STATE AND LOCAL ADVISORY TEAM (SLAT)
CHILDREN'S SERVICES ACT (CSA)
1604 Santa Rosa Road
Second Floor
Richmond, VA 23229

MINUTES
August 6, 2026

Members Present:
Mills Jones, SLAT Chair
Sabrina Gross, Vice-Chair, Department of Education (DOE)
Lesley Abashian, Local Government Representative
Cristy Corbin, Parent Representative
Patti Hodge, Department for Aging and Rehabilitative Services (DARS)
Grace Hughes, Virginia Department of Health (VDH)
Linda McWilliams, Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ)
Em Parente, Virginia Department of Social Services (VDSS)
Laura Reed, Department of Medical Assistance Services (DMAS)
William Stanley, Court Services Unit (CSU) Representative
Amy Swift, Local Department of Social Services Representative
Shannon Updike, Virginia Coalition of Private Provider Associations (VCOPPA)
Kristina Williams-Pugh, Local Education Authority Representative

Members Absent:
Sandy Bryant, Community Services Board (CSB) Representative
The Honorable Marilynn Goss, Juvenile & Domestic Relations District Court (J&DR) Representative
Kari Savage, Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services (DBHDS) Representative

CSA Staff Members Present:
Anna Antell
Stephanie Bacote
Gezelle Glasgow
Scott Reiner
Kristi Schabo
Courtney Sexton

Welcome/Opening
Mills Jones called the meeting to order at 9:33 a.m. and welcomed everyone. Introductions were made.

Public Comment Period
Cristy Corbin, parent representative, shared a success story highlighting effective cross-system collaboration and the importance of supporting family stability during significant life events.

Approval of Minutes
The February 5, 2026, meeting minutes were approved on a motion by Amy Swift seconded by Cristi Corbin and carried.

The May 7, 2026, meeting minutes were approved on a motion by Em Parente seconded by William Stanley and carried.

Workgroup Updates

- Cristy Corbin provided an informative update on the Center for Evidence-Based Partnerships Transformation Zone project. The work group has focused on working with local leaders to identify a local team to design and implement changes to improve access and use of high-fidelity wraparound.
- The CSA Coordinator workgroup continues to meet monthly and provide subject-matter expertise related to behavioral health redesign and the CSA Service Names Project.
- The CSA Coordinator's Policy workgroup is also expected to resume meetings.

Old Business

- *Policy Update* – Kristi Schabo provided an update on the following policies:
    - *Policy 4.5.1 – Protected Funds*
      At its June 11, 2026, meeting, the SEC approved a 45-day public comment period. No public comment was received. Following SEC review, the policy is expected to proceed to a 60-day public comment period.
    - *Policy 4.6 – Denial of Funds*
      At its June 11, 2026, meeting, the SEC approved a 45-day public comment period for draft Policy 4.6. One public comment was received and will be presented to the State Executive Council for consideration. Following SEC review, the policy is expected to proceed to a 60-day public comment period.

- *CSA Budget Update* – The enacted budget includes an increase of just under 10% for CSA in FY27 and an additional increase of approximately 7% in FY28. Despite these increases, CSA costs have been growing at approximately 12% annually.
    - Key budget provisions include:
        - A 2.5% cap on the amount the state will reimburse for increases in private day special education rates.
        - A reduction in the maximum state share for community-based services from approximately 83% to 71%, resulting in revised local match rates.
        - Continued appropriation of approximately $2.2 million for special education wraparound services, with revised eligibility requirements tied to CSA eligibility criteria.

- *Sponsored Residential Work Group* – The Sponsored Residential Work Group presented a draft FAQ/resource document developed to help localities better understand sponsored

residential services, eligibility, licensing, payment structures, waivers, and placement requirements.

- The work group was created in response to increased use of sponsored residential placements for high-acuity children, particularly children in foster care for whom traditional foster care or residential placements were unavailable.
- Representatives from OCS, VDSS, DBHDS, DMAS, localities, and the provider community participated in development of the resource.

SEC Report

Mills Jones provided an update on the following item from the SEC's June 11, 2026, meeting:

- The Lee County CSA Program was recognized as the June recipient of the Excellence in CSA Award. Established in March 2025, the award honors local CSA programs that demonstrate a strong commitment to improving outcomes for children, youth, and families through collaboration, meaningful engagement, and the implementation of systems of care principles.

OCS Update

Ms. Schabo provided updates on the following:

- CSA Service Names Project
  - OCS continues to refine CSA standard service names to improve consistency, accountability, utilization management, and statewide data quality. The project will seek to remove outdated service names, better define existing services, and establish clearer parameters while maintaining appropriate CSA flexibility.
- CSA User Guide
  - Revisions to the CSA User Guide are underway. OCS is targeting October 1 for release of the updated guide.
- CSA Coordinator Mentor Training
  - OCS is partnering with Virginia Tech to provide professional mentor training for CSA coordinators participating in the coordinator mentor program. Training is scheduled for September 28 and will focus on developing effective mentoring skills and practices.
- 2026 CSA Conference
  - The 2026 CSA Conference, themed **"Collaborate, Innovate, Transform: Together We Make It Happen,"** will be held October 14–15 in Roanoke.
  - A pre-conference session for CSA coordinators and CPMT members is planned for October 13.
- Accessibility Initiatives
  - Additional grant funding has been secured to update training materials available through the Commonwealth Learning Center. Updates will address both accessibility and training content.
  - OCS staff have also developed an accessible Parent Rights document following participation in language-access training.

New Business

CSA and DJJ Funding Responsibilities

Members discussed ongoing issues regarding responsibility for funding services for youth who are involved with the juvenile justice system and also eligible for CSA services.

Concerns were raised regarding situations in which CSA and DJJ each expected the other system to

assume funding responsibility, potentially resulting in interruptions in services.
Members emphasized that funding decisions frequently require blending available resources rather than applying a single payer rule. Localities should consider eligibility, mandated versus non-mandated CSA populations, protected funds, DJJ resources, Medicaid, and other available funding sources.
Ms. Schabo shared that she is participating in a workgroup with DJJ staff to develop guidance for local CSA programs and court services units regarding to the interplay between DJJ and CSA funding for services.

Member Updates
Members reported for their agencies and organizations on their projects, new programs, other ongoing activities, and workforce issues. 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.

Members discussed the importance of ensuring that local coordinators, case managers, and other system partners understand where to report suspected fraud, waste, abuse, licensing violations, and provider concerns. The group discussed developing or distributing a concise reference identifying appropriate reporting contacts and hotline information.

DJJ reported recent legislation established age 11 as the minimum age for delinquency proceedings. Cases involving younger children will instead be considered through CHINS-related processes to identify appropriate services and supports. Additional legislative changes address indeterminate commitments and increase opportunities for diversion, including allowing certain felony offenses to be considered for informal handling and diversion plans.

DARS reported ongoing implementation planning associated with legislation directing expansion of programming at the Wilson Workforce and Rehabilitation Center for students with disabilities, including vocational evaluation, career exploration, and independent living components. Planning is expected to continue through 2027. The Vocational Rehabilitation portion of Virginia's Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act combined state plan was approved by the Rehabilitation Services Administration.

Cristy Corbin, parent representative, reported a free online learning platform developed through a partnership between Anthem HealthKeepers Plus and Three Strands Global Foundation. The platform is available to individuals throughout Virginia regardless of Medicaid or foster care status and includes separate learning tracks.

VCOPPA reported the Critical Issues Symposium will be held on September 22-23, 2026, at the Shineforth campus.

Adjournment
There being no other business, the meeting adjourned at 12:27 p.m. on a motion by Shannon Updike, seconded by Sabrina Gross and carried. The next meeting is scheduled for November 5, 2026.