

**STATE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL (SEC)
FOR CHILDREN'S SERVICES
1604 Santa Rosa Road
Richmond/Henrico Rooms
Richmond, VA 23229**

Thursday, March 13, 2025

SEC Members Present:

Leah Mills, Deputy Secretary of Health and Human Resources for The Honorable Janet Kelly,
Secretary of Health and Human Resources (*SEC Chair*)
Carl Ayers for James Williams, Commissioner, Virginia Department of Social Services
John Budesky, County Administrator, Hanover County
The Honorable Kevin Carroll, Member, Chesterfield County Board of Supervisors
The Honorable Carrie Coyner, Member, Virginia House of Delegates
Nicole Gore for Nelson Smith, Commissioner, Virginia Department of Behavioral Health and
Developmental Services
Natalie Handy, VP of Government Affairs & Advocacy, Health Connect America, Private
Provider Representative
Kathryn Hayfield, Commissioner, Department for Aging and Rehabilitative Services
Samantha Hollins, Ph.D. for Lisa Coons, Superintendent of Public Instruction, Virginia Department of
Education
The Honorable Jacob Holmes, Vice Mayor, City of Bristol (*virtually*)
Mills Jones, Chair, State and Local Advisory Team (SLAT)
Sandra Karison 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
Jeff Lunardi for Cheryl Roberts, Director, Department of Medical Assistance Services
Andrea McMahon for Amy Floriano, Director, Department of Juvenile Justice
The Honorable Barbara Null, Member, James City County Board of Supervisors
Anahita Renner, Parent Representative
Nancy Robbins, Parent Representative
The Honorable Amelia Ross-Hammond, Member, Virginia Beach City Council
Melvin Roy, Founder and CEO of Foster-U, Service Recipient Representative
Ron Spears, CEO, Elk Hill, Private Provider Representative

Other Staff Present:

Stephanie Bacote, Program Audit Manager, OCS
Mary Bell, Program Consultant, OCS
Marsha Mucha, Administrative Staff Assistant, OCS
Scott Reiner, Executive Director, OCS
Kristi Schabo, Senior Policy and Planning Specialist, OCS
Susan Whyte, Assistant Attorney General

Members Absent:

Susan Fischer Davis, MD for Karen Shelton, MD, Commissioner, Virginia Department of Health

The Honorable Schuyler VanValkenburg, Member, Senate of Virginia

Call to Order/Opening Remarks

Leah Mills, Deputy Secretary of Health and Human Resources, called the meeting to order at 9:35 a.m. On a motion by Kevin Carroll, seconded by Delegate Coyner, the SEC approved Jacob Holmes's request pursuant to §2.2-3708.3 and SEC Policy 2.1.3 to participate virtually from Kingsport, TN, due to work responsibilities.

A quorum was present. On a motion by Barbara Null, seconded by Jeff Lunardi, the meeting agenda was approved.

Member Introductions

Two new local government representatives, Barbara Null and Amelia Ross-Hammond, were welcomed. Introductions were made.

Public Comment

Public comments were made on behalf of the Virginia Association of Independent Specialized Education Facilities (VAISEF) by Michel Thomas, with McGuire Woods Consulting, and Katie Boyle on behalf of the Virginia Association of Counties (VACo) regarding the five percent cap included in the state budget, which would impact private day special education facilities.

Excellence in CSA Recognition

As part of the SEC's Strategic Plan, the SEC has developed a process to acknowledge areas of local excellence and best practices. The Excellence in CSA Award, established in March 2025, recognizes a local CSA program's commitment to positively impacting the lives of children, youth, and families through collaboration, authentic engagement, and system of care.

On behalf of the SEC, Deputy Secretary of Health and Human Resources Leah Mills presented the initial Excellence in CSA Award to the City of Petersburg CSA program. Representing the City of Petersburg CSA were:

- Jacqueline Zemmitt, CSA Program Manager
- Lori Brown, CSA Administrative Assistant
- Mildred Reavis, FAPT Parent Representative
- William D'Auito, Director, Petersburg DSS
- Khristy Horne, Assistant Director, Petersburg DSS
- Michael Triggs, CPMT Private Provider

Approval of Minutes

On a motion by Kevin Carroll, seconded by Melvin Roy, the SEC approved the minutes of the December 12, 2024 meeting.

SEC Policy Review

Policy 4.5.3 – Administrative Funds

Ms. Schabo reported that the SEC approved Policy 4.5.3 for a 60-day public comment period at their December 12, 2024 meeting. The proposed changes align the existing policy with a new

administrative funding process used by OCS, which is more streamlined and accessible to localities. No public comments were received.

On a motion by Carl Ayers, seconded by Natalie Handy, the SEC adopted revised policy 4.5.3.

Repeal of Policy 4.4.2 – Medicaid Funded Services

Ms. Schabo reported that the SEC approved Policy 4.4.2 for a 60-day public comment period at their December 12, 2024 meeting. Policy 4.4.2 is a verbatim restatement of language that has been included in the Appropriation Act since 2009. No public comments were received.

On a motion by Kevin Carroll, seconded by Kathryn Hayfield, the SEC repealed policy 4.4.2

Policy 2.1.3 – Individual Participation in State Executive Council Meetings by Electronic Means

Ms. Schabo reported that the SEC approved Policy 2.1.3 for an initial 45-day public comment period at their December 12, 2024 meeting. No public comments were received.

Policy 2.1.3 provides guidance to the SEC regarding the parameters of electronic participation in SEC meetings or any committees established by the SEC. The proposed changes bring the current policy into compliance with the guidelines set forth in §2.2-3708.2 and §2.2-3708.3, as amended, effective July 1, 2024.

Ms. Schabo further reported that, if the SEC approves today, the next steps would be to disseminate policy 2.1.3 for a 60-day public comment period. On a motion by Anahita Renner, seconded by Carl Ayers, the SEC approved policy 2.1.3 for a 60-day public comment period.

SEC Policy Review – Policy 5.1, Data Set

Ms. Schabo presented a Notice of Intent to Develop or Revise Policy for Policy 5.1, Data Set. Policy 5.1 outlines and defines three different match rates for specific services as defined in the Appropriation Act. The intent is to repeal policy 5.1 because the policy is no longer technically appropriate as the CSA Data Set ceased to exist with the implementation of the Local Expenditure and Data Reimbursement System (LEDERS).

Ms. Schabo also presented a Notice of Intent to Develop/Revise Policy for Policy 4.5.6, Local Match Rates, which would replace Policy 5.1 upon repeal. Proposed Policy 4.5.6 outlines specific local match rates for services as defined in the Appropriation Act and contains updated service language.

If approved by the SEC at today's meeting both Notices of Intent to Develop/Revise Policy would be disseminated for a 45-day public comment period.

After a period of discussion, members requested that OCS further develop proposed Policy 4.5.6 to define and clarify the match rates as outlined in the proposed policy. No action was taken on either Notice of Intent to Develop/Revise Policy for Policy 5.1 or Policy 4.5.6.

State and Local Advisory Team (SLAT) Report

Mills Jones, SLAT Chair, reported on the following items:

- SLAT last met on February 6, 2025.
- Mr. Jones reported that March is Social Work Month and he expressed thanks for the work of social workers. He also thanked DBHDS for the information provided at the last OCS Office Hours on sponsored residential homes.
- SLAT workgroups continue to focus on several areas of the SEC's Strategic Plan, including the development of a model strategic plan template for localities to assist them with building their strategic plans and a model CSA intake form.
- SLAT also continues to review legislation, policies, and guidance that are pertinent to CSA. SLAT will also review documents related to the model Family Survey form being developed by OCS.
- The Virginia Association of Private Providers Associations (VCOPPA) has nominated a new alternate representative to serve on SLAT. Ronnie Gehring has been nominated to replace Michael Triggs. On the recommendation of Mills Jones, seconded by Amelia Ross-Hammond, the SEC approved Mr. Gehring's appointment to SLAT as an alternate private provider representative.
- Mr. Jones presented amended SLAT bylaws for approval by the SEC. Amendments have been made in the elections, terms of office, and meetings sections. On a motion by Nancy Robbins, seconded by Barbara Null, the SEC approved the amended SLAT bylaws.

Presentation

Kari Savage, Director of the Office of Child and Family Services, DBHDS, presented on the DBHDS Adolescent Substance Use Disorder Needs Assessment and Strategic Plan. The implementation guidelines will be sent to the SEC membership as soon as they are available.

OCS Executive Director's Report

Mr. Reiner asked that members let him know if there are topics of interest for future presentations. He reported on the following items:

Legislative Update

- SB801 – modified the Code of Virginia to include CHINS as a sum-sufficient population for CSA. The bill is awaiting the Governor's action.
- HB1733/SB1372 – Requires an LDSS as part of its investigation after receiving a referral for a petition for relief from the care and custody of a child to refer the parent to the local FAPT and create a written report.
- HB2260 – expands the definition of CHINS for purposes of juvenile and domestic relations district courts.
- HB1600 – The budget bill (amendment) decreases CSA funding by \$5 million in the second year of the biennium (FY2026) to reflect general fund savings resulting from a five percent limit on the growth rate in state reimbursement to localities for private special education for children with disabilities. The amendment also adds reporting requirements for OCS, in coordination with DOE, regarding the transition of students from private day education services to local education agencies.
- SEC Strategic Plan – Members received a written update. At the SEC's June meeting, members will review a Model Strategic Plan Template and a Family and Youth Satisfaction Survey.
- Training – Members received a flyer for an upcoming training (April 23, 2025), sponsored by the Virginia Family Network: Strengthening Your Role: Training for Parent Representatives in CSA.
- Audit Activities – Members received a written update on program audit activities along with a copy of the Program Audit Charter and the OCS Audit Plan for FY 2024-2026.

- Enhanced Technical Assistance (ETA) Program – Members received a written update on the ETA program activities.
- OCS Website – The OCS website is being updated for compliance with accessibility requirements. This work is expected to be completed by July 1, 2025. The new website will also be compatible with mobile devices.

Member Remarks/Updates

Members reported for their agencies and organizations on the recent legislative session/budget, projects, new programs, and other ongoing activities. Members continue to work within their agencies and advocate through their associations for improvements to services and service delivery for Virginia's children, youth, and families.

- Natalie Handy announced that this would be her last SEC meeting as she is leaving her current position with Health Connect America. She expressed her gratitude to the SEC for its work on behalf of the children and families of Virginia, and she appreciated the opportunity she was given to serve on the SEC. The SEC membership wished her well in her future endeavors and thanked her for her service.
- The Central Virginia Rural CSA Network's Annual Training Day will be held on April 11, 2025, at Elk Hill in Goochland.
- The VAISEF Spring Conference will be held April 23-25, 2025 in Virginia Beach.

Closing Remarks and Adjournment

Mrs. Mills highlighted the upcoming event, A Night with Arthur Brooks at Old Dominion University, and the conversation with First Lady Suzanne Youngkin. The event will be held March 26, 2025.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 12:50 p.m. on a motion by Barbara Null, seconded by Nicole Gore, and approved by the SEC. The next meeting is scheduled for June 12, 2025.