



CSA TODAY

A NEWSLETTER OF THE OFFICE OF
CHILDREN'S SERVICES

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Director's Blog

Scott Reiner, Executive Director

The Spring 2024 edition of **CSA Today** has bloomed. Hopefully, it will not cause you to sneeze as much as the annual pollen blizzard. A few items of interest:

Policy:

- The State Executive Council for Children's Services (SEC) has approved, effective July 1, a revision to the policy concerning placement responsibility when a family moves from one jurisdiction to another. The significant change concerns private day educational placements, which will transfer the same day the family moves. Please see [OCS Administrative Memo #24-02](#) and the [associated guidance](#) for details.
- The SEC is considering changes to the policy regarding the September 30th deadline for submitting all prior fiscal year expenditures for reimbursement. The next action will occur at the June 13th SEC meeting, and it will be followed by 60 days of public comment. Keep an eye out for the opening of the public comment period.
- At the June 13th meeting, the SEC will consider proposed revisions to the criteria and process for a Child in Need of Services and CSA Parental Agreements. This policy has not been reexamined since 2007. A representative group of CSA stakeholders participated in drafting the proposed revisions.



Fiscal:

- Beginning in FY2025, OCS will streamline the process of distributing local CSA administrative funding. During July – August, OCS will "push" a notification to the local Fiscal Agent and ask them to indicate acceptance of their allocated funds. This will eliminate the current multistep process and ensure everyone receives their funding early in the year.
- OCS is exploring revising the current base and supplemental state pool allocations. The change will eliminate the need for



Director's Blog (cont'd.)

supplemental allocation requests and provide reimbursements as they are received. No changes in the amount or sum sufficiency of CSA funds are planned. There will be two Zoom meetings to explain the plan and gather feedback:

- Thursday, June 6 at 9:00 AM: <https://dss-virginia-gov.zoomgov.com/j/1611614564>
- Monday, June 17 at 3:00 PM: <https://dss-virginia-gov.zoomgov.com/j/1613301395>

Registration is not required, and I hope you will be able to join one of the sessions.

Training:

- The annual New CSA Coordinator Academy was held May 7-9, 2024, and 22 recently hired coordinators attended. They got more information than they could remember but now know where to find the information required to carry out their important work effectively.
- As mentioned later in the newsletter, CSA now has a new in-person training on family engagement. This four-hour training will build your local team's skills in this critical area. Contact Mary Bell or Anna Antell for more information.

Finally, OCS has completed a new video about CSA for families. It is a companion to the [Family Guide to CSA](#). We are posting the video to our YouTube channel (I bet you didn't know we have a YouTube channel), so you can link to it your local CSA websites or tell families where to look. As soon as it is posted, we will provide an announcement.

Thanks for reading, and I will see you again soon.



The Office of Children's Services (OCS) honors and salutes Virginia's public servants, who work to improve the lives of so many individuals and families across the Commonwealth...



Let us know why you chose to be a public servant in your community by posting a message on the OCS [Facebook](#) and [X](#) pages!



13TH ANNUAL COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA CSA CONFERENCE THE HOTEL ROANOKE & CONFERENCE CENTER OCTOBER 16-17, 2024

FREE Pre-Conference Event for CSA Coordinators, FAPT and CPMT members on the afternoon of October 15, 2024 with Dr. Sobia Khan on *Fostering Change Though Trust and Power* (registration required)

Mark your calendars! Registration and lodging will open May 15, 2024!



RICHMOND CENTER
VIRGINIA TECH



The **13th Annual Commonwealth of Virginia CSA Conference** will be held at the Hotel Roanoke & Conference Center in Roanoke, Virginia. This year, we are **Unlocking Our Potential** by building strong and trusting relationships, accessing tools integral to organizational change, and embracing new challenges! Registration, lodging options, and other conference details can be found by visiting the conference website at <https://www.cpe.vt.edu/ocs/>. Registration closes on **October 16, 2024**.

For the first time ever, we will facilitate a joint pre-conference session with CSA Coordinators, CPMT members, and FAPT member on October 15th from 2 PM to 5 PM. CSA Coordinators and CSA team members are invited to engage in this collective training that focuses on building trust and addressing the power dynamics between professionals, stakeholders, and families. Registration is required to attend the pre-conference event. Please be sure you have signed up for this workshop “add-on” when you register online.

All things conference-related (i.e., agenda, breakout sessions, exhibitors/sponsors, evaluations, etc.) will be at your fingertips through the conference mobile app, *Guidebook*, to enhance your experience and engagement. There will be multiple breakout session tracks, with some of the sessions specifically identified for new CSA Coordinators, CPMT members, and FAPT members to engage in.

We look forward to seeing you all in October!

Follow us on Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/CSAOffice>) and X – formerly known as Twitter (<https://twitter.com/CSAConferenceVA>) for information on conference events.



OCS is currently accepting nominations for the **2024 Paul Baldwin Outstanding Coordinator Award**. This award will be presented at the 2024 CSA Conference, held on October 15-17, 2024, in Roanoke, Virginia. Nominations are being accepted now through **July 26, 2024**. This is an opportunity for CPMTs to recognize and acknowledge the hard work and dedication of your CSA Coordinator! All nominees will be announced at the conference, with one CSA Coordinator being selected for recognition as Outstanding CSA Coordinator.



Update – Please Note: While previous recipients are not eligible to win the award again, CSA Coordinators who have won the award while serving in a different locality qualify for nomination by the new CPMT under which they currently serve. CPMTs are encouraged to submit new nominations for their CSA Coordinators if they were previously nominated but did not win.

Rookie of the Year Award

This year, a new category is being introduced. In addition to the Paul Baldwin Outstanding CSA Coordinator Award, eligible CSA Coordinators will receive an award for the Rookie of the Year. CSA Coordinators with less than two years of experience as a CSA Coordinator qualify for nomination for this award.

Please Note: A nominated CSA Coordinator must have two years or less of service when submitting the nomination. The winner of this award will also be announced at the conference with their special recognition. All nominated "Rookies" will be announced during the CSA Conference.

CSA Coordinators may only be nominated in one category.

Submission Standards

To submit your nomination for the Outstanding CSA Coordinator or Rookie of the Year awards, the CPMT should describe, in letter format, how the CSA Coordinator exemplifies the following:

1. **A Collaborative Spirit:** Tell us how your Coordinator collaborates with stakeholders, mentors, or assists other CSA Coordinators and/or related organizations/entities.
2. **Family Focus:** Describe how your Coordinator elevates family voice and choice in your local CSA program.
3. **Innovation:** How have your Coordinator's creative ideas improved the effectiveness and efficiency of your local program through new initiatives or practices?

Your nominations should include specific examples of how your Coordinator demonstrates the abovementioned qualities. **Please provide tangible examples and details demonstrating their commitment to families, collaboration with others, and creativity in improving practice.** It may be helpful to gather the feedback of your FAPT(s) and other local stakeholders to include in this letter. If your Coordinator was able to do something extraordinary, we want to hear about it!

Letters should be no more than two pages when double-spaced.

Nominations for both the Paul Baldwin Outstanding CSA Coordinator Award and Rookie of the Year must be submitted through the Community Policy and Management Team (CPMT).

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Nominations for these awards may be sent through U.S. Mail and should be addressed to:

Courtney Sexton, OCS Program Consultant
Office of Children's Services
1604 Santa Rosa Road, Suite 137
Richmond, VA 23229

Nominations may also be submitted via email to courtney.sexton@csa.virginia.gov.

The deadline for nomination is the close of business on **Friday, July 26, 2024**. You will receive an email confirming that your nomination was received.

REMEMBER: The letter you send must demonstrate how the nominated CSA Coordinator meets the above criteria and must be comprehensive/holistic.

Any submission received after Friday, July 26, 2024, will not be considered.

The Review Committee consists of the following OCS staff members:

- Courtney Sexton, Program Consultant
- Carol Wilson, Senior Program Consultant
- Kristy Wharton, Chief Financial Officer
- Nirjara Pillai, IT Business Analyst
- Carrie Thompson, Research Associate Senior

If you have any questions, please get in touch with Courtney Sexton at courtney.sexton@csa.virginia.gov.



CENTER for
EVIDENCE-BASED
PARTNERSHIPS

TITLE IV-E FUNDING IS AVAILABLE!

The Center for Evidence-Based Partnerships (CEP-Va) is working diligently to support public and private organizations in improving access to behavioral health services in Virginia. CEP-Va has training funds available for service providers to become certified in an evidence-based program (EBP) in support of children remaining safely in their communities.

The EBPs include *Brief Strategic Family Therapy* (BFST), *Family Check-Up* (FCU), *Functional Family Therapy* (FFT), *Homebuilders*, *Multisystemic Therapy* (MST) and *Parent-Child Interaction Therapy* (PCIT).

For more information, check out the website and/or contact the CEP-Va staff:

<https://www.cep-va.org/>

Tori Sanborn, Training Coordinator, sanbornt@vcu.edu
Ashley Sandman, Partner Engagement Director, sandmanal@vcu.edu



A Deeper Dive Part III – Risk Management for Local CSA Programs

Auditor's Corner

Submitted By: Annette E. Larkin, Program Auditor

Welcome back!!! This is the final installment of the "Deeper Dive" risk management series. The two prior installments dissected risk management components, which included identification, analyses, and response. Once the risk response has been determined, the Community Policy and Management Team (CPMT) should establish and implement a process for ongoing monitoring and periodic re-evaluation to assess the risk response's effectiveness. Where monitoring and re-evaluation demonstrate the risk response is inappropriate or operating as intended, the risk response should be adjusted accordingly. Re-evaluation is the last component of risk management.

Using a fictitious case study, we will apply the concepts of all four steps of the risk management process. However, this "deeper dive" will center on the re-evaluation stage of the process. Let's dive in!

Virginia County CPMT – Risk Management Case Study		
Step 1: Risk Identification	Step 2: Risk Analysis	Step 3: Risk Response/Strategies
<p>External: Program disruption due to natural disasters (severe storms, tornados, drought, wildfires, flooding, etc.)</p>	<p>According to Forbes Magazine, the Commonwealth experienced 50 natural disasters between 2012 – 2022 (29 severe storms, 11 tornadoes, 6 winter storms, 2 floods, 1 drought, and 1 freezing event), costing approximately \$7.5 billion.</p> <p>Forbes ranked Virginia 4th, tied with Georgia, in the number of natural disasters occurring during the same timeframe. The probability of a natural disaster occurring in Virginia poses a higher risk than in other states.</p> <p>The Virginia Pilot reports in an article dated August 25, 2023, that Natural disasters in Virginia have increased by 140% over the past 20 years.</p> <p>Using the 5x5 Risk Matrix table (introduced in the first installation of this series), the likelihood of a severe weather event occurring in Virginia County is likely (rating is 4), and the impact on program disruption is significant (rating is 4). Multiplying the ratings (totaling 16), the risk factor falls in the tolerance range, where management needs to address the risk promptly to ensure it meets its strategic objectives (i.e., risk appetite).</p>	<p>Response: Reduce. The CPMT met to develop a strategy to mitigate the risk of program disruption.</p> <p>Strategies:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Review the local government's continuity of operation plan (COOP) to determine building accessibility during an emergency. Inquire of local officials if the COOP is tested annually. 2. Develop a CSA-specific State of Emergency policy. Disseminate the policy to all stakeholders to ensure awareness. 3. FAPT. Allow virtual meetings. (Service plans are required to document participant's attendance method along with digital signatures acknowledging agreement to the plan). 4. Funding. Temporarily delegate funding authorization to the CPMT Chair/designee. Funding approvals will be presented to the entire board at the next meeting. 5. Where emergency declarations have been issued, CPMT may hold virtual meetings (subject to Freedom of Information Act requirements).

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Virginia County CPMT – Case Study – Risk Event

September 29, 2023, Hurricane Mary made landfall in Virginia County. The hurricane battered the area with torrential rain and sustained winds of 115 mph, leaving behind downed trees, power lines, and major flooding. Ninety-nine cities and counties of the southeast coastal region of the Commonwealth were affected. Over 1,000 homes and 77 businesses were destroyed. More than 2.5 million residents were without power between 3-7 days. Public schools were closed between 5 -7 days. Virginia County endured the most significant devastation. A state of emergency was declared from September 29, 2023 to October 9, 2023.

Virginia County CPMT – Risk Management Case Study

Step 4: Risk Re-evaluation

CPMT met in person on October 16, 2023 (two weeks post-hurricane) to re-evaluate the risk response, specifically whether the strategies adopted were functional and working as intended. The CPMT concluded they must fine-tune the risk response to ensure Virginia County meets its strategic objective of serving children and families. Details are described below.

Strategies	Observations						
1. COOP Review and Testing	CPMT learned that the COOP did not specifically identify CSA, nor is it tested annually. The last test occurred in 2021.						
2. CSA-Specific State of Emergency Policy	While the CPMT adopted a State of Emergency Policy, discussions revealed that they were unsure that the policy was disseminated to all stakeholders. The CPMT agreed to redistribute the policy, survey stakeholders to assess awareness, and review the results at the next meeting.						
3. Virtual FAPT Meetings	<p>The CSA Coordinator provided a report detailing individual FAPT meetings during the State of Emergency (see below).</p> <table><tr><th>Scheduled</th><th>Conducted</th><th>Canceled/No-Shows</th></tr><tr><td>15</td><td>4 (27%)</td><td>11 (73%)</td></tr></table> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><u>Reason for cancellations/no-shows.</u> Widespread power outages. Families elected not to join virtual meetings to conserve battery life on cell phones and tablets. While local officials were afforded generators enabling employees to continue working, most of their constituents did not have the same access. The CPMT considered the following remedial actions: Amend the State of Emergency policy to allow existing services slated to end during the state of emergency to continue for one month. Also, the policy should be revised to grant temporary funding approval to CPMT's appointed designee during the state of emergency. This would ensure families have immediate access to services and funding.<u>Service Plan Documentation.</u> The CSA Coordinator presented the service plans for the four cases conducted. All service plans noted participants were present by phone or virtual. The signatures of all participants were digitally recorded using DocuSign.	Scheduled	Conducted	Canceled/No-Shows	15	4 (27%)	11 (73%)
Scheduled	Conducted	Canceled/No-Shows					
15	4 (27%)	11 (73%)					
4. Temporary Funding Authorizations	Temporary funding authorizations granted during the state of emergency were presented to the full CPMT for final approval.						
5. Virtual CPMT Meeting	State of Emergency Declaration ended before the next scheduled meeting. The CPMT convened in person.						

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In the case study, re-evaluation followed the occurrence of an identified risk event. However, such events may not always be realized. Therefore, risk should be monitored and re-evaluated periodically to ensure action is taken as early as possible to mitigate any adverse exposure the risk may pose before it happens. After all, circumstances (i.e., new technologies, affected populations, etc.) change over time and may alter how an organization views and responds to risk.

This concludes the "Deeper Dive: Risk Management for Local CSA Programs" series. Remember, no organization can eliminate risk. What's important is how it's managed.

Please get in touch with any Program Audit staff if you found this article useful and would like more information on this topic. Contact information is available on the CSA website (<https://www.csa.virginia.gov/>). Also, check the OCS newsletter, *CSA Today*, for future articles.

Kinship Care

With many challenges and burdens facing families, sometimes parents cannot provide the necessary care for their children. This may lead to the involvement of a local Department of Social Services (LDSS) to preserve the safety and well-being of children, resulting in a determination to remove children from their homes. The Virginia Department of Social Services (VDSS) and the LDSS have adopted a "Kin-First" framework for families involved with child protective services, at risk for foster care (prevention services), and children who have entered foster care.

This "Kin-First" framework is best known as kinship care, meaning that a child at risk for foster care or a child in foster care may have the opportunity to live with a relative or other important people in their lives (i.e., neighbors, family friends, godparents, etc.). Virginia has made great strides in establishing and implementing *KinGAP* (Kinship Guardian Assistance Program), an initiative designed to maintain the family connection with caregivers known to the family; create safety, stability, and permanence for children; and alleviate the costs associated with providing for children's needs and services.

The *Federal-Funded Kinship Guardianship Assistance Program* is established to facilitate placements with relatives and ensure permanency for children for whom adoption or being returned home are not appropriate permanency options.¹ Virginia established its kinship care option, the *State-Funded Kinship Guardianship*, to enable placements with relatives and ensure permanency for children ineligible for the federal kinship option.²

Children and families served through federal or state kinship programs are eligible for CSA under "foster care services." Guidance is available at this [link](#) to learn more about CSA's alignment with the kinship guardianship options.

Resources:

¹[Federal-Funded Kinship Guardianship Assistance Program](#)

²[State-Funded Kinship Guardianship Assistance Program
Kinship Care](#)





Utilization Review Guidelines: A Resource for Local CSA Programs

Submitted by: Anna Antell, Lead Program Consultant



Utilization Review (UR) is the process of assessing the necessity, appropriateness, and effectiveness of services. In CSA, UR occurs at the child and family level. UR measures the progress of the youth and family toward the goals and objectives in the Individual Family Service Plan (IFSP), reviews services, and provides recommendations to the Family Assessment and Planning Team (FAPT), the case manager, and/or the service provider regarding the service plan and funded services. UR is a form of checks and balances. It asks: Are we getting what we paid for? Are things getting better? How do we know?

While UR is required for all CSA-funded services, UR is more than just a requirement. UR is more than checking a box; it should be an intentional and ongoing process. When done well, UR strengthens the service planning process by deepening family and youth engagement, local partnerships, and producing positive outcomes.

In 2020, OCS released update UR Guidelines. The Guidelines can be found here: [UR Guidelines](#). In addition to defining Utilization Review and its requirements for local CSA programs, the Guidelines outlines best practices of UR. Embedded in the Guidelines are sample UR's as well as several tools, such as a sample *Family Satisfaction Survey* and a *UR Self-Assessment* that localities can utilize as they develop and revisit their UR process.

We invite you to review the UR Guidelines and consider opportunities to strengthen your local UR process. Please reach out to Anna Antell (anna.antell@csa.virginia.gov) with questions or UR needs.





HAVE YOU HEARD?

The Office of Children's Services (OCS) offers on-site training to local CSA programs and community partners. OCS staff can train your local CSA staff and community partners on CSA-related topics tailored to your community's needs to enhance participants' knowledge and understanding of CSA.



AVAILABLE
NOW

The following training courses are available:

CANS and Service Planning
FAPT & CPMT Roles and Responsibilities
CQI and Strategic Planning



AVAILABLE
NOW

These training courses can be delivered virtually when requested. The time frame for training can vary, depending on the content length and participants' engagement.



NEW

OCS is also rolling out its new in-person training on **Family Engagement** this Spring! This training will be offered in 4-hour increments to support local CSA programs defining and exploring the value of family engagement as a family-centered and strengths-based approach. Virtual training is not available for this course.

Whether you are new to CSA, a seasoned CSA team member, or have questions about its application, have your CSA Coordinator contact OCS by clicking the Help Desk [link](#) to request training today! 😊



Are you having trouble locating the CSA Parental Agreement e-learning module in the Virginia Learning Center? Look no further... This module has a new course number and can be found under **CSA043**. You can access other CSA modules by typing "CSA" as a search term.



DEVELOPING AN ONBOARDING PLAN FOR NEW CPMT AND FAPT MEMBERS

Courtney Sexton, OCS Program Consultant

Completing an onboarding plan can be invaluable for new members of Community Policy and Management Teams (CPMTs) and Family Assessment and Planning Teams (FAPTs). As these members familiarize themselves with the roles and responsibilities of the teams they have joined, new member orientation can benefit not only individual representatives but also support the work of the collective team. Onboarding practices should prioritize the values and mission of the local program. These plans may be established by the CPMT and documented in your local procedures.

If your locality is interested in establishing an onboarding plan for new members, the following resources are available for reference:

1. Commonwealth of Virginia Learning Center CSA Training Modules: Available modules explore "The Big Picture" of CSA, Funding and Eligibility, and the Roles and Responsibilities of each team. New or experienced members of local teams may access these trainings online. Certificates of completion are available to learners after every module.
2. *The Core Leadership Competencies for Local CSA Leaders, Community Policy and Management Teams, and Family Assessment and Planning Teams* document, available on the CSA website, can be a valuable tool for members as they learn how their specialized skills can support their team's work.
3. Two reference documents, *Characteristics of a High-Functioning CPMT* and *Characteristics of a High-Functioning FAPT*, are available on the CSA website. These documents highlight essential practices that support the functioning of local teams. Members may reference this document as they seek to incorporate best practices in their engagement with the team.
4. The "Guidance" section of the CSA website features reference documents on topics such as Children in Need of Services (CHINS), Family Engagement, and Funding and Financial Reporting.



Because CSA is state-supervised and locally administered, remember to integrate information on the processes and procedures unique to your locality in your onboarding plan. Training for new members should be locality-specific and reflect what makes your community unique!



OCS DATA CORNER

Carrie Thompson, Research Associate, Senior

Questions for CPMT Continuous Quality Improvement Activities

Continuous Quality Improvement (CQI) is an essential element of your CSA program's operations. It supplements your CPMT's strategic planning, and provides a framework for measuring performance and finding opportunities for improvement. The CQI framework adopted by the Office of Children's Services (OCS) asks local CSA programs to answer the following three questions: How much/many? How well? Is anyone getting better? To answer these questions, CPMT's are responsible for the ongoing review of CSA program-related data, to evaluate performance and give measured context to their decision-making process.

Choosing Sources:

The website is one source that your CPMT can use to inform your CQI activities, but you are not limited to just the dashboard. Surveys, internal reports, or information available from other agencies are all possible sources of information that can fuel your CQI. Selecting data that is well aligned to the strategic goals of your CSA program will be the most helpful to make sense of the trends and patterns of your program over time. What are some of your strategic goals? What are the data points that can help you describe the performance of those goals?

Perhaps your program would like to increase the percentage of referrals coming from a particular source. For this, you would review the Referral Source donut chart in the Demographics/Utilization menu of the dashboard. Perhaps your program is interested in using more transition services, or increasing your CSA Performance Measure of Community-Based Service Utilization. Both of these aims can be measured using the Demographics/Utilization menu of the dashboard, or the website's Utilization Reports, to assess where your locality's numbers are over time.

Making Meaning:

Below are some questions that your CPMT can answer to make meaning from the data reviewed.

Trends over time: How has your program's percentage, or total, or average changed over time? Have values increased, decreased, or remained the same? How do the changes observed compare to the strategic goals and values of your CSA program?

Comparisons: How does your program's percentage or average compare to the statewide value, or the value of similar localities? Is it higher, lower, or similar? How do the differences observed compare to the strategic goals and values of your CSA program?

Please have your CPMT reach out if you are interested in any of the technical assistance that OCS provides for navigating the data sources on the CSA website, or for CQI training. Online resources for CQI are available under the *Resources* menu of the CSA website, under *Strategic Planning Tools*. This page also has the link for the CQI Template, a resource for CPMTs to document their review and actions in response to their data.



A child-centered, family-focused, and strengths-based approach is central to the CSA process. This practice is evident in the interactions with children and families when assessing their needs, planning for services, and providing case management. Sometimes, there are challenges in knowing who is responsible for supporting families through crises and working toward positive outcomes. That is where the FAPT comes in.



The Family Assessment and Planning Team, or *FAPT*, is the interagency group knowledgeable about the varying policies and resources of the individual agencies represented. FAPT is responsible for determining eligibility, as established by local CPMT policy, where the assessment of families' strengths, needs, and service recommendations happens. The Code of Virginia ([§2.2-5208.9](#)) gives FAPT the responsibility to "designate a person responsible for monitoring and reporting, as appropriate, on the progress made in fulfilling the individual service plan developed for each youth and family..." When families become involved in the CSA process, they may be referred to FAPT through a case manager from a local agency (Department of Social Services, Public School Division, Community Services Board, or Court Service Unit); the case manager will often attend FAPT with families and be assigned as the FAPT case manager. Families can self-refer to FAPT, and if a child is found eligible for CSA, a case manager will be assigned at FAPT.

The FAPT case manager coordinates services, completes paperwork, and maintains contact with families and service providers to ensure the best possible outcomes. The case manager's role is integral to the individualized service planning process, which includes, but is not limited to:

- Identifying strengths and needs of families
- Initial assessments (e.g., CANS, etc.)
- Educating and counseling families on what to expect
- Service coordination and service referrals (consider formal services, non-traditional services, and natural supports)
- Follow-up and monitoring of progress in service delivery (revise accordingly)

Typically, the issues that brought the child/family to the attention of a local agency determine which agency will provide case management. For example, a probation officer is assigned to work with a child before the court, or a foster care worker is assigned to work with a child in foster care and their family because of concerns of abuse or neglect. Unless prohibited by federal or state law (e.g., CSA Parental Agreements cannot have the LDSS as the case manager), decisions regarding who should provide case management should be based on established "official" relationships and the child and family's best interests.

CSA pool funds cannot be used to reimburse costs of FAPT case management, as it is expected that all agencies will provide routine case management, with one exception. There is no statutory requirement for a community services board/behavioral health authority (CSB/BHA) to provide case management to children unless funding is appropriated for this purpose. *Case support* may be paid to the CSB/BHA to offer this basic level of case management.

For more information on case management, check out the resource links below. You may also submit your questions using the OCS Help Desk [link](#).

Resources:

[CSA User Guide](#)

[CSA Family Guide](#)



Resource Round-Up

May 22-23, 2024



Leading From
Where You Are



Click [here](#) to register!

The Virginia Department of Social Services (VDSS) recognizes the month of May as **Foster Care Awareness Month**.

In honor of Virginia's commitment to strengthening and uplifting families in their efforts to ensure the safety, well-being, and permanency of children in Virginia, VDSS is hosting a series of webinars highlighting successful strategies to reduce the number of children in care, promote the value of kinship care, and improving the recruitment of foster families.

Click this [link](#) to check out their broadcast!



**Mental Wellness:
Promoting
School Safety**

STOPit Solutions has developed a resource guide to support schools in creating safe learning and working environments. Focusing on students' mental health is the key to their success and overall school safety.

Click this [link](#) to access the guide.

The Virginia Wraparound Implementation Center

VWIC is hosting an overview of High Fidelity Wraparound (HFW) as an evidence-based model used to deliver Intensive Care Coordination (ICC). HFW has been proven to prevent youth from being displaced from their home, as well as its practice supports youth returning home. This informative 2-hour presentation will be available throughout the summer months.

Click this [link](#) to reserve your spot today!



**NATIONAL CENTER FOR ENHANCED
Post-Adoption Support**

Child welfare professionals who work in post-permanency now has a resource to access valuable articles, webinars, tools and services to youth and families who have achieved permanency through adoption or guardianship.

Click the logo to learn more information.

TA Questions of the Quarter



A youth in foster care is a special education student attending public school. The youth is placed in a group home, and the result of the Best Interest Determination (BID) meeting allowed her to remain in the original school. Title IV-E denied the cost of transportation due to the youth's group home placement. Can CSA pay?

Under Family First, Title IV-E funds can be used for residential programs designated as QRTPs (Qualified Residential Treatment Placements). However, Title IV-E is denying the transportation costs because VDSS no longer recognizes the QRTP status for group homes and residential placements. This means that all maintenance costs for youth in group homes shifted to CSA, including transportation.

Yes, CSA can pay for the BID transportation.

Are cases funded through the State-Funded Kinship Subsidy required to be presented to FAPT to access CSA funding?

The [VDSS Foster Care Manual](#) requires that all Federal KinGap cases in which maintenance will be paid by CSA (for "non-Title IV-E" youth) and all State-Funded Kinship Subsidy cases must come to FAPT prior to approval of the subsidy agreement and custody transfer (Sections 10.16, 10.16.2, and 10.27.4). In addition to maintenance, if paid by CSA, FAPT approval would be necessary for any ongoing services.

The only exception to the FAPT requirement would then be for the Federal KinGap IV-E youth for whom only maintenance funded by IV-E is being requested because no CSA funds are being accessed.

The COV §2.2-5209 requires FAPT review prior to, or within 14 days of an emergency placement (or service), of the proposed expenditure of CSA pool funds. The Code further allows CPMT to develop and implement policy exempting "maintenance-only" cases funded by CSA from FAPT review. The locality must have such written CPMT policy to be enacted.

If your locality has exceeded the SPED Wrap allocation, can the locality use mandated funds? Can the locality request additional Wrap funding?

Eligibility under SPED Wrap funding does not necessarily make a child eligible for other sum-sufficient (mandated) CSA funding. It is only if other eligibility criteria are met (e.g., foster care services).

Localities can request additional SPED Wrap funds by following the process outlined in [Section 19](#) of the CSA User Guide.



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](#)...

