

AGENDA
State and Local Advisory Team (SLAT)
August 7, 2025
9:30 a.m. – 12:00
1604 Santa Rosa Road
Richmond, VA 23229
Richmond/Henrico Rooms

Note: This is an in-person meeting
To accommodate interested members of the public, the meeting will be viewable at:
<https://meet.goto.com/994172701>
or via phone. 872-240-3212
Meeting Passcode: 994-172-701

- **Call to Order / Welcome / Opening Remarks** Mills Jones
 - **Action Item:** Approval of Remote Participation per SEC Policy 2.1.3 and §2.2-3708, COV (if necessary)
 - **Action Item:** Approve Agenda and Certification of Quorum
- **Member Introductions**
- **Public Comment** (In-person and remote-5 minute limit per speaker)
- **Approval of Minutes**
 - **Action Item:** Approval of minutes from May 1, 2025 meeting
- **Member Workgroup Updates**
- **Old Business**
 - Policy Update Kristi Schabo
 - Guidelines for Remote Participation Kristi Schabo
- **SEC Report**
 - June Meeting Update Mills Jones
 - Excellence in CSA Recognition Mills Jones
- **OCS Update** Kristi Schabo
- **New Business**
 - Foster Care Specialty Changes
 - DMAS Behavioral Health Redesign

- Safe Kids, Strong Families
- Sponsored Residential

Em Parente
Amy Swift

- **SLAT Member Reports**

State Representatives

- | | |
|---------|------------------|
| ○ VDH | Kyndra Jackson |
| ○ DJJ | Linda McWilliams |
| ○ DSS | Em Parente |
| ○ DBHDS | Kari Savage |
| ○ DMAS | Laura Reed |
| ○ DOE | Sabrina Gross |
| ○ DARS | Patricia Hodge |

Local Representatives

- | | |
|--------------------|------------------------|
| ○ LDSS | Amy Swift |
| ○ CSA Coordinator | Mills Jones |
| ○ CSB | Sandy Bryant |
| ○ CSU | William Stanley |
| ○ J&DR Court | Honorable Marilyn Goss |
| ○ Parent | Cristy Corbin |
| ○ Private Provider | Shannon Updike |
| ○ Public Schools | Kristina Williams-Pugh |
| ○ Local Government | Lesley Abashian |

- **Closing Remarks / Adjourn**

Mills Jones

- **Action Item:** Adjourn meeting

Next SEC Meeting – Thursday, September 11, 2025

Next SLAT Meeting – Thursday, November 6, 2025

2026 SLAT Meetings

February 5

May 7

August 6

November 5

**STATE AND LOCAL ADVISORY TEAM (SLAT)
CHILDREN'S SERVICES ACT
Richmond/Henrico Rooms
1604 Santa Rosa Road
Richmond, VA 23229**

**MINUTES
May 1, 2025**

Members Present: Mills Jones, SLAT Chair; Sabrina Gross, DOE; Ronnie Gehring, VCOPPA; Laura Reed, DMAS; Amy Swift, CPMT – DSS Representative; William Stanley, CPMT – CSU Representative; Anya Horning, VDSS; Patti Hodge, DARS; The Honorable Marilyn Goss, Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court Representative; Kari Savage, DBHDS; Cristy Corbin, Parent Representative; Kristina Williams-Pugh, CPMT – School Representative; Lesley Abashian, CPMT – Local Government Representative

Members Absent: Kyndra Jackson, VDH; Linda McWilliams, DJJ; Sandy Bryant, CPMT – CSB Representative

CSA Staff Members Present: Stephanie Bacote, Mary Bell, Marsha Mucha, Scott Reiner, Kristi Schabo

Welcome/Opening

Mills Jones called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m. and welcomed everyone. Introductions were made. Mr. Jones noted that, at the March 13, 2025 SEC meeting, the SEC presented its initial Excellence in CSA Award to the City of Petersburg CSA program.

Mr. Jones also noted that May is Foster Care Awareness month, and he thanked all those who serve in foster care service roles.

The agenda for today's meeting was approved on a motion by Lesley Abashian, seconded by Amy Swift and carried. A quorum was present.

Public Comment Period

There were no public comments.

Approval of Minutes

The February 6, 2025, meeting minutes were approved on a motion by Marilyn Goss, seconded by Patti Hodge and carried. Lesley Abashian abstained.

Workgroup Updates

There were no updates to report.

Old Business

- Policy Update – On April 1, 2025 a revised Policy Manual was posted to the CSA website.
- Ms. Schabo provided an update on the following policies:
 - Policy 4.4.2 Medicaid Funded Service – The policy was repealed by the SEC at their March 13, 2025 meeting. This policy is a verbatim restatement of language that has been included in the Appropriation Act since 2011.

- Policy 4.5.3 Administrative Funds – A revised policy was adopted by the SEC at their March 13, 2025 meeting. The policy changes align with a new administrative funding process utilized by OCS that is more streamlined for localities.
- Policy 2.1.3 – Individual Participation in State Executive Council Meetings by Electronic Means – At the SEC’s March 13, 2025 meeting, the SEC approved draft Policy 2.1.3 for a 60-day public comment period. 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.

If the policy is approved by the SEC, SLAT will abide by the same policy as indicated in the SLAT bylaws.

Policy 5.1 – Data Set - Ms. Schabo reported that a Notice of Intent to Develop or Revise Policy for Policy 5.1, Data Set, which outlines and defines the three different local match rates as defined in the Appropriation Act, was presented for the SEC’s consideration at their March 13, 2025 meeting. The intent was to repeal policy 5.1, and replace it with a new policy that outlines specific local match rates for services as defined in the Appropriation Act and contains updated service language.

The SEC did not take action on Policy 5.1 at that meeting but requested that OCS review the definitions in the current policy and revise them for clarity and consistency. These revised definitions will be reviewed at the June 12, 2025 SEC meeting.

- Model Strategic Plan Template Workgroup - Amy Swift presented the CSA Strategic Planning tool developed by the workgroup. SLAT members expressed their appreciation to Kristi Schabo and the Workgroup members for their work and noted that the tool would be very useful to localities as they develop their strategic plans. The tool will be presented tomorrow at the CSA Coordinators’ Network meeting.
- SLAT Bylaws – Ms. Schabo reported that, at the SEC’s March 13, 2025 meeting, the SEC approved the amended SLAT bylaws. Amendments have been made in the elections, terms of office, and meetings sections.

SEC Report

Mr. Jones reported on the following items from the March 13, 2025 SEC meeting:

- Members received updates on legislation impacting or of interest to CSA.
- Members discussed the CSA budget and the 5 percent cap for private day special education.
- As reported earlier, the SEC discussed and tabled action on Policy 5.1, *Data Set*. The SEC will revisit the policy at their June 12, 2025 meeting.
- 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.

OCS Updates

Ms. Schabo provided updates in the following areas:

- SB801, passed by the 2025 General Assembly, includes CHINS-eligible youth as an eligible, sum-sufficient population for CSA. The change becomes effective July 1, 2025. A CHINS policy will be developed along with practice guidance for localities.
- 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.
- Beginning July 1, 2025 for FY2026, OCS will cease the current allocation process. one pool of sum sufficient funding will be available to reimburse localities, thereby eliminating allocations and the necessity for a supplemental funding process. Protected fund allocations and funding for special education wraparound services will remain the same.
- A New CSA Coordinator Academy will be held May 6 – 8, 2025.
- A total redo of the CSA website is underway. The new website will be ADA compliant and mobile friendly. Financial reports are being moved behind the new public site as those reports cannot be made ADA compliant. Testing on the new web site is underway.
- The Annual CSA Conference will be held in Roanoke October 15-16, 2025 with a pre-conference session to be held on October 14, 2025. SEC member Melvin Roy will be the keynote speaker.

New Business

Ms. Schabo reported that OCS has prepared a CSA FAPT: Family/Youth Satisfaction Survey. The Survey uses clear, easy to understand language. Members received a copy.

Members also held a brief discussion on the use of sponsored residential care for children in foster care. Mr. Jones thanked Kari Savage (DBHDS) and her staff for their presentation on the topic at the February 21, 2025 OCS office hours. There will also be a breakout session at the CSA Conference concerning sponsored residential care.

Member Updates

Members reported for their agencies and organizations on state and federal funding, 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.

- Mills Jones shared, on behalf of the CSA Coordinators' Network, the dates for the upcoming regional CSA Training and Resource Days. Mr. Reiner asked that the dates be submitted to OCS for the training calendar.
- Cristy Corbin will be presenting on the "parent perspective" at the New CSA Coordinator Academy.

Adjournment

There being no other business, the meeting adjourned at 12:10 p.m. on a motion by Amy Swift, seconded by Lesley Abashian and carried. The next meeting is scheduled for August 7, 2025.

2.1.3 Individual Participation in State Executive Council Meetings by Electronic Means

2.1.3.1 Purpose

To set the parameters of electronic participation in meetings of the State Executive Council for Children's Services (SEC) or any committees established by the SEC.

2.1.3.2 Authority

- A. Section [2.2-3708.2](#) of the Code of Virginia provides that "Any public body, or any joint meetings thereof, may meet by electronic communication means without a quorum of the public body physically assembled at one location when the Governor has declared a state of emergency in accordance with [§44-146.17](#) or the locality in which the public body is located has declared a local state of emergency pursuant to [§44-146.21](#), provided that (i) the catastrophic nature of the declared emergency makes it impracticable or unsafe to assemble a quorum in a single location and (ii) the purpose of the meeting is to provide for the continuity of operations of the public body or the discharge of its lawful purposes, duties, and responsibilities."
- B. Section [2.2-3708.3.B](#) of the Code of Virginia provides that "Individual members of a public body may use remote participation instead of attending a public meeting in person if, in advance of the public meeting, the public body has adopted a policy as described in subsection D..."

2.1.3.3 Definitions

"Caregiver" means any adult who provides care for a person with a disability as defined in [§51.5-40.1](#) of the Code of Virginia. A caregiver shall either be related by blood, marriage, or adoption to or the legally appointed guardian of the person with a disability for whom they are caring.

"Meeting" means a meeting as defined by [§2.2-3701](#) of the Code of Virginia.

"Member" means any member of the State Executive Council or any committees established by the SEC.

“Notify” or **“notifies”** for the purpose of this policy means written notice, including, but not limited to, email or letter, but does not include text messages or messages exchanged on social media.

“Remote participation” means participation by any individual member of the SEC by electronic communication means in a public meeting where a quorum of the SEC is physically assembled, as defined by [§2.2-3701](#) of the Code of Virginia.

2.1.3.4 Remote Participation of Members

2.1.3.4.1 Mandatory requirements

Regardless of the reasons why the member is participating in a meeting from a remote location by electronic communication, the following conditions must be met for the member to participate remotely:

- A. A quorum of the SEC must be physically assembled at the primary or central meeting location. To determine whether a quorum is physically assembled, an individual member of the SEC who is a person with a disability as defined in [§51.5-40.1](#) and uses remote participation counts toward the quorum as if the individual was physically present. Further, an individual member of the SEC who is a caregiver for a person with a disability and uses remote participation counts toward the quorum as if the member was physically present.
- B. Arrangements have been made for the voice of the remotely participating member to be heard by all persons at the primary or central meeting location. If, at any point during the meeting, the voice of the remotely participating member is no longer able to be heard by all persons at the meeting location, the remotely participating member shall no longer be permitted to participate remotely and will be considered absent from the meeting (for the purposes of a quorum).
- C. This policy shall not prohibit or restrict any individual member of the SEC who is using remote participation from voting on matters before the SEC.

2.1.3.4.2 Process to request remote participation

- A. On or before the day of the meeting, and at any point before the meeting begins, the requesting member must notify the SEC Chair or the Office of Children’s Services (OCS) Executive Director that they are unable to physically attend a meeting due to (i) a temporary or permanent disability or other medical condition that prevents the member's physical attendance or the member is a caregiver who must provide care for a person with a disability at the time the public meeting is held, thereby preventing the member's physical attendance, (ii) a family member's medical condition that requires the member to provide care for such family member, thereby preventing the member's

Adopted: March 17, 2016

Effective: March 17, 2016

Revised: July 1, 2025

Page 2 of 4

physical attendance, (iii) their principal residence location more than 60 miles from the meeting location, or (iv) a personal matter and identifies with specificity the nature of the personal matter.

- B. If the requesting member is unable to physically attend the meeting due to a personal matter, the requesting member must state the nature of the personal matter with specificity. There is no limit to the number of times that a member may participate remotely for the other authorized purposes listed in A (i)-(iii) above. Remote participation due to a personal matter (A (iv), above) is limited each calendar year to two meetings or 25 percent of the meetings held per calendar year rounded up to the next whole number, whichever is greater.
- C. The requesting member is not obligated to provide independent verification regarding the reason for their nonattendance, including the temporary or permanent disability, other medical condition, or the family member's medical condition that prevents their physical attendance at the meeting.
- D. The Chair (or OCS Executive Director if the requesting member is the Chair) shall promptly notify the requesting member whether their request is in conformance with this policy and, therefore, approved or disapproved.

2.1.3.4.3 Process to confirm approval or disapproval of participation from a remote location

When a quorum of the SEC has assembled for the meeting, the SEC shall vote to determine whether:

- A. The Chair's decision to approve or disapprove the requesting member's request to participate from a remote location was in conformance with this policy, and;
- B. All persons at the primary or central meeting location can hear the voice of the remotely participating member.

2.1.3.4.4 Recording in the minutes

- A. If the member is allowed to participate remotely due to a temporary or permanent disability or other medical condition, a family member's medical condition that requires the member to provide care to the family member, or because their principal residence is located more than 60 miles from the meeting location the SEC shall record in its minutes (1) the SEC's approval of the member's remote participation; and (2) a general description of the remote location from which the member participated.
- B. If the member is allowed to participate remotely due to a personal matter, such matter shall be cited in the minutes with specificity, as well as how many times the member has attended remotely due to a personal matter and a general description of the remote location from which the member participated.

Adopted: March 17, 2016

Effective: March 17, 2016

Revised: July 1, 2025

Page 3 of 4

- C. If a member's request to participate remotely is disapproved, the disapproval, including the grounds upon which the requested participation violates this policy or the Virginia Freedom of Information Act, shall be recorded in the minutes with specificity.

2.1.3.4.5 Dealing with Objections to Electronic Member Participation

It shall be assumed that a member can participate under the permissions listed above unless another member objects once the Chair states it at the beginning of the meeting. At such time, if any other member objects, the Chair shall call for a vote on the matter. If a member disapproves of electronic participation due to a violation of the SEC's electronic participation and meeting policy, then it will be recorded with specificity. If the vote is such that the member will not be permitted to participate electronically, the member should be advised that they may only monitor/witness the meeting, and the member is not permitted to participate (e.g., vote, discuss). The outcome of any vote on the member's electronic participation shall be documented in the minutes accordingly.

2.1.3.4.6 Closed session

If the SEC goes into closed session, the member participating remotely shall ensure that no third parties can hear or otherwise observe the closed meeting.

2.1.3.4.7 Strict and uniform application of this policy

This Policy shall be applied strictly and uniformly, without exception, to the entire membership and without regard to the identity of the member requesting remote participation or the matters that will be considered or voted on at the meeting. The Chair shall maintain the member's written request to participate remotely and the written response for one year or other such time required by records retention laws, regulations, and policies.

2.1.3.5 Council Subcommittees

Any committee, subcommittee, or other entity designated by the SEC to perform delegated functions of the SEC or to advise the SEC shall comply with this policy regarding electronic member participation.

2.1.3.6 Policy Review

The State Executive Council for Children's Services shall review and readopt this policy annually as required by [§2.2-3708.3.D](#).

Adopted: March 17, 2016

Effective: March 17, 2016

Revised: July 1, 2025

Page 4 of 4
