Prevention of Violence*

Check out this collaborative training at this [link!](#)



***National Guidelines for Child and Youth Behavioral Health Crisis Care***

This guidance provides relevant info on how to address service gaps when addressing behavioral crises.

Click the logo for more info...

***SAMHSA***

Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration

**PARTNERS ENGAGING PARTNERS  
COLLABORATIVE**

PEATC has launched this advocacy and family engagement initiative for professionals to increase their awareness of various community resources and best practices in improving support for families in the Commonwealth.

Click this [link](#) to learn about the benefits of this network and to register!



[#SmallStepsOpenDoors](#)



# ENHANCED TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

Did you know?

THE OFFICE OF CHILDREN'S SERVICES IS NOW ABLE TO OFFER ENHANCED TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO LOCAL CSA PROGRAMS

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## Is Enhanced Technical Assistance (TA) right for your local CSA Program?

This elective program offers support to individual localities seeking to improve operations of their local CSA Program with the support of the Office of Children's Services.

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## What is Enhanced Technical Assistance?

With Enhanced TA, a Program Consultant works with your CPMT to make recommendations for your local program. OCS offers individualized support including:

- Observation of local CSA operations
- Programmatic recommendations provided based on consultation, data review, and team goals
- Access to training for CPMT, FAPT, Community Agencies, and CSA staff
- Development of a Program Enhancement Plan

For more information or to request Enhanced TA, please contact the OCS Help Desk at <https://csa.virginia.gov/Contact/TechnicalAssistance/1>.

# TA Questions of the Quarter



## **Is there a required time frame for FAPT to schedule a meeting when they receive a referral?**

No. There is no statewide timeframe for scheduling regular FAPT meetings or for how long the time frame is from referral to meeting. The frequency of FAPT meetings vary with localities. However, emergency FAPT meetings can be held for emergency placements or when there is a need for services to start immediately. The placement or service can start as long as FAPT reviews it within 14 days. Each CPMT is required to have policies regarding the referral process and the provision of emergency services.

## **Is CSA responsible for paying tuition to a public school when a non-resident youth is placed in a therapeutic group home in a different locality via a parental agreement?**

CSA does not pay public school tuitions for youth placed in the described situation. Public school tuition is not a component of the group home placement that CSA would fund. It is advised that the placing entity determine whether this is the most appropriate location to place the youth.

If this is a parental placement, the parent could be asked to pay the tuition, or the locality could use local-only funding.

If the youth is in foster care and the group home is an approved placement, the local school division would be obligated to enroll the youth without cost.

## **Can CSA pay for services in a QRTP placement if the LDSS did not complete the 60-day court review?**

No. CSA cannot pay for the services that would have been covered by Title IV-E.

## **Will LDSS staff members be required to complete the Statement of Economic Interest (SOEI) form if serving as a FAPT Parent Representative?**

Yes. The staff members are not serving on the FAPT as agency representatives; rather, they are serving on behalf of parents who are receiving services. This is an important distinction to remember. The staff members can not represent their agency while serving in this role. Some public agency employees in leadership positions, such as Directors or Assistant Directors, are already required to complete the SOEI form because of their position in their agency.



### Got Questions?

Get answers by using the OCS Technical Assistance Help Desk. OCS staff will receive and respond to your questions, with the goal of same-day responses.

The OCS Technical Assistance Help Desk is found on the CSA website under *Contacts* -> *Technical Assistance* or by clicking [here](#).



### Would you like to be contributor to CSA Today?

If you have information you would like to share with CSA colleagues around the state, please follow the guidelines for submission located [HERE...](#)

