

**State and Local Advisory Team (SLAT)**

**May 5, 2022**

**9:30 a.m. – 12:00**

**Richmond / Henrico Rooms**

**1604 Santa Rosa Road**

**Richmond, VA 23229**

**AGENDA**

Note: This is an in-person meeting.

To accommodate interested members of the public, the meeting will be viewable at:

<https://virginia-gov.zoomgov.com/j/1607414168?pwd=WHk2aEFhOFIXMIZ2L2ZLZldsUXRLdz09>

or via phone. [\(646\) 828-7666](tel:6468287666)

Meeting ID: 160 741 4168

Meeting Passcode: 829814

- **Call to Order / Welcome / Opening Remarks** Lesley Abashian
  
- **Public Comment**
  
- **Approval of Minutes - November 2021 and February 2022  
SLAT meetings** SLAT Members
  
- **CSA Coordinator Report – Virtual FAPT Meeting Best Practices** Mills Jones
  
- **Updates on the CSA Local Competencies Workgroup** Lesley Abashian
  
- **Report of the Nominating Committee and  
Election of FY2023 SLAT Officers** Susan Aylor
  
- **Safe and Sound Task Force Update/Discussion** Rebecca Vinroot
  
- **OCS Updates**
  - Required report under HB427/SB435 Anna Antell
  - Annual Conference Mary Bell
  - Budget actions impacting CSA

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- **SLAT Member Reports**

State Representatives

- |         |                  |
|---------|------------------|
| ○ VDH   | Jeannine Uzel    |
| ○ DJJ   | Linda McWilliams |
| ○ DSS   | Em Parente       |
| ○ DBHDS | Nina Marino      |
| ○ DMAS  | Ashley Harrell   |
| ○ DOE   | Sabrina Gross    |

Local Representatives

- |                    |                         |
|--------------------|-------------------------|
| ○ LDSS             | Rebecca Vinroot         |
| ○ CSA Coordinator  | Mills Jones             |
| ○ CSB              | Lisa Madron             |
| ○ CSU              | William Stanley         |
| ○ J&DR Court       | Honorable Ashley Tunner |
| ○ Parent           | Cristy Corbin           |
| ○ Private Provider | Shannon Updike          |
| ○ Public Schools   | Susan Aylor             |
| ○ Local Government | Lesley Abashian         |

- **Closing Remarks / Adjourn**

Lesley Abashian

**Next SEC Meeting – Thursday, June 9, 2022**

**Next SLAT Meeting – Thursday, August 4, 2022**

**November 4, 2021  
STATE & LOCAL ADVISORY TEAM (SLAT)  
CHILDREN'S SERVICES ACT  
1604 Santa Rosa Road, Suite 137  
Richmond/Henrico Rooms  
Richmond, VA 23229**

**Members Present:** Lesley Abashian, SLAT Chair, CPMT – Local Government Representative; Rebecca Vinroot, SLAT Vice-Chair, CPMT – local DSS Representative; Em Parente, DSS; Mills Jones, CSA Coordinators Network; The Honorable Richard Campbell, Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court Representative; Nina Marino, DBHDS; William Stanley, CPMT – local CSU Representative; Cristy Corbin, Parent Representative; Shannon Updike, VCOPPA; Jeannine Uzel, VDH; Linda McWilliams, DJJ; Susan Aylor, CPMT – School Representative

**Members Absent:** Lisa Madron, CPMT – CSB Representative; Laura Reed, DMAS; Sabrina Gross, DOE;

**CSA Staff Members Present:** Scott Reiner, Zandra Relaford, Stephanie Bacote, Mary Bell, Marsha Mucha

**Welcome/Opening**

Lesley Abashian called the meeting to order at 9:35 a.m. and she welcomed everyone. Mrs. Abashian noted that Susan Aylor, who previously served as the alternate CPMT – school representative to SLAT, will now be serving as the primary representative.

Mr. Reiner introduced the use of the “Owl” at today’s meeting. He noted an increase in the interest of stakeholders for a virtual option for participation in meetings. It is hoped that use of this device will meet that need.

**Public Comment Period**

Public comment was given by Mary Ottinot, a parent from Fairfax. She noted that she was a registered nurse, and parent advocate who moved to Virginia from Chicago. She has three children with disabilities. Ms. Ottinot also made public comment at the August 5, 2021 SLAT meeting.

**Approval of Minutes**

The minutes of the August 5, 2021 meeting were approved on a motion by Rebecca Vinroot, seconded by Nina Marino and carried.

**Current Workgroups/Committees**

Mrs. Abashian noted the need for SLAT members to stay up-to-date on workgroups and/or committees whose activities intersect and/or are related to CSA. Members shared ideas on ways to meet this need. During discussion it was noted that Mr. Reiner provides a comprehensive report at each SLAT meeting as well as regularly sharing other relevant information with local CSA offices and other stakeholders. Additionally, members can find information about upcoming public meetings on the Commonwealth Calendar.

**Family First – How’s It’s Going and What’s Next?**

Em Parente reported on behalf of VDSS. She reported that as of July 1, 2021, Family First funding became available. VDSS is primarily funding three evidence-based prevention services through Family

First: multi-systemic therapy (MST), family functional therapy (FFT) and parent-child interaction therapy (PCIT). VDSS has a map of where services are available and will share that with SLAT members.

VDSS has also submitted plans to the federal government for expansion of evidence-based services as more are needed across the state. Those services are currently limited to those on the federal clearing-house and would include four services: Brief Strategic Therapy, Family Check-up, Home Builders and Motivational Interviewing. If SLAT members know of other evidence-based services being used in their localities, Ms. Parente asked that they let Elizabeth Lee know.

There was a discussion about kinship navigators and if those services are reimbursable through CSA. Those services are not covered under BRAVO/Family First evidence-based treatments because the service is not a “well-supported” model. It is agreed that this can be a valuable services and that a further discussion should be held on this topic.

### OCS Report

Scott Reiner reported on the following items:

- Year-end expenditure and utilization numbers – A handout was shared with SLAT members providing a summary and comparison of CSA utilization and expenditure data from FY2015 through FY2021. Expenditures for FY2021 were flat as compared to FY2020.
- Transfer of SPED to DOE Workgroup – Meetings are open to the public. The next meeting will be held on November 30. A preliminary report has just been submitted with a final report due November 1, 2022.
- SPED Rate Setting – The study has been concluded and standardized rates will be released soon. The rates will become effective July 1, 2022.
- Report on HB2212 - Requires OCS to provide for the effective implementation of CSA in all localities by regularly monitoring local performance measures and child and family outcomes and providing technical assistance to and working with local programs that are consistently underperforming to develop a corrective action plan.
  - Funding for 1 FTE was included in the legislation and that position has been filled. A workgroup assisted OCS with developing a methodology for the corrective action plan and defining terms such as “underperforming.” As required, a report has recently been submitted to the General Assembly.
  - Mr. Reiner further reported that OCS has asked for state funding to add four additional program consultants that would be positioned regionally to provide technical support to localities. OCS has also requested state funds to provide each locality with a minimum of \$50,000 in administrative funding.
- Policy Revisions – At the SEC’s September 9, 2021 meeting, two policies a *draft Family Engagement (Policy 3.3)* and a *draft FAPT and Alternate Multi-disciplinary Teams (Policy 3.2)* were approved for a 60-day public comment period ending November 12, 2021.

At the conclusion of his report, Mr. Reiner noted that Health and Human Resources Secretary, Dr. Daniel Carey has stepped-down as Secretary. Dr. Vanessa Walker Harris has been appointed as Secretary.

### Member Updates

Members reported on activities, and the statuses of ongoing projects, new programs and grant opportunities. Members continue to work within their agencies and advocate through their associations for improvements to services and service delivery for the children, youth and families of Virginia.

Draft

Judge Campbell reported that during the pandemic the Juvenile and Domestic Relations courts have been seeing more domestic violence and neglect cases.

Nina Marino (DBHDS) reported that DBHDS has submitted several legislative proposals to assist DBHDS in addressing school-based mental health needs. She also reported that DBHDS has received funding to address substance use and plans to utilize part of the funding for an adolescent needs assessment. The DBHDS Office of Child and Family Services will be offering an Adolescent and Young Adult Substance Use Symposium on November 16 and 17, 2021.

The CSA Coordinators' Network has established several committees to monitor legislative activities and review proposed SEC policies. In addition a Data Analysis Committee is directing a project to evaluate the use of virtual and hybrid FAPT meetings, as well as the overall impact of these models on CSA programs.

**Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 12:00 p.m. on a motion by Rebecca Vinroot seconded by Em Parente and carried. The next meeting is scheduled for February 3, 2022.

**February 3, 2022  
STATE & LOCAL ADVISORY TEAM (SLAT)  
CHILDREN'S SERVICES ACT  
VIRTUAL MEETING**

**Members Present:** Lesley Abashian, SLAT Chair, CPMT – Local Government Representative; Rebecca Vinroot, SLAT Vice-Chair, CPMT – local DSS Representative; Elizabeth Lee, DSS; Mills Jones, CSA Coordinators Network; The Honorable Ashley Tunner, Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court Representative; Nina Marino, DBHDS; William Stanley, CPMT – local CSU Representative; Michael Triggs, VCOPPA; Jeannine Uzel, VDH; Linda McWilliams, DJJ; Susan Aylor, CPMT – School Representative; Lisa Madron, CPMT – CSB Representative; Laura Reed, DMAS

**Members Absent:** Sabrina Gross, DOE; Cristy Corbin, Parent Representative

**CSA Staff Members Present:** Scott Reiner, Zandra Relaford, Marsha Mucha

**Welcome/Opening**

Lesley Abashian called the virtual meeting to order at 9:30 a.m. and she welcomed everyone. Mrs. Abashian noted that today's meeting would be for informational purposes only and no business would be conducted.

**Public Comment Period**

There were no public comments.

**CSA Coordinator Report – CSA Virtual Meetings Best Practices**

Julie Dubee, CSA Coordinator for Hanover County reported on behalf of the CSA Coordinators' Network. Ms. Dubee chairs the CSA Data Analysis Subcommittee for the CSA Coordinators' Network. The committee was asked to survey CSA offices across the state to gather input on the use of virtual FAPT meetings as a result of the current pandemic. The survey was completed by 43 respondents representing 48 localities.

She shared survey results which included whether or not localities were meeting in-person or virtually and, if meetings were being held virtually, the type of platform used and whether or not localities plan to continue meeting virtually and for how long. Localities were also asked what they saw as the benefit and successes of virtual FAPT meetings as well as any barriers/concerns to meeting virtually.

During discussion, it was noted that most of the respondents to the survey have not created a policy specific to virtual FAPT meetings. SLAT meeting participants discussed the implications of meeting virtually, including privacy concerns and the need to establish guidelines for this practice.

At the conclusion of the discussion, Mrs. Abashian asked that OCS and SLAT work together on establishing virtual FAPT meeting guidelines. A small group of SLAT members, Ms. Dubee and several additional CSA coordinators will meet before the next SLAT meeting to discuss further.

**Legislative Items Linked to CSA**

Rebecca Vinroot, SLAT Vice-Chair reported on the following legislation linked to CSA:

- SB435 – This bill, and its companion bill HB427, would have removed the provision that parent representatives who are employed by a public or private program that receives funds pursuant to the law or agencies represented on a CPMT or FAPT may not serve as a parent representative under certain conditions.

The bill was amended by the Senate to strike this provision as much of the public comment received expressed concerns with the difficulty in recruiting parent representatives to serve on SLAT and CPMT. The amended bill has passed the Senate.

- SB577 – Criminal history background checks; children’s residential facilities. This bill was introduced to provide that under certain conditions, a person who is required to undergo a background check as a condition of employment at a children’s residential facility may begin work before the background check is completed.

Workforce issues have been raised by private providers who have had difficulty recruiting staff as they are not able to work until background checks are completed.

Mrs. Vinroot reported on several other bills of interest as follows:

- SB56 – Establishes the Foster Care Prevention program to facilitate placements with relatives and ensures that such relatives are provided with the resources necessary to provide care for the child.
- SB316 – This bill, and its companion bill HB733, provides that formal agreements between DJJ and certain child serving agencies would allow the local agencies and DJJ to immediately identify children who may be receiving or who have received treatment, services or care from the local agencies and DJJ.

In other legislative activities, Mr. Reiner reported on budget amendments that would provide an increase of \$2.5M to provide each locality with a minimum of \$50,000 in administrative funding. A budget amendment has also been introduced that would fund four additional program consultants that would be positioned regionally to provide technical support to localities. Mr. Reiner further reported that budget amendments have been submitted in both houses to eliminate rate setting for private day special education rates. Those rates are to be effective July 1, 2022.

Mr. Reiner noted the process to advocate and/or make comments on bills or budget items. Mr. Reiner was asked to share a summary of the budget items with the SLAT membership.

#### **CSA Acronym List**

Mrs. Abashian reported that members received a copy of the CSA Commonly Used Terms and Acronyms list that will become part of the new SLAT member’s orientation package. She asked that members review the list and to let her know if anything was missing

#### **Family First Update**

Elizabeth Lee, VDSS, provided a status report on implementation activities. VDSS has entered into two contracts with the VCU Center for Evidence-based Partnerships in Virginia: capacity building and fidelity. VDSS continues to plan for the implementation of four new treatments: Brief Strategic

Therapy, Family Check-up, Home Builders and Motivational Interviewing. They are also analyzing an Ohio kinship model.

#### **SLAT Nominating Committee**

Mrs. Abashian reported that it was time to form a SLAT Nominating Committee to recommend nominations for a SLAT Chair and Vice Chair for the term beginning July 1, 2022. Susan Aylor, Lisa Madron and Michael Triggs agreed to serve. They will report back at the May 5, 2022 SLAT meeting.

Mr. Reiner noted that it might also be a good time to review the SLAT bylaws as they have not been reviewed in a number of years.

#### **OCS Updates**

Courtney Sexton, OCS Program Consultant reported on the work she has begun to provide technical assistance to low-performing localities. So far seven localities have been identified and she has attended and observed at several of those localities' FAPT/CPMT meetings thus far.

Zandra Relaford, OCS Assistant Director reported on the following items:

- February is designated as Black History Month and a special newsletter is being prepared by OCS in recognition of that designation.
- OCS Office Hours is continuing - February featured the OCS Audit Team and the OCS Program Team will be featured in March.
- John Littel has been appointed Secretary of Health and Human Resources. Those interested in applying for opportunities in the new administration can apply through the portal on the Governor's website. OCS will share other appointment information as it becomes available.
- The CSA Inclusive Excellence Council has been reviewing CSA data with an equity focused lens.
- The New CSA Coordinator Academy will take place May 10, 11 and 12 in Richmond.

#### **Member Updates**

Members reported on legislative activities, and the statuses of ongoing projects, new programs and grant opportunities. Members continue to work within their agencies and advocate through their associations for improvements to services and service delivery for the children, youth and families of Virginia.

Jeannine Uzel reported that she is retiring from VDH. DJJ has a new director, Amy Floriano and DBHDS has a new commissioner, Nelson Smith. VDSS is still awaiting appointment of a new commissioner.

DBHDS is tracking legislation that would assist DBHDS in addressing school-based mental health needs. They are also developing training on mental health needs for those working in emergency health and providing clinical trainings (4 90-minute trainings) focusing on substance use and mental health. DMAS now has all nine of the Project BRAVO services up and running and they are launching a new behavioral health dashboard. VDSS is working to improve its CQI model.

#### **Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 11:30 a.m. The next meeting is scheduled for May 5, 2022.