

**STATE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL (SEC)
FOR CHILDREN'S SERVICES
1604 Santa Rosa Road
Richmond/Henrico Rooms
Richmond, VA
Thursday, September 8, 2022**

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)
Sulola Adekoya, M.D., for Colin Greene, M.D., Commissioner, Virginia Department of Health
Danny Avula, M.D., Commissioner, Virginia Department of Social Services
The Honorable Willie Greene, Mayor, City of Galax
Ellen Harrison for Nelson Smith, Commissioner, Virginia Department of Behavioral Health and
Developmental Services
Dale Holden for Amy Floriano, Director, Department of Juvenile Justice
Sandra Karison for Karl Hade, Executive Secretary of the Supreme Court of Virginia
The Honorable T. Montgomery "Monty" Mason, Member, Senate of Virginia
The Honorable Dalia Palchik, Member, Fairfax County Board of Supervisors (*virtually*)
Ron Spears, CEO, Elk Hill
Rebecca Vinroot, Chair, State and Local Advisory Team (SLAT)
Tammy Whitlock, for Cheryl Roberts, Acting Director, Department of Medical Assistance Services

SEC Members Absent:

The Honorable Carrie Coyner, Member, Virginia House of Delegates
The Honorable Margaret Angela Franklin, Member, Prince William County Board of
Supervisors
**Samantha Hollins, Ph.D. for Jillian Balow, Superintendent of Public Instruction, Virginia
Department of Education (*attempted to attend virtually but was not able to connect to the meeting*)
Michelle Johnson, County Administrator, Charles City County

Other Staff Present:

Anna Antell, Lead Program Consultant, OCS
Stephanie Bacote, Program Audit Manager, OCS
Mary Bell, Program Consultant, OCS
Marsha Mucha, Administrative Staff Assistant, OCS
Scott Reiner, Executive Director, OCS
Courtney Sexton, Program Consultant, OCS
Susan Whyte, Assistant Attorney General

Call to Order/Opening Remarks

Leah Mills, Deputy Secretary of Health and Human Resources called the meeting to order at 9:35 a.m. She welcomed everyone on behalf of Secretary Littel who was not able to attend today's meeting. Introductions were made and Mrs. Vinroot was welcomed as the new chair of the State and Local Advisory Team (SLAT).

A motion was made by Sandra Karison, seconded by Monty Mason and carried to approve requests made by Supervisor Palchik (medical) and Samantha Hollins (meetings/travel) pursuant to §2.2-3708.2 and SEC Policy 2.1.3 to participate virtually from their offices.

Mr. Reiner reported that he has been in contact with the Secretary of the Commonwealth's Office concerning the vacancies on the SEC – a local government and private provider representative, both parent representatives, the service recipient representative, and the juvenile and domestic relations district court judge.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the June 9, 2022 meeting were approved on a motion by Monty Mason, seconded by Danny Avula and carried.

Public Comment

Two public comments were made opposing rate-setting for private day special education schools and the mandate to implement rate-setting on July 1, 2023.

- Bill Elwood representing the Virginia Coalition of Private Provider Associations (VCOPPA).
- Claiborne Warner, CEO of Virginia Home for Boys and Girls and Adam Dreyfus, Senior Director of the Sarah Dooley Center for Autism at St. Joseph's Villa (*joint statement*).

State and Local Advisory Team (SLAT) Report

Rebecca Vinroot, SLAT Chair, provided the update. She reported that SLAT endorsed, at its August 4, 2022 meeting, two documents developed as guidance for local CSA programs:

- *Virtual Family Assessment and Planning Team (FAPT) Meetings* including *Best Practices/Guidance for Virtual FAPT Meetings*. This document was developed for SLAT by a group of SLAT members and local CSA coordinators.
- *CPMT Chair Job Description*. This document was prepared by the CSA Local Competencies Workgroup.

Both documents have been distributed to local CSA programs.

SLAT is also discussing the development of a FAPT retreat resource manual, which is a recommendation from the CSA Local Competencies Workgroup.

In closing her report, Mrs. Vinroot noted the workforce challenges across human services. She noted a recent report, *Virginia's Human Services Workforce Strategic Investment Initiatives Report*. The report seeks to define the common and pervasive workforce challenges in the Commonwealth and identify the strategies needed to strengthen the workforce recruitment, retention, and experience of

human services professionals. The report was prepared by the Claude Moore Charitable Foundations and Deloitte Consulting. A copy will be shared with the SEC membership.

Report on Family Representatives on FAPT/CPMT

Mr. Reiner reported that legislation in the 2022 General Assembly session removed the provisions that prohibit a parent representative from serving as a member of a CPMT or a FAPT if the parent representative is employed by a public or private program that receives funds to serve children or agencies represented on a CPMT or FAPT. The legislation also directed an inventory of current efforts by CPMTs and FAPTs to recruit and retain parent representatives be conducted, along with compiling a list of best practices for distribution to CSA programs. OCS conducted a survey to collect information for the inventory.

Mr. Reiner further reported that a report, *Recruitment and Retention of Parent Representatives on Local Community Policy and Management Teams and Family Assessment and Planning Teams and Best Practices for Elevating Parent Voices*, is to be distributed to local CSA stakeholders with copies to the Chairmen of the Senate Committee on Rehabilitation and Social Services and the House Committee on Health, Welfare, and Institutions by November 1, 2022. After a presentation on the draft report, SEC members will be asked to approve the draft report before it is finalized for submission.

Mr. Reiner asked Anna Antell, OCS Lead Program Consultant and author of the report to present the draft report to the SEC. Mrs. Antell presented highlights of the report and answered questions from SEC members. At the end of her presentation and after further discussion, a motion was made by Willie Greene, seconded by Dale Holden and carried to approve the draft report for finalization and submission as indicated.

OCS Executive Director's Report

Mr. Reiner reported on the following items:

- *Overview of OCS efforts to monitor local CSA programs, provide necessary technical assistance, and development of corrective action plans per §2.2-2649.19* – Pursuant to a recommendation from the 2020 Study of CSA conducted by the Joint Legislative Audit and Review Commission (JLARC), in 2021 the General Assembly changed the powers and duties of OCS to provide for the effective implementation of CSA in all localities. OCS Program Consultant, Courtney Sexton was hired last fall and has been working with five local programs identified as consistently underperforming.

Ms. Sexton was asked to comment on her work with those localities. She has finished her assessments of those five localities and issued consultative reports to each. Common themes found during her assessments included lack of family engagement, lack of a cohesive CPMT and FAPT (community buy-in), use of outdated state and local policies, and lack of long-range planning. Next steps involve assisting those localities with developing program improvement plans for submission to OCS and for presentation to the SEC.

- *Request for consultation on intended action with regard to audit findings* – Members received a copy of SEC Policy 4.7 *Response to Audit Findings with Regard to the Children's Services*

Act and Mr. Reiner briefly spoke concerning the three levels of findings and responses to noncompliance findings.

Mr. Reiner reported that in response to repeated and subsequent level one noncompliance findings for a locality, under the authority of SEC policy 4.7.6.3, he intends to temporarily deny funding to this locality until they have complied with their corrective action plan. He noted that he wanted members to be aware of his actions in this instance. Members discussed the issue and no additional action was needed.

- *CSA Related Budget Items* – Members received a summary of the CSA-related budget items passed by the 2022 General Assembly. Of particular note, CSA received an increase of state funds to support local CSA administration by \$500,000 which led to each locality receiving a \$24.3% increase in their administrative funds.
- *Status of Workgroup on the Transfer of Private Special Education to DOE* – The Workgroup will hold its final meeting on the plan for the transfer of private special education funding from CSA to DOE. The final report is due in November 2022.
- *Status of Implementation of Rate-Setting for Private Day Special Education* - Mr. Reiner provided members with a copy of a proposed rate structure for private day special education. The legislature has delayed the implementation of rate-setting until July 1, 2023. During this time, OCS is directed to provide training and conduct a fiscal impact study of the new tiered rate structure.
- *CSA Annual Conference* – The Conference will be held at the Hotel Roanoke and Conference Center, November 1-2, 2022. All SEC members are invited and encouraged to attend.

Member Updates of Relevance to CSA and Services to Children

Members reported on on-going workforce issues within their agencies/organizations and on ways they are trying to address those issues. Members also reported on recently held and upcoming conferences and trainings and new programs/projects to enhance service delivery for the children, youth, and families of Virginia.

Closing Remarks and Adjournment

In closing, Deputy Secretary Mills thanked everyone for attending today's meeting. There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 12:05 p.m.

The next meeting is scheduled for December 8, 2022.