

**STATE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL (SEC)
FOR CHILDREN'S SERVICES
1604 Santa Rosa Road
Richmond/Henrico Rooms
Richmond, VA
Thursday, March 10, 2022**

SEC Members Present:

The Honorable John Littel, Secretary of Health and Human Resources (SEC Chair)
Lesley Abashian, Chair, State and Local Advisory Team (SLAT)
Danny Avula, M.D., Commissioner, Virginia Department of Social Services
Sophia Booker, Service Recipient Representative
Amy Floriano, Director, Department of Juvenile Justice
The Honorable Margaret Angela Franklin, Member, Prince William County Board of Supervisors
The Honorable Willie Greene, Mayor, City of Galax
Samantha Hollins, Ed.D. for Jillian Balow, Superintendent of Public Instruction, Virginia Department of Education
Parham Jaber, M.D., for Colin Greene, M.D., Acting Commissioner, Virginia Department of Health (*virtually*)
Michelle Johnson, County Administrator, Charles City County
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
The Honorable Dalia Palchik, Member, Fairfax County Board of Supervisors (*virtually*)
Nelson Smith, Commissioner, Virginia Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services
The Honorable Frank Somerville, Presiding Judge, 16th Judicial District, Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court
Ron Spears, CEO, Elk Hill
Amanda Stanley, President and CEO, DePaul Community Resources

SEC Members Absent:

The Honorable Elizabeth Guzman, Member, Virginia House of Delegates
The Honorable T. Montgomery "Monty" Mason, Member, Senate of Virginia
Jessica Stern, Parent Representative

Other Staff Present:

Stephanie Bacote, Program Audit Manager, OCS
Mary Bell, Program Consultant, OCS
Rendell Briggs, Program Auditor, OCS
Annette Larkin, Program Auditor, OCS
Marsha Mucha, Administrative Staff Assistant, OCS
Scott Reiner, Executive Director, OCS
Susan Whyte, Assistant Attorney General

Call to Order/Opening Remarks

Secretary Littel called the meeting to order at 9:35 a.m. and welcomed everyone. Members approved the requests made by Supervisor Palchik and Dr. Jaberri pursuant to §2.2-3708.2 and SEC Policy 2.1.3 to participate virtually from their homes due to medical reasons.

Member introductions were made.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the December 9, 2021 meeting were approved on a motion by Margaret Angela Franklin, seconded by Lesley Abashian, and carried.

Public Comment

There were no public comments.

Overview of the State and Local Advisory Team (SLAT)

Lesley Abashian, SLAT Chair, provided an overview of SLAT's role in support of CSA and the SEC. Membership on SLAT includes representatives from state and local government entities, the judiciary, a private provider, and a family representative.

SLAT keeps apprised of initiatives, such as Family First, and legislative activities that impact CSA and other child-serving agencies. They also work closely with the CSA Coordinators' Network and are currently working with that group on a guidance document pertaining to best practices and lessons learned during the pandemic when hosting virtual Family Assessment and Planning Team (FAPT) meetings.

As part of the SEC Strategic Plan, SLAT developed a report outlining the leadership competencies of local CSA coordinators, Community Policy and Management Team (CPMT) members and FAPT members. SLAT also developed a *Guide to the Children's Services Act for Youth and Families*.

In closing her report, Mrs. Abashian noted that her term as SLAT Chair will be ending June 30. She encouraged the SEC to utilize SLAT as a resource to provide assistance to the SEC with the SEC's projects and initiatives.

OCS Executive Director's Report

Mr. Reiner reported on the following items:

- *Legislation* – Amendment to the CSA code in regards to who may serve as a parent representative on FAPTs and CPMTs. The Code has restricted those who as a part of their employment, interact directly on a regular and daily basis with children or supervise employees who interact directly on a daily basis with children from serving as a parent representative. This legislation removes that restriction, although those who do not serve in those capacities are prioritized for participation where practicable. (Mr. Reiner noted that historically localities have had a difficult time recruiting parent representatives to serve on FAPT and CPMT.)

Additionally the legislation directs the SEC to inventory current efforts to recruit and retain parent representatives to serve on FAPTs and CPMTs and to compile a list of best practices for

including and elevating parent voices within FAPTs and CPMTs, particularly parents and caregivers with lived experience. A report is due November 1, 2022.

Budget – Included in Governor Northam’s introduced budget: \$50,000 increase in training funds; one additional IT position, and funding for dual-factor (IT systems) authentication. Active budget amendments include:

- \$1.0M in administrative funds to increase local support for CSA administration/operations
- a 12-month delay in the implementation of rate-setting for private day special education programs with a validation and fiscal impact analysis (Senate only). It is not clear what this validation would involve.
- *SEC Strategic Plan* – Members received an updated copy (December 2021) of the SEC Strategic Plan. Mr. Reiner will provide a more detailed report at a future meeting.
- *Program Update* – In accordance with changes to the powers and duties of OCS to provide for the effective implementation of CSA in all localities, OCS has added an additional program consultant who has been working with local programs identified as consistently underperforming. Corrective action plans for each of the identified localities will be developed for submission to OCS and the SEC.
- *CSA Annual Conference* – The Conference will be held at the Hotel Roanoke and Conference Center, November 1-2, 2022.

Overview of the OCS Audit Program

Stephanie Bacote, OCS Program Audit Manager provided an overview of the OCS Audit Program. Mrs. Bacote also provided the members with a copy of the Program Audit Charter, Program Audit Activity Quick Facts (including a summary of systemic audit observations), and the Audit Plan for Fiscal Years 2020-2023. She noted that the audit team consists of four members with recruitment underway for one of those positions.

She reported that the Program Audit function of OCS was established in 2012 to provide independent, objective assurance and consulting services designed to add value and improve the operations of locally administered CSA programs. These services support CSA to accomplish its objectives by bringing a systemic, disciplined approach to evaluate and improve the effectiveness of risk management, control and governance processes.

The OCS Program Audits evaluate the effectiveness of internal controls and organizational practices applicable to financial and operational activities of CSA. The operating guidelines for program audits are adopted from the Institute of Internal Auditors, International Standards for the Professional Practice of Internal Auditing.

At the end of her presentation, Mrs. Bacote answered questions from the members.

Updates of Relevance to CSA and Services to Children

Karen Kimsey provided a brief update on unwinding of the Medicaid enhanced federal funding provided during the Public Health Emergency, which ends July 1, 2022. Other members

reported on IT projects to enhance data sharing/reporting and outcome measures, addressing workforce and mental health needs and improvements to services and service delivery for the children, youth and families of Virginia.

Closing Remarks and Adjournment

In closing, Secretary Littel thanked everyone for attending today's meeting. The next meeting is scheduled for June 9, 2022.

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 11:55 a.m.