

**STATE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL (SEC)
FOR CHILDREN'S SERVICES
1604 Santa Rosa Road
Richmond/Henrico Rooms
Richmond, VA
Thursday, June 8, 2023**

SEC Members Present:

Leah Mills, Deputy Secretary of Health and Human Resources for The Honorable John Littel,
Secretary of Health and Human Resources (*SEC Chair*)
Carl Ayers for Danny Avula, M.D., Commissioner, Virginia Department of Social Services
The Honorable Carrie Coyner, Member, Virginia House of Delegates
Adrienne Fegans for Cheryl Roberts, Director, Department of Medical Assistance Services
The Honorable Willie Greene, Mayor, City of Galax
Natalie Handy, VP of Government Affairs & Advocacy, Health Connect America
Samantha Hollins, Ph.D. for Lisa Coons, Superintendent of Public Instruction, Virginia Department of
Education
Jake Lambert, for Karl Hade, Executive Secretary of the Supreme Court of Virginia
The Honorable Chad Logan, Judge, 26th Judicial District, Juvenile and Domestic Relations
District Court
The Honorable T. Montgomery "Monty" Mason, Member, Senate of Virginia
Andrea McMahan, for Amy Floriano, Director, Department of Juvenile Justice
Anahita Renner, Parent Representative
Ron Spears, CEO, Elk Hill
Rebecca Vinroot, Chair, State and Local Advisory Team (SLAT)

Other Staff Present:

Stephanie Bacote, Program Audit Manager, OCS
Mary Bell, Program Consultant, OCS
Annette Larkin, Program Audit, OCS
Marsha Mucha, Administrative Staff Assistant, OCS
Nira Pillai, IT Business Analyst, OCS
Scott Reiner, Executive Director, OCS
Kristi Schabo, Senior Policy and Planning Specialist, OCS
Carrie Thompson, Research Associate Senior, OCS
Susan Whyte, Assistant Attorney General

Members Absent:

The Honorable Christopher Faraldi, Member, Lynchburg City Council
The Honorable Margaret Angela Franklin, Prince William County Board of Supervisors
Michelle Johnson, County Administrator, Charles City County
The Honorable Dalia Palchik, Member, Fairfax County Board of Supervisors

Call to Order/Opening Remarks

Leah Mills, Deputy Secretary of Health and Human Resources, called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m. She welcomed everyone on behalf of Secretary Littel. Introductions were made.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the March 9, 2023, meeting were approved on a motion by Monty Mason, seconded by Carl Ayers, and carried.

Public Comment

Michael Thomas, McGuire Woods Consulting made public comment on behalf of the Virginia Association of Independent Specialized Education Facilities (VAISEF)

Bill Elwood, Executive Director, Elwood Consulting made public comment on behalf of the Virginia Coalition of Private Provider Associations (VCOPPA).

Both Mr. Thomas and Mr. Elwood expressed concerns regarding implementation of private day rate setting effective July 1, 2023 and the continuing state budget impasse. They explained that existing budget language is silent on how implementation might occur if no budget is reached. Existing budget language does not say that the model rate structure developed by the consultants previously engaged by OCS must be used in implementation.

They requested an alternative solution be considered by the Administration and the General Assembly should a budget not be adopted by July 1, 2023.

A discussion followed the public comments concerning whether or not the rate structure developed by the consultants had to be utilized or if an alternative solution could be explored. Mrs. Whyte explained that there is no explicit requirement to use the tiered rate structure developed by the consultants; however, Mrs. Mills noted that a rate structure would need to be in place in the event the budget is not adopted by July 1, 2023. She further noted that the Administration is committed to working with the private provider community should a budget not be in place by July 1. Mr. Reiner noted that OCS would proceed at the direction of the Administration.

After additional discussion, a motion was made by Carrie Coyner, seconded by Monty Mason, and carried (*Mrs. Mills and Mr. Lambert abstained*) to send a letter from the SEC membership to the Administration requesting that contracting practices utilized by localities in 2022-2023 for private day special education rates serve to meet the implementation requirements (implementation of statewide rates) in the current budget language.

State and Local Advisory Team (SLAT) Report

Rebecca Vinroot, SLAT Chair, provided the update. She reported that SLAT last met on May 4, 2023.

- Mrs. Vinroot reported that SLAT continued a discussion of the three-tiered match rate system that had initially taken place at the February 2023 meeting. SLAT discussed whether localities are penalized (higher match rate for residential) if they don't utilize community-based services. At the May 2023 meeting, SLAT delved deeper into the match rates and, after additional analysis, SLAT decided not to make any recommendations to the SEC at this time.

- SLAT is also awaiting results of the Time-to-Service Study being conducted by the Office of Children’s Services. This was a recommendation from the JLARC report issued several years ago. A survey and data collection tool was disseminated to each of the individual CSA offices to determine the length of time from referral to CSA to initiation of service delivery.
- SLAT has begun a review of the SLAT bylaws.
- SLAT has nominated Rebecca Vinroot to serve as SLAT Chair and Mills Jones to serve as SLAT Vice-Chair for the 2024 fiscal year. The nominations from SLAT were approved by the SEC on a motion by Bob Hicks, seconded by Ellen Harrison, and carried.

OCS Training Plan for FY2024

Mr. Reiner presented a draft of the OCS Training Plan for FY2024 for the SEC’s consideration and approval. Mr. Reiner highlighted several aspects of the training plan. At the end of his presentation and discussion, the FY2024 OCS Training Plan was approved on a motion by Ellen Harrison, seconded by Natalie Handy, and carried.

Mr. Reiner will have the annual training report summary available for the September 2023 SEC meeting.

SEC Policy Manual

Mr. Reiner provided an update on the SEC policy manual review process. Mr. Reiner noted that several policies (5) had previously been identified as meeting the criteria of being duplicative of the Code of Virginia. Those policies were rescinded by the SEC at the March 2023 meeting. Mr. Reiner further reported, that moving forward with the project to format, restructure or make minor technical revisions to existing policies, will require those policies to go through the public comment process.

Mr. Reiner further reported that §2.4.7 of the Policy Manual, *Public Participation in Policy-making Actions*, requires a petition for a policy-making action to be presented to the SEC’s Executive Committee for review and presentation to the SEC for consideration. Currently the SEC does not have an Executive Committee to meet this requirement.

Mr. Reiner ask for volunteers to serve on a SEC Executive Committee for the purpose of moving the policy review forward. The following SEC members agreed to serve: Carl Ayers, Bob Hicks, and Natalie Handy. The committee will address three proposed policy updates, including revision of the policy that requires Executive Committee action.

OCS Executive Director’s Report

Mr. Reiner reported on the following items:

- Minor changes are needed to the SEC bylaws which will be addressed in the fall.
- The locality whose CSA funds were suspended pending improvements to their CSA program is making progress toward meeting those goals. Once an additional review is completed by CSA audit showing continued improvement, the suspended funds will be released to the locality.
- Members received a copy of the City of Petersburg, DSS/CSA Fiscal Year 2022 Annual Report prepared by the Petersburg CPMT. Mr. Reiner commended Petersburg for their work.

SEC Strategic Plan

Mr. Reiner reported that the Code of Virginia and the Appropriation Act require the SEC to biennially publish and disseminate a progress report on services for children, youth and families and a plan for such services for the ensuing biennium. Mr. Reiner further reported that a progress report will be due in December 2023 along with a strategic plan for the upcoming biennium.

At the March 2023 SEC meeting, members agreed to the three broad areas addressed in the current Strategic Plan:

- Policy and Oversight
- Leadership and Collective Action
- Empowering Families and Communities

Under the direction of OCS Senior Policy and Planning Specialist, Kristi Schabo, members were divided into three groups to brainstorm goals for each of these areas. (*Mrs. Mills was called away to attend another meeting. She asked Mr. Reiner to assume the Chair.*)

Once the small group activity was completed, the groups reported out. The ideas will be compiled and sent out to the membership for further thoughts/suggestions in advance of the September 2023 SEC meeting. SLAT should also receive the compilation before their August 2023 meeting.

Closing Remarks and Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 2:30 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for September 14, 2023 and will be an extended meeting.