



# CSA TODAY

A NEWSLETTER OF THE OFFICE OF CHILDREN'S SERVICES

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## Director's Blog

*Scott Reiner, Executive Director*



As I am writing this, the 2025 New CSA Coordinator Academy is in full swing. This year, approximately 30 local CSA professionals (mostly new Coordinators, but also a few CPMT Chair and others overseeing the program) are in Richmond, filling the CSA toolkits with information, new connections, and reassurances that this big, sort of complicated program we know as CSA can be learned and managed. The New Coordinator Academy is held ever Spring and reflects the changing of the seasons in CSA as veteran Coordinators move on and new ones emerge like the green leaves on the trees to take their place. Some of those in attendance hadn't been on the job but one day before we kicked off the Academy. I hope we don't scare them off too soon 😊. The room is always buzzing with energy; this year is no different.

This edition of **CSA Today** is filled with information, reflecting the vibrancy of our work and the deep and varied connections between CSA and our partners on both the state and local levels. I hope you will take the time to digest all of this material, and I am hopeful that you will come across resources and ideas to assist you in your critical efforts on behalf of youth and families across every corner of our Commonwealth.

Until next time,

*Scott*





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

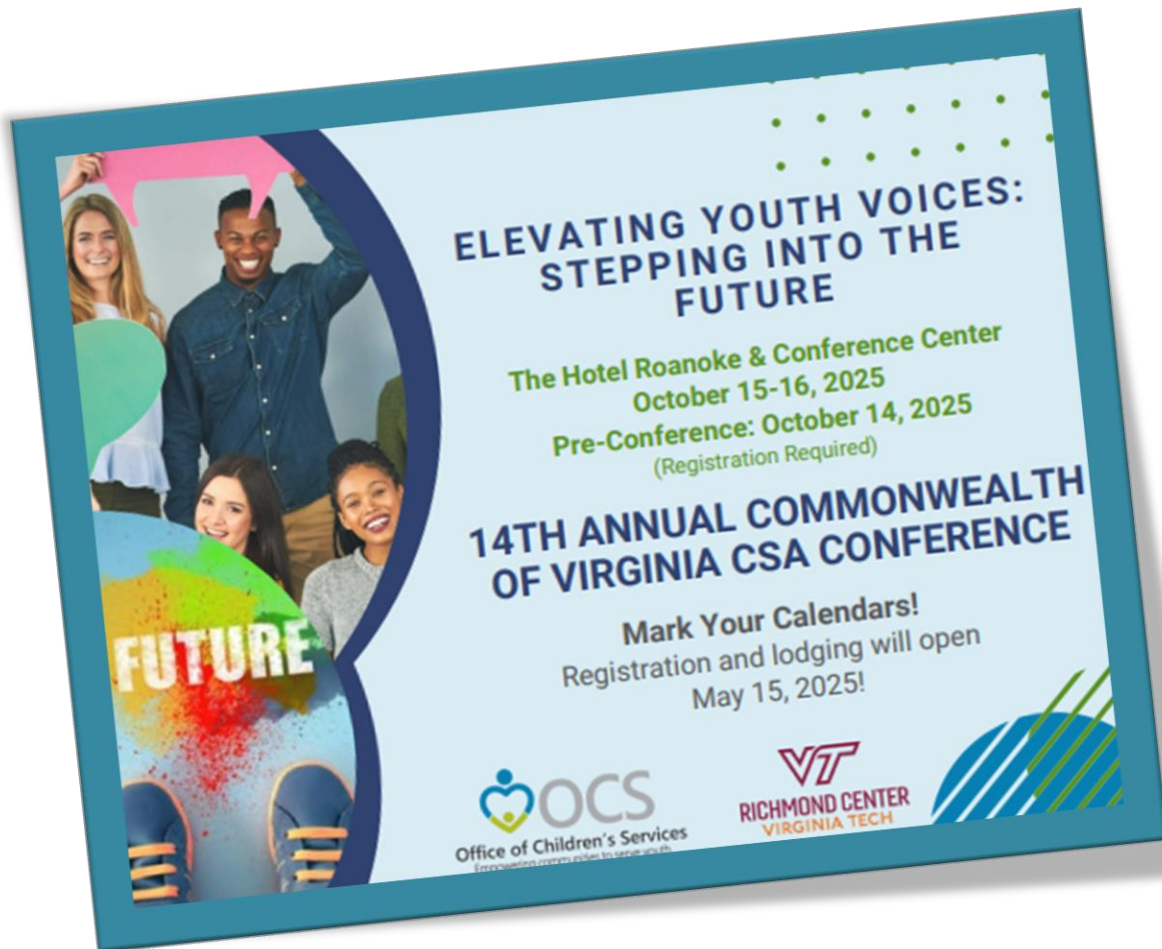
May 4–10, 2025  
**PUBLIC  
SERVICE  
RECOGNITION  
WEEK**



The Office of Children's Services (OCS) honors and recognizes the dedication of public servants at the federal, state, county, and local levels.

Thank you for your commitment to selfless service to so many in the Commonwealth of Virginia and around the Nation.

**We celebrate you today and every day!**



Be a part of an inspiring journey at the **14th Annual Commonwealth of Virginia CSA Conference**, hosted at the beautiful Hotel Roanoke & Conference Center in Roanoke, Virginia. This year, we proudly highlight the vital contributions of our youth and young adults shaping the future of leadership in Virginia's System of Care. Don't miss this opportunity to connect, learn, and grow together. Please visit our website for registration details, lodging options, and more information about the conference.

We will host a joint pre-conference session for CSA Coordinators, CPMT members, and FAPT members on October 14<sup>th</sup> from 2 PM to 5 PM. This is a valuable opportunity for CSA Coordinators and team members to engage in collaborative training to enhance their skills and knowledge. Don't miss out on participating in meaningful discussions and learning from one another. Registration is essential to secure your spot for this impactful workshop. Be sure to select this workshop "add-on" during your registration process.

As we embark on this exciting journey into the future, we invite you to showcase your most stylish footwear at the evening reception on October 15<sup>th</sup>. Let your shoes make a statement and show your unique flair! Don't forget to capture the moment with your friends—let's create unforgettable memories together! 😊

Discover valuable conference information—such as the agenda, breakout sessions, exhibitors, sponsors, and evaluations—at your fingertips with our user-friendly mobile app, *Guidebook*. This powerful tool is designed to elevate your experience and maximize your engagement during the event. You can choose from multiple breakout session tracks, including specialized sessions explicitly tailored for new CSA Coordinators, CPMT members, and FAPT members.

Remember, registration closes on October 16, 2025 – secure your spot today and help us pave the way for a brighter tomorrow!



## AWARD NOMINATION

Is Your Coordinator  
Outstanding?



The Office of Children's Services (OCS) is currently accepting nominations for the **2025 Paul Baldwin Outstanding Coordinator Award** and the **2025 Rookie of the Year Award**. These awards will be presented at the 2025 CSA Conference, held on October 15-16, 2025, in Roanoke, Virginia. Nominations are being accepted now through **July 25, 2025**. This is a unique opportunity for CPMTs to acknowledge the hard work and dedication of CSA Coordinators! All nominees and winners will be recognized at the conference, and one CSA Coordinator will be selected for each award.

### **Nominating a Coordinator for the Paul Baldwin Outstanding Coordinator Award**

*ATTENTION: This year, the format for nomination submissions has changed.*

CPMT will complete the nomination form and submit it via mail or email to the Office of Children's Services. Submissions must include examples of how the nominee excels in each of the following areas:

**A Collaborative Spirit:** Tell us how your Coordinator collaborates with stakeholders, mentors, or assists other CSA Coordinators and/or any related organizations/entities.

**Family Focus:** Describe how your Coordinator provides for the elevation of family voice and choice in your local CSA program and/or elevates Family Engagement Practices, etc.

**Innovation:** How have your Coordinator's creative ideas improved the effectiveness and efficiency of your local program through new initiatives or practices?

#### Tips for Submission

1. Give specific and detailed examples of the ways in which a Coordinator embodies commitment to families, collaboration with others, and creativity/adaptiveness to improving practices.
2. Gather feedback from your FAPT members, other local stakeholders, or families who have direct experience working with the nominee.

If your CSA Coordinator has accomplished something extraordinary, we want to hear from you!





### **Nominating a Coordinator for the Rookie of the Year Award**

ATTENTION: This year, the format for nomination submissions has changed.

Rookie of the Year recognizes CSA Coordinators with less than 2 years of experience when the nomination is submitted.

CPMT will complete the nomination form and submit the form via mail or email to the Office of Children's Services.

**A Collaborative Spirit:** How has your CSA Rookie improved or expanded collaborative efforts among stakeholders, community partners, families, and/or provider agencies?

**Family Focus:** How has your Rookie elevated family voice and choice in your local CSA program, and/or improved family engagement within the CSA process, etc.?

**Innovation:** How has your Rookie demonstrated knowledge and adaptability in their approach as Coordinator? How have their new and creative ideas improved the effectiveness and efficiency of your local program?

**CSA Competency:** Detail the ways in which your CSA Rookie demonstrates exceptional knowledge of the CSA program, policy, and/or System of Care philosophy. Let us know if your Rookie has been a quick learner and how their knowledge, skills, and abilities have positively impacted your program.

#### Tips for Submission

1. Give specific and detailed examples of what sets your CSA Coordinator apart in their commitment to families, collaboration with others, and creativity/adaptability in improving practices.
2. Gather feedback from your FAPT members, other local stakeholders, or families who have direct experience working with the nominee.

If your CSA Coordinator has accomplished something extraordinary, we want to hear from you!

### **Submitting a Nomination**

#### **Who can submit a nomination?**

Nominations may be submitted through the Community Policy Management Team (CPMT) where the CSA Coordinator currently serves.

#### **Who can be nominated?**

CSA Coordinators previously awarded the **Paul Baldwin Outstanding CSA Coordinator Award** may not be nominated again by their CPMT. However, CSA Coordinators who have previously won the award while serving in different localities are eligible for nomination by the CPMT where they are currently serving

CPMTs are encouraged to submit new nominations for their CSA Coordinators if the Coordinator has been nominated in the past but has not won.

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The ***Rookie of the Year Award*** recognizes CSA Coordinators with two years or less of experience when the nomination is submitted.

Coordinators previously awarded or nominated as Rookie of the Year may be nominated for the Paul Baldwin Award.

\*Coordinators may only be nominated in one category\*

### **How to Submit a Nomination**

**NOTE: The format for nominations has changed.**

Starting this year, nominations will be accepted through a fillable form. This form will be emailed to CPMT Chairs and will be available upon request.

To request this form, please get in touch with Courtney Sexton ([courtney.sexton@csa.virginia.gov](mailto:courtney.sexton@csa.virginia.gov)). Once completed, nominations may be submitted by mail or email.

Nominations may be mailed to:

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

Email to [courtney.sexton@csa.virginia.gov](mailto:courtney.sexton@csa.virginia.gov).

Nominations are due by the close of business on **Friday, July 25, 2025**. Once OCS has received a nomination, you will receive an email confirmation.

The review committee consists of the following OCS staff members:

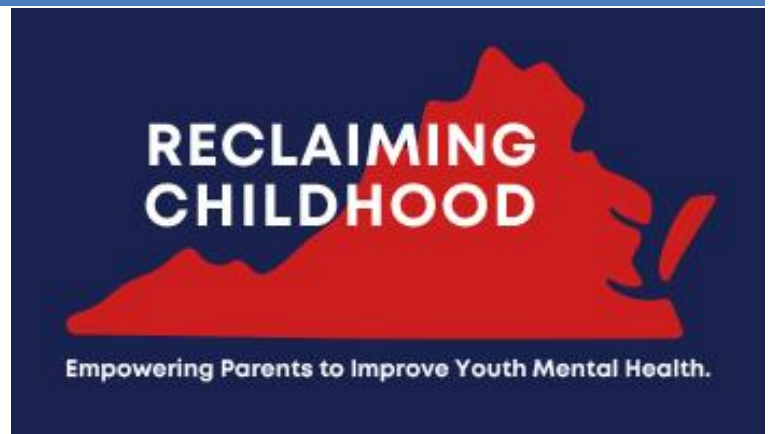
- Courtney Sexton, Program Consultant
- Carol Wilson, Senior Program Consultant
- Kristy Wharton, Chief Financial Officer
- Nirjara Pillai, IT Business Manager
- Carrie Thompson, Data Analyst

If you have any questions, please contact Courtney Sexton at [courtney.sexton@csa.virginia.gov](mailto:courtney.sexton@csa.virginia.gov).





Virginia's Reclaiming Childhood initiative represents a powerful statewide effort, initiated by Governor Glenn Youngkin through [Executive Order 43](#), to confront the growing mental health crisis among our youth. By reducing excessive screen time and shielding children from the negative impacts of social media, this initiative inspires parents, educators, and various partner agencies and communities to embrace resources and strategies that foster healthier digital habits and cultivate nurturing environments for all youth.



In March 2025, a pivotal Task Force Meeting was held at ODU's Chartway Arena in Norfolk, Virginia, led by Secretary of Health and Human Resources Janet Kelly, Secretary of Education Aimee Guidera, and Dr. Alexis Aplasca. First Lady Suzanne Youngkin, a passionate champion for youth and families, joined the discussion, inspiring a vision where every citizen of the Commonwealth has access to vital mental health and behavioral resources. The Task Force celebrated the progress of the various workgroups (Family, Community, Government) as they work together to create a cultural shift toward reducing screen time by 25% in 2025. The collective group

enthusiastically brainstormed ideas for a powerful statewide initiative that inspired a screen-free week in the Commonwealth, which launched in April 2025.

The evening culminated in a conversation with Dr. Arthur Brooks and First Lady Youngkin. Dr. Brooks shared his enlightening research on the science of happiness, defining its three essential components: enjoyment, satisfaction, and meaning. He prioritized faith, family, and friends; they offer relief and help us rise above our challenges. He ultimately revealed the powerful secret to happiness: **love**.

Dr. Brooks shared an [inspiring conversation](#) with First Lady Youngkin about reducing society's overreliance on technology. He emphasized the power of a digital detox as a path to greater clarity and connection. When used meaningfully, technology can enrich our lives and enhance our purpose.



The Task Force and community partners continue to work to empower Virginians and equip them with the tools to thrive in all aspects of life. Visit the [Reclaiming Childhood website](#) to access resources, listen to the conversations, and access the tools necessary to navigate technology responsibly.



## Are you a CANVaS User?

### *New IT Security Requirement for all CANVaS Users*

Carol Wilson, Senior Program Consultant



Effective July 1, 2025, all CANVaS users must acknowledge that they have completed yearly IT security training before accessing the CANVaS website. The Commonwealth of Virginia (COV) Information Technology Agency (VITA) requires annual IT security training for all users of websites hosted on the COV network, one of which is CANVaS. Users must read and agree to the terms listed on the VITA "Information Security Policy and Acceptable User Acknowledgement" form. The new screen(s) will display when a user first logs into CANVaS on or after July 1, 2025.

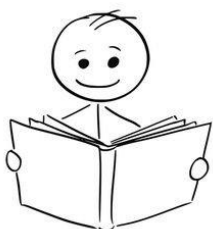
Many CANVaS users, including those of you who have a [dss.virginia.gov](mailto:dss.virginia.gov) or a [djj.virginia.gov](mailto:djj.virginia.gov) email address, are already required to meet your agency's expectations for yearly IT security training, so you will need to indicate from a list of what training you took and the completion date when accessing CANVaS. You will not see the screen again until your current training expires.

If you are a CANVaS user whose agency does not currently require annual IT security training, you may take **Course CSA50 ("Information Technology Security")** offered in the Virginia Learning Center (VLC). If you do not have a current VLC account, please send a request to [csa.office@csa.virginia.gov](mailto:csa.office@csa.virginia.gov), include your work email address, and a VLC account will be created for you. You will receive a confirmation email with instructions. Please be aware that creating the accounts is not an immediate process, and you will also need to allow time for the training.

**After July 1, 2025, CANVaS users must be able to verify having completed security training to successfully log into CANVaS.**



## CANS Tidbits



If you have difficulty logging into CANVaS, please email [csa.canvassupport@csa.virginia.gov](mailto:csa.canvassupport@csa.virginia.gov) for assistance. The CANVaS Help Desk and the Office of Children's Services (OCS) staff can assist you with OKTA or other issues. Do not contact the VITA Customer Care Center or OKTA directly.

If your CANS certification has expired for over three months, the Praed CANS training/certification site will inactivate your account ([www.tcomtraining.com](http://www.tcomtraining.com)). To have it reactivated, please email [support@tcomtraining.com](mailto:support@tcomtraining.com) with your request. Unless you recertify shortly after reactivation, the site will automatically inactivate your account again mid-month or at the end of the month.





## "Ello Gov'na!"

### *Lose the Stuffy Top Hats and Pinstripes: Governance, Plain and Simple*

*Submitted by: Rachel Friedman, Program Auditor*

Let's be honest. When most people hear the term "governance," they might envision a Monty Python movie scene of a stuffy old room filled with top hats, pinstripe suits, and the occasional "Ello Gov'na!" thrown in for good measure. While that might be a fun visualization, the reality, especially in the world of program administration, is far less theatrical and far more practical.

Throughout my career as a paralegal and an auditor, I have seen firsthand how effective governance, or the lack thereof in some cases, can dramatically impact a program's success. So, let's ditch the top hats and pinstripe suits and break down governance in plain and simple terms.

#### **What is Governance, Really?**

Think of governance like an office's shared coffee pot – who is ultimately in charge of the coffee pot and ensures that it's safe to use; who is allowed to use it and when; who makes sure there are plenty of supplies for it; and what are the processes that should be followed if it's empty or it starts not working correctly. Governance is essentially the agreed-upon framework that ensures that your coffee pot – er, I mean, your program – is running smoothly, efficiently, and, most importantly, in accordance with the agreed-upon rules. Think organizational structure, job descriptions, management philosophy, training, culture, ethics, communication, policies and procedures, process narratives and flowcharts, internal control evaluation, monitoring, soliciting program feedback, etc. Remember that governance should not be about micro-management or unnecessary and inefficient bureaucracy but rather about providing adequate clarity, accountability, and direction to achieve a program's mission, goals, and objectives and to facilitate continuous improvement.



Source: *LinkedIn*

#### **Key Components of Governance:**

##### **\* *Clear Roles and Responsibilities: Who does what?***

While this may seem very basic, it is crucial. Defined roles, responsibilities, and reporting structures help avoid confusion and duplication of efforts. A well-defined organizational chart and detailed job descriptions are valuable ways to accomplish this.

##### **\* *Established Policies and Procedures: Your program's "operating manuals."***

Policies and Procedures will outline (and sometimes fully detail) how situations should be handled, from client eligibility to fund management and beyond. Clear and well-documented policies ensure fairness and consistency in processes.

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\* **Risk Management:** *Become comfortable with the fact that NO program on the planet is immune to risk.*

This could include financial, operational, and even reputational risks. Effective governance practices promote risk prevention by identifying future potential pitfalls, assessing their likelihood and impact, and developing strategies to mitigate them. The [CSA Self-Assessment Workbook](#) has a template you can use to document your risk management activities.

\* **Monitoring and Evaluation:** *How do you know if your program works?*

Implement regular monitoring and evaluation of your processes to track changes and progress, identify areas for improvement, and demonstrate accountability. Tools available on the CSA website to aid the continuous quality improvement (CQI) process include:

- [Data and Outcomes Dashboard \(CQI\)](#)
- [Strategic Planning Tools \(CQI\) Documentation Template with Instructions \(Download\)](#)
- [Strategic Planning Tools \(CQI\) Terms and Definitions](#)
- [Strategic Planning Tools \(CQI\) Training](#)
- [Utilization Reports](#)

\* **Transparency and Communication:** *Open and honest communication is vital.*

Keep stakeholders informed about program activities, progress, and challenges, proactively share information, and create channels for feedback. This will ensure everyone is on the same page and knows what is expected.

\* **Compliance:** *This is where my team's work really intersects with yours!*

Adherence to all applicable laws, regulations, policies, and program guidelines is undeniably necessary. This involves areas in your program such as eligibility criteria, data privacy, and financial reporting. Non-compliance could result in undesirable consequences, such as limited access to funding.

## Why Should Governance Matter to You?

\* **Improved Program Effectiveness:** Thoughtful governance practices can make planning and execution much easier and more streamlined for all involved parties.

\* **Increased Accountability:** Clear roles and responsibilities ensure that everyone understands their responsibilities and is accountable for their actions.

\* **Reduced Risk:** Incorporating proactive risk management in your governance framework can help prevent problems before they arise.

\* **Enhanced Stakeholder Trust:** Transparency and communication build trust. Period.

\* **Simplified Operational Reviews:** With a solid governance framework, internal and external review processes become more efficient and less stressful!

## Tips for Implementing Strong Governance Practices:

\* **Start Small:** Don't overwhelm yourself by trying to create or implement everything simultaneously. Focus on the most critical areas and gradually expand your efforts from there.

\* **Document Management:** Create a framework that efficiently manages your planning, decision-making, and records retention activities.

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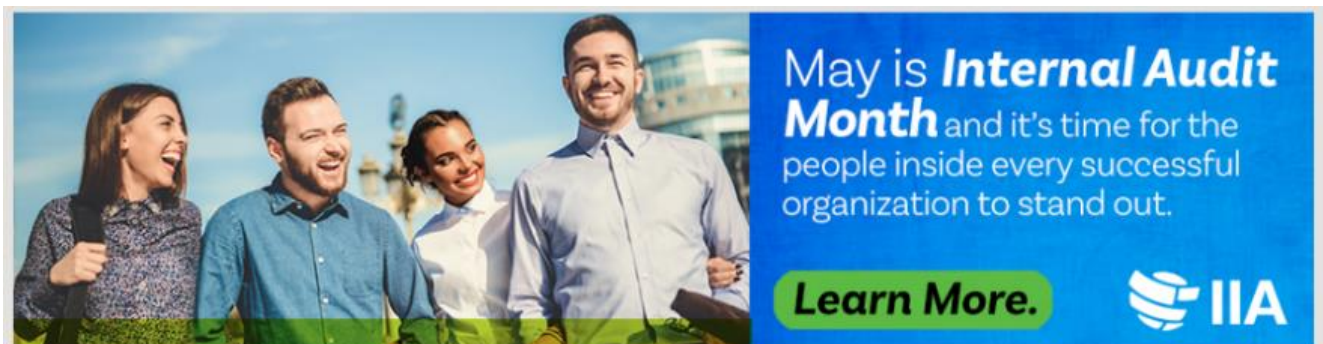


- \* **Train Your Team:** Ensure that everyone understands their and others' roles and responsibilities, as well as the program's mission, values, objectives, policies, and procedures.
- \* **Make Periodic Reviews/Updates a Priority:** Governance is not a one-and-done process. It is imperative to regularly review and update your governance framework to reflect changes in the program, regulations, and guidance on best practices.
- \* **Regularly Seek Feedback and Collaboration:** In the way that CSA promotes collaboration, actively encourage feedback and participation from staff and other stakeholders to ensure buy-in, a sense of belonging and value, and clear understanding.

While governance might not be the most glamorous aspect of program administration, it is fundamental for success. By implementing a strong governance framework, you can ensure that your local program runs smoothly, achieves its goals, and, above all else, makes a real difference in the lives of the children and families that you serve. And maybe, just maybe, remembering what you've learned here, you'll even start to enjoy the governance process (minus the "Ello Gov'na!" of course).

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If you found this article helpful and would like more information on this topic, please don't hesitate to contact a member of the OCS Program Audit staff, aka the "A-Team." Contact information for the A-Team can be found on the [CSA website](#). Also, don't forget to check the OCS newsletter, "CSA Today," for future articles.





Families are at the heart of Virginia's System of Care, and their involvement is critical to our collective success. By actively participating, families can influence the day-to-day and broader aspects of the CSA process. To empower families to take part effectively, they must have a solid understanding of how CSA works.

In 2021, a dedicated workgroup from the State and Local Advisory Team (SLAT) created the [CSA Family Guide](#) to support localities and families in engaging and preparing for this journey. This collaborative team included voices from state officials, local representatives, and, most importantly, families.

The Guide is a valuable resource, providing a clear overview of the CSA structure and detailing what families can expect during Family Assessment and Planning Team (FAPT) meetings. Additionally, it offers practical tips for preparation and a helpful list of commonly used acronyms. We strongly encourage communities to share this Guide with families; it is designed to strengthen engagement and ensure that families feel empowered and informed. Additionally, a complimentary video and brochure effectively summarize the vital information from the Guide. These resources provide helpful tips for families beginning their journey in CSA, ensuring they have the guidance needed for a successful start.

You can easily access these valuable resources on the [CSA website](#) under the "Parents and Families" tab. Contact Mary Bell ([mary.bell@csa.virginia.gov](mailto:mary.bell@csa.virginia.gov)) to obtain a digital copy of the brochure.

Together, let's build a brighter future through meaningful family engagement!



The Parent Educational Advocacy Training Center (PEAT-C) has developed a [fact sheet](#) to empower parents to advocate for their students' enrollment in Extended School Year (ESY) services.

Parents are encouraged to engage with their student's IEP team to learn about the valuable support for students with disabilities, helping them retain essential skills during school breaks and ensuring they progress. Unlike traditional summer school, ESY is customized to meet students' unique needs and is provided at no cost if the student's IEP team decides it's essential.

Starting the conversation early is beneficial, as this allows for effective planning and gives parents time to address any potential disagreements.

Visit [www.peatc.org](http://www.peatc.org) for more information and resources focused on students with disabilities.







VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF  
SOCIAL SERVICES

**DFS** Division of  
Family Services

# The Parent Advisory Council needs you!



The Virginia Department of Social Services' (VDSS) Division of Family Services is seeking parents\* with lived experience in child welfare to join our Parent Advisory Council to have a voice in shaping Virginia's child welfare system to improve the outcomes of children and families.

## Consider applying if you meet the following qualifications:

- ▶ You are a parent who received case management or other services from a local department of social services in Virginia either through a child protective services (CPS), CPS ongoing, prevention, family preservation or foster care case. The parent's child(ren) may have been at risk for entering foster care or did enter foster care.
- ▶ You are focused on solutions, open-minded and forward-looking.
- ▶ Your child welfare case has been closed for at least six months.
- ▶ You are willing to participate in monthly meetings (virtually at this time; eventually will move to at least three in-person meetings per year).
- ▶ You are willing to work in partnership with VDSS staff.

\*For this Council's purposes, a 'parent' is defined as someone in a primary caretaking role such as a child's biological parent, legal custodian or guardian, who has been involved with child welfare.

Please visit [www.dss.virginia.gov/parentcouncil](http://www.dss.virginia.gov/parentcouncil) for more information and to fill out an online interest application. Selected parents will receive compensation for their participation in meetings and other activities.



## Council Mission:

To ensure parent voices are included in shaping VDSS Division of Family Services' programs, services, strategies, and policies to build strategic partnerships between parents and staff, promote parent leadership development, and expand the meaningful roles and voices of parents throughout child welfare.

## Questions?

Contact Chauncey Strong at  
[chauncey.strong@dss.virginia.gov](mailto:chauncey.strong@dss.virginia.gov)



VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF  
SOCIAL SERVICES

**DFS** Division of  
Family Services



## Using CSA Performance Measures to Set Strategic Goals

*Carrie Thompson, Research Associate Senior*

DATA

Where could my CSA program improve its performance?

One way to prioritize local strategic planning with data is by comparing your CSA's performance to that of other localities and the state.

The State Executive Council established six performance measures for Children's Services (SEC) in response to Virginia Code §2.2-2648.D.17:

Improvement on the Child and Adolescent Needs and Strengths (CANS) between a baseline assessment and the most recent reassessment or discharge:

1. The percentage of youth who improved (had a decrease in their score) on the School Domain
2. The percentage of youth who improved on the Child Behavioral and Emotional Needs Domain
3. The percentage of youth who improved on the Child Strengths Domain

CSA utilization of non-residential services:

4. The percentage of youth receiving only community-based Services (CBS) of all youth receiving CSA-funded services

Virginia Department of Social Services (VDSS) outcome measures for youth in foster care:

5. The percentage of youth in family-based placements
6. The percentage of youth who exit to a permanent living arrangement

### *CSA Performance Measures / Outcome Indicators Report*



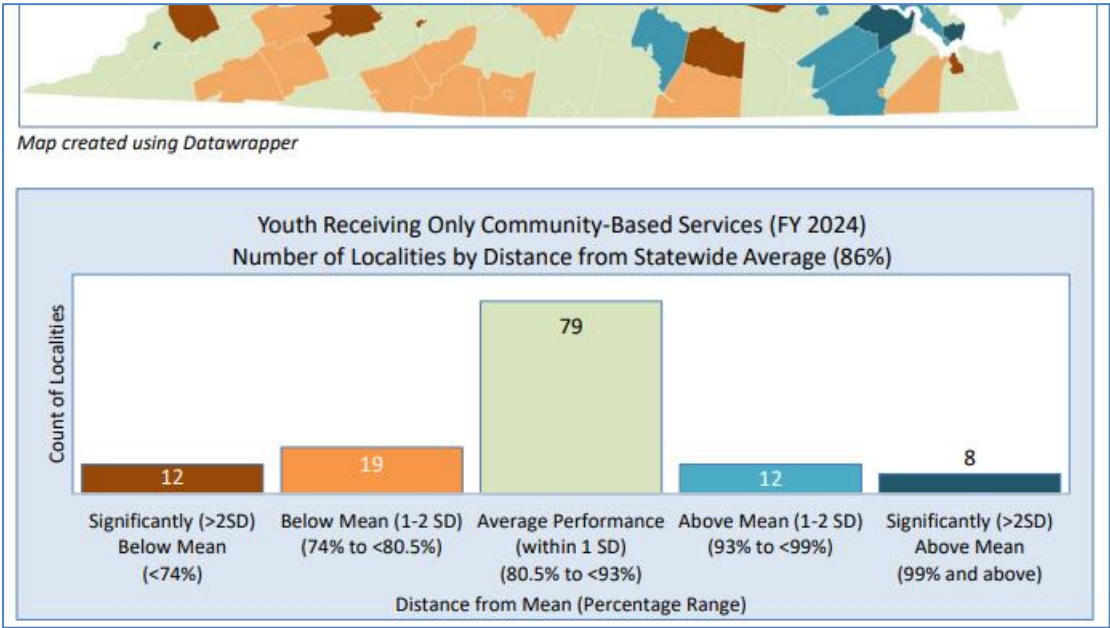
The CSA Performance Measures/Outcome Indicators Report is found under the General Reports header of the Reports and Publications page.

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Performance Measures (cont'd)

DATA

The locality performance sections of the report provide the range of percentages for each of the six performance measures, comparing locality values to the statewide rate. Using statistical analysis, localities are organized into five performance categories (from Significantly Below Mean to Significantly Above Mean). The groupings consider the different numbers of youth served across the localities. The ranges reported for the five performance categories apply to all CSA programs, large and small, and allow localities to say with greater confidence whether their performance is below average, above average, or in line with average performance for the state overall.

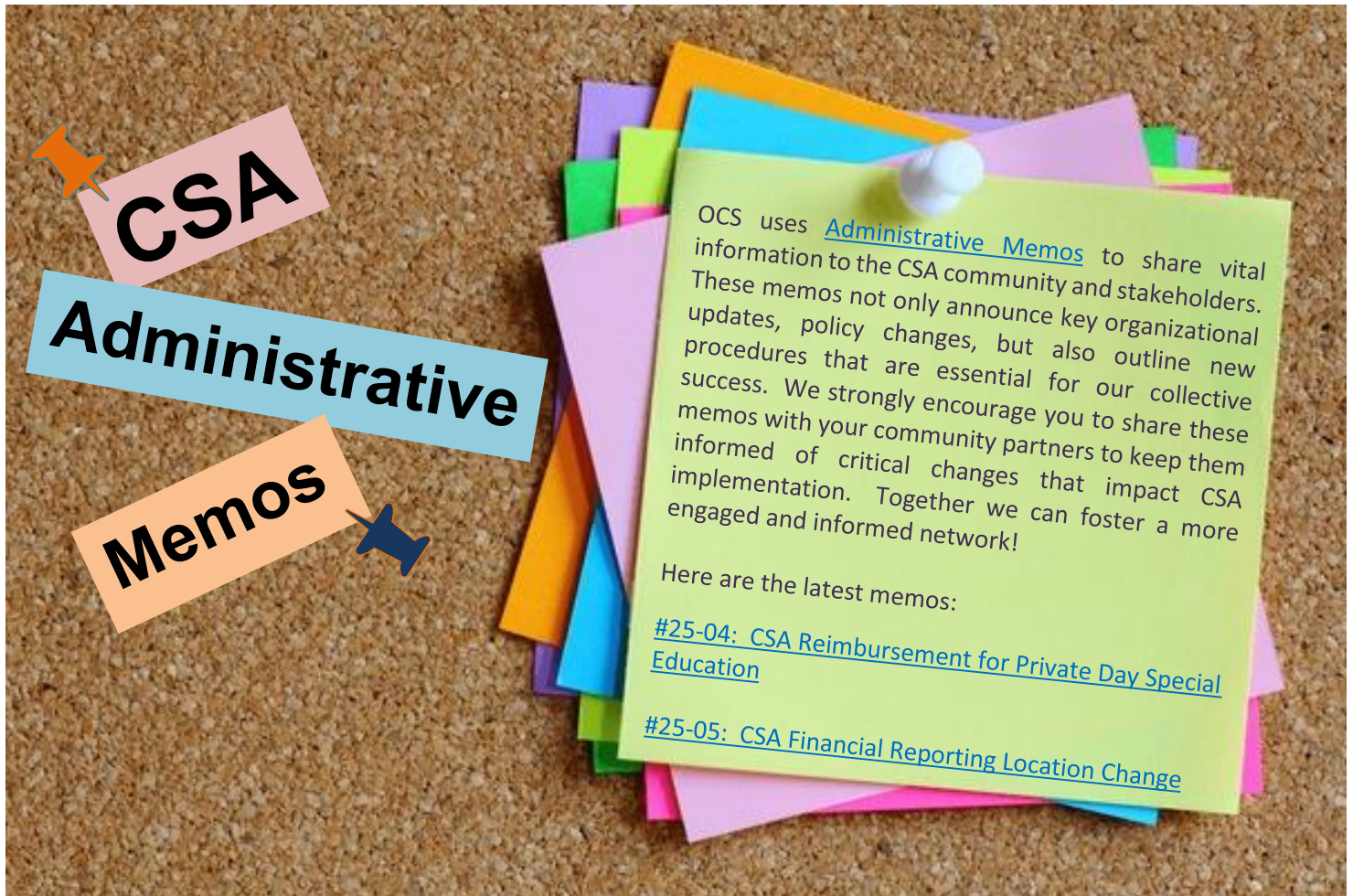


The percentage ranges are found under each column of this chart style in the annual report.

By referencing the Appendix at the end of the report (Appendix 1: Locality-Specific Performance Measures), you can find the percentages for your locality and other localities. Network with different programs with higher performances to learn about the practices of other localities and brainstorm for improving your program’s performance. Setting strategic goals around the six performance measures established by the SEC and taking actions to enhance what is appropriate to address is one way to prioritize the strategic planning of your CPMT.

Please reach out to OCS Research Associate Senior Carrie Thompson if you have questions about using data in your CSA long-term planning.





**Mental Health Awareness Month** seeks to enhance public understanding of mental health conditions and their effects on individuals, families, and communities. Observed since 1949, this initiative encourages education about mental illness, promotes research and treatment, and highlights the importance of seeking help.

In recognition of Mental Health Awareness Month, SAMHSA is launching a comprehensive [toolkit](#) that is easily accessible and shareable. This toolkit includes key messages, themes, and content that can be distributed through various media channels. It also provides best practices for engaging in supportive and constructive discussions about mental health, along with additional resources to raise awareness throughout May and beyond.

When sharing the toolkit, please use SAMHSA's hashtag, **#MHAM2025**, to support this important initiative.





### City of Petersburg Office of Children's Services

The SEC's **Excellence in CSA Award** recognizes local CSA programs who demonstrate exemplary best practices and innovation to enhance their local system of care. On March 13, 2025, the SEC selected the City of Petersburg Office of Children's Services as its inaugural winner of this prestigious award. Here are few key highlights about Petersburg OCS:

Petersburg OCS serves as a reliable source of hope and support for their community. With Jacqueline Zemmitt at the helm, the dedicated CSA staff, and the backing of local government and community leaders, this program has successfully embodied CSA's mission through ongoing outreach efforts and innovative service initiatives.

Petersburg OCS organizes its annual Training and Resource Day, offering local and state community partners educational opportunities to develop new skills through training and networking. Out of this endeavor came the development of a comprehensive provider directory, which is shared with participants and the communities.

Petersburg OCS has maintained stable leadership within its partner agencies and focuses on collaboration, empowerment, and self-sufficiency as key to its work with and for families. In partnership with the School Division, they implemented supportive services for students facing mental health challenges. A Behavioral Support Team (BST) was established to provide interventions and make community referrals, which led to noted improvements in student achievement, behavior, and attendance.



Please join us in congratulating the Petersburg CSA Office as the inaugural winner of the SEC's **Excellence in CSA Award**!





Nottoway County CSA hosted its first Training and Resource Day, bringing together community partners, neighboring communities, and private providers to learn and grow in their efforts to serve youth and families through the CSA process. This community event centered on "Community Connections," where attendees celebrated the importance of networking, gained valuable resources, and shared knowledge.

The keynote speaker was Jacqueline Zemmitt, the CSA Coordinator for the City of Petersburg, whose community is the recent recipient of the SEC's ***Excellence in CSA Award***. Affectionately known as *Jackie* in the CSA community, she discussed CSA's integral role in meeting families' needs within Virginia's system of care. Jackie provided an overview of the various components of the Children's Services Act from both state and local perspectives and shared best practices for CSA teams (CPMT and FAPT), CSA Coordinators, and service providers.



Due to the overwhelming success of this event, Nottoway CSA plans to make it an annual outreach event. We believe that when communities come together, everyone benefits!



## 2025 Family Engagement Summit

The Family Engagement Summit is an interactive event aimed at fostering meaningful collaboration among educators, families, and community partners in the Commonwealth of Virginia. Extensive research underscores the significance of family engagement as a vital component of student success. It is imperative that family engagement is both intentional and integrated within school systems and disability services.

PEAT-C and VDOE invite you to participate in this one-day summit, where esteemed speakers will present practical, evidence-based strategies and underscore the transformative impact of robust partnerships. Contact PEAT-C at (703) 923-0010 or [partners@peatc.org](mailto:partners@peatc.org) for more information.



### One Summit, Two Locations

Registrants can only attend one summit!

June 7, 2025 – [Glen Allen](#)

August 9, 2025 – [Harrisonburg](#)

8:00 AM – 8:45 AM: Registration/Breakfast  
**Summit begins at 9:00 AM**





## Resource Round-Up

### EBP Finder

With SingleStone LLC, the Center for Evidence-based Partnerships (CEP-Va) created the [EBP Finder](#) to assist service coordinators and others find evidence-based programs (EBPs) in their communities. This website was designed with input from professionals who plan and coordinate services. Users can filter the information by EBP and location. The EBP Finder is updated on a quarterly basis and new EBPs are added to the website annually.

Be sure to check out this trustworthy source for EBPs available in Virginia!



CENTER for  
EVIDENCE-BASED  
PARTNERSHIPS

MAY IS

## National Foster Care Month

Children's  
Bureau

Child Welfare  
Information Gateway

[childwelfare.gov/fostercaremonth](http://childwelfare.gov/fostercaremonth)

## SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT



OCS has created a CSA Family Guide video to prepare families for what to expect in the CSA process.

Click on the YouTube [link](#) to access the video.

Georgetown University recently hosted an impactful webinar that focused on the vital role Medicaid plays in supporting parents in crisis, youth transitioning out of foster care, and adoptive and relative caregivers. This conversation is essential, and we encourage you to watch the [webinar](#) to understand the significant implications of Congressional decisions on this critical support system.



Georgetown University  
McCourt School of Public Policy  
CENTER FOR CHILDREN  
AND FAMILIES



The best  
preparation  
for tomorrow  
is doing your  
best today.



# TA Questions of the Quarter



**Can CSA pay for supervised visitation of youth in foster care and their families. The local DSS is understaffed and unable to provide the necessary supervision.**

CSA is not appropriated for or intended to alleviate agency staff resource issues. Other funding should be used if possible.

CSA may only pay for supervised visitation if there is something unusual or excessive (above and beyond the routine) about the visitation specific to the child and family (i.e., child has medical needs that requires supervision; visitation occurring on a weekend; court has ordered multiple visits within a short time frame; visitation is therapeutic and facilitated by a mental health professional). Documentation in the IFSP must reflect the specific reason that the child/family requires supervised visitation. FAPT must recommend the service and CPMT must approve the funding request.

**A student recently turned 21 and is enrolled in private day school services. Does CSA funding expire at the end of the school year the student turned 21, or is it at age 22?**

According to [8VAC20-81-10](#), all students (ages two to 21 inclusive) with disabilities who have not graduated with a standard or advanced studies high school diploma are eligible to receive special education services. Age of eligibility is determined by the student's age on September 30. So, a student with a disability whose 22nd birthday is after September 30 remains eligible for the remainder of the school year ([§ 22.1-213](#) of the Code of Virginia; 34 CFR 300.101(a) and 34 CFR 300.102(a)(3)(ii)).

Because the student will be 21 on September 30, 2025, they will be eligible for special education services through the duration of the 2025-2026 school year, which includes ESY (extended school year) services. Since the private day program is year-round, the student could technically receive private day school services until the beginning of the 2026-2027 school year (which is typically in September, so the student could receive services through the private day program through August 2026). Of course, payment for services would be driven by the student's IEP, meaning August of 2026 would be the latest that the student could receive services. However, if the IEP ends the services prior to that, then services would need to be funded in accordance with the IEP.





### 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](#).



### Would you like to be a 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](#).

