

**STATE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL (SEC)
FOR CHILDREN'S SERVICES
1604 Santa Rosa Road, Suite 137
Richmond, VA
(VIRTUAL MEETING)
Thursday, June 11, 2020**

SEC Members Present:

The Honorable Daniel Carey, M.D., Secretary of Health and Human Resources
The Honorable Mary Biggs, Member, Montgomery County Board of Supervisors
Sophia Booker, Service Recipient Representative
Valerie Boykin, Director, Department of Juvenile Justice
Courtney Gaskins, Ph.D., Director of Program Services, Youth for Tomorrow
The Honorable Willie Greene, Vice Mayor, City of Galax
The Honorable Elizabeth Guzman, Member, Virginia House of Delegates
Bob Hicks, for M. Norman Oliver, M.D., Commissioner, Virginia Department of Health
Sam Hollins, Ed.D, for James Lane, Ed.D, Superintendent of Public Instruction, Virginia Department of Education
Sandra Karison for Karl Hade, Executive Secretary of the Supreme Court of Virginia
Karen Kimsey, Director, Department of Medical Assistance Services
Andelicia Neville, Parent Representative
Alison Land, Commissioner, Virginia Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services
The Honorable T. Montgomery "Monty" Mason, Member, Senate of Virginia
The Honorable Frank Somerville, Presiding Judge, 16th Judicial District, Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court
Amanda Stanley, President and CEO, DePaul Community Resources
Duke Storen, Commissioner, Virginia Department of Social Services
Shannon Updike, Acting Chair, State and Local Advisory Team (SLAT)

SEC Members Absent:

Eric Campbell, City Manager, City of Harrisonburg
Jessica Stern, Parent Representative

Other Staff Present:

Marsha Mucha, Administrative Staff Assistant, OCS
Scott Reiner, Executive Director, OCS
Zandra Relaford, Assistant Director, OCS
Susan Whyte, Assistant Attorney General

Roll Call of Members and Opening Remarks

Scott Reiner noted that the COVID-19 state of emergency precludes assembling the required number of individuals in a central location. He noted that the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) requires public bodies holding electronic meetings to make available to the public a public comment form. He provided the link for the form in the chat section of the virtual meeting.

Mr. Reiner conducted a roll call of the membership for attendance purposes.

Secretary Carey called the virtual meeting to order at 9:35 a.m. and welcomed everyone to the call. He recognized the Honorable Elizabeth Guzman as a new member of the SEC representing the Virginia House of Delegates.

The minutes of the March 12, 2020 meeting were approved on a motion by Mary Biggs, seconded by Courtney Gaskins and approved by roll call vote as follows: Mary Biggs, Sophia Booker, Valerie Boykin, Courtney Gaskins, Willie Greene, Delegate Elizabeth Guzman, Bob Hicks, Samantha Hollins, Karen Kimsey, Alison Land, Senator Monty Mason, Andelicia Neville, Frank Somerville, Amanda Stanley, Duke Storen and Shannon Updike.

Public Comment

Two public comments were made concerning funding for private day schools during the current pandemic:

- Dr. Ethan Long, President of the Virginia Institute of Autism
- Dr. Joshua Lutz, Executive Director of Education, Dominion Youth Services

Executive Director's Report

Scott Reiner, Executive Director of OCS reported on the following items:

- CSA COVID-19 Survey Results
Mr. Reiner reported that during the last week in April and the first week in May, OCS conducted a survey of local CSA programs regarding operations during the pandemic. Of the 133 local programs, OCS received 111 responses to the survey.

Mr. Reiner reported that most programs have been handling the emergency well and have been able to continue the work of FAPT through tele-conference/or video conferencing. Family and youth involvement has remained about the same as in-person meetings. Some concerns were raised such as lack of adequate technology and quality of adaptive services. About 75% of localities have been able to find workable processes for CPMTs funding of private day educational services.

In closing, Mr. Reiner noted the survey was a positive reflection of the resiliency and adaptability of the local CSA programs during this time of emergency.

During discussion, it was noted that it would be beneficial to survey the provider community to gain their perspective of the opportunities for collaboration and challenges that have been discovered during the pandemic.

- FY2021 Training Plan
Mr. Reiner reported that, at the March SEC meeting, an exposure draft of the Training Plan was presented to members. He noted that, because of current circumstances, OCS is in the process of arranging to provide some trainings on virtual platforms.

Mr. Reiner asked members for their consideration of approving the FY2021 Training Plan based on recognition that OCS will be engaging in contingency planning for

training, but with the same goals and objectives. The means of achieving the goals and objectives set out in the Training Plan may be different.

The FY2021 Training Plan was approved on a motion by Mary Biggs, seconded by Courtney Gaskins and approved by roll call vote as follows: Mary Biggs, Sophia Booker, Valerie Boykin, Courtney Gaskins, Willie Greene, Delegate Elizabeth Guzman, Bob Hicks, Samantha Hollins, Karen Kimsey, Alison Land, Senator Monty Mason, Andelicia Neville, Frank Somerville, Amanda Stanley, Duke Storen and Shannon Updike.

Mr. Reiner will provide training plan updates at future meetings.

- *Status of Strategic Plan Implementation*

Mr. Reiner reported that, at the March SEC meeting, the SEC approved moving forward with implementing the SEC's Strategic Plan. He provided an update on activities to date.

SLAT is in the process of soliciting workgroup members for the two workgroups they will lead (*Leadership and Collective Action and Empowering Families and Communities*) and members to serve on the Policy and Oversight Workgroup, which will be led by the SEC. Other areas of implementation, policy review and data collection, are on hold at this time.

- *SEC Policy Development: Integration of CSA and FFPSA*

Mr. Reiner reported that at the March SEC meeting the SEC approved the first step in policy making to align CSA and FFPSA. A "Notice of Intent to Develop Policy" was distributed for a public comment period from March 23 to May 1 with one comment received. Because the public comment period may have been impeded due to the pandemic and the fact that implementation of FFPSA has been delayed until January 1, 2021, further discussion of the next stage of the process is being delayed until the SEC's September meeting.

Nanette Bowler (VDSS) provided a brief update on the status of Qualified Residential Treatment Programs (QRTPs) in response to a question from Senator Mason. She noted that VDSS is aware on the lack of qualified programs and is working with the Casey Foundation to address issues contributing to the situation.

State and Local Advisory Team Report (SLAT)

Shannon Updike, Acting Chair of SLAT provided the report. She reported that SLAT last met on June 4, 2020. Lesley Abashian the local government representative from Fairfax was elected to serve as SLAT Chair for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2020. Mrs. Updike will serve as Vice-Chair.

SLAT members also decided to change their meeting schedule from every other month to quarterly meetings to be held in the months preceding the SEC's quarterly meetings. As noted above, SLAT members have volunteered to serve on the workgroups being established to assist with implementation of the SEC's strategic plan.

COVID-19 Related Updates

The following individuals provided updates on how their agencies are addressing COVID-19 and continuing to provide services during this time:

- Virginia Department of Education – Dr. Samantha Hollins, Assistant Superintendent, Department of Special Education and Student Services
- Virginia Department of Social Services - Nanette Bowler, Deputy Commissioner of Human Services
- Virginia Department of Medical Assistance Services – Karen Kimsey, Director
- Virginia Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services, Alison Land, Commissioner
- Virginia Department of Juvenile Justice, Valerie Boykin, Director

Public Comment II

Bill Elwood, Executive Director of the Virginia Coalition of Private Provider Associations (VCOPPA) and the Virginia Association of Independent Specialized Education Facilities (VAISEF) commented on the struggles of special education private day schools during this pandemic. He further remarked, that they were caught off guard by the recent announcement that schools could be open with certain restrictions and would have liked more notice in order to prepare for reopening.

Due to technical difficulties, Eli Newcomb, Director of Education and Research, The Faison Center, submitted his comment in writing to the Chair and to Mr. Reiner. The comment focused on the need for consistent state guidance with regard to funding private day special education during the pandemic and in the future.

Closing Remarks and Adjournment

In closing, Secretary Carey thanked the presenters for their updates. He also thanked local agencies/organizations and private providers for their care of children and families in Virginia, especially during this difficult time.

He asked those in attendance to provide feedback on the length of time of today's meeting. The next SEC meeting will be held on September 10, 2020.

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 11:10 a.m.