

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

**MINUTES**

**February 2, 2023**

**Members Present:** Rebecca Vinroot, SLAT Chair, CPMT - DSS Representative; Mills Jones, SLAT Vice-Chair - CSA Coordinators Network; The Honorable Marilyn Goss, Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court Representative; Nina Marino DBHDS; Cristy Corbin, Parent Representative (*virtually*); Em Parente, DSS; Lesley Abashian, CPMT – Local Government Representative; Lisa Madron, CPMT – CSB Representative; Laura Reed, DMAS; Jeannine Uzel, VDH; Maria Altonen, VDH; Susan Aylor, CPMT – School Representative; William Stanley, CPMT – CSU Representative; Shannon Updike, VCOPPA (*virtually*); Sabrina Gross, DOE (*virtually*)

**Members Absent:** Linda McWilliams, DJJ

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

**Welcome/Opening**

Rebecca Vinroot, SLAT Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:35 a.m. and welcomed everyone. Introductions were made. Several members asked to attend the meeting virtually: Cristy Corbin (illness), Sabrina Gross and Shannon Updike (travel/work related). Their virtual attendance was approved on a motion by Lesley Abashian, seconded by Mills Jones and carried.

**Public Comment Period**

There was no public comment.

**Approval of Minutes**

The minutes of the November 10, 2022 meeting were approved on a motion by Jeannine Uzel, seconded by Lisa Madron and carried.

**Status Items**

- *FAPT Retreat Resource Manual* - Lesley Abashian reported that several CSA coordinators have been identified to work on the project. She and Mills Jones will also be meeting with the CSA Coordinators' Network to speak about the project and to gather feedback on the helpfulness of existing guidance documents. She will report back at the May 2023 SLAT meeting.

**SEC Report**

Mrs. Vinroot reported that several of the items of interest to SLAT that were part of the agenda of the December 2022 SEC meeting will be discussed later in today's meeting. She did report that the guidance document developed by SLAT on the *Characteristics of a High-Functioning Family Assessment and Planning Team (FAPT)* was presented at the December 2022 SEC meeting. That guidance document has been distributed to local CSA offices.

## OCS Updates

Ms. Schabo reported on several items as Mr. Reiner was called to be downtown at the General Assembly. He will join the meeting shortly.

- 2023 General Assembly Status – OCS is currently tracking four bills before the General Assembly:
  - **HB1945** – Removes the requirement that DBHDS collect certain data relating to children and adolescents from each CPMT and each CSB or behavioral health authority. The bill also directs DBHDS to make certain changes to the reporting requirements for serious incidents.
  - **HB2018** – Allows FAPTs and CPMTs to share information with local law enforcement or threat assessment teams established by local school boards if a FAPT or CPMT obtains information from which the team determines that a child poses a threat of violence or physical harm to himself or others. Under current law, all information about specific children and families obtained by FAPT and CPMT members must be kept confidential.
  - **SB1023** – Expands eligibility for services under CSA to students who transfer from an approved private school special education program to a public school special education program established and funded jointly by a local governing body and school division located within Planning District 16 (Stafford County).
  - **SB1513** – Would add the Director of the Department for Aging and Rehabilitative Services (DARS) to the SEC. The bill would also add a representative from DARS to SLAT.
- Co-Pay Policy Workgroup – There have been a number of inquiries from localities concerning development of a model parental contribution policy. Ms. Schabo noted that each locality is required to have a parental contribution policy but those policies vary widely and do not contain standard language. Ms. Schabo will be convening a meeting on February 13, 2023 with a group of CSA coordinators to begin development of a model policy.
- Time-to-Service Study – Ms. Schabo reported that this study was a recommendation from the JLARC report issued several years ago. Carrie Thompson the OCS Research Associate, Senior has begun dissemination of a survey and data collection tool to each of the individual CSA offices to determine the length of time from referral to CSA to service delivery.

Mr. Reiner reported on the following items:

- 2022 Reports to the General Assembly - Members received copies of the five (5) reports recently submitted to the General Assembly and he highlighted several statistics from those reports.
- CSA Private Day Workgroup Final Report and Recommendations – Members received a copy of the final report and recommendations. VDOE and OCS co-hosted 12 workgroup meetings between June 2021 and October 2022 to develop the plan for consideration by the General Assembly. The Final Report does not recommend transfer of CSA private day special education funds to VDOE at this time. The Report also does not recommend use of CSA funds to pay for services delivered to students with disabilities in public school settings, except for transitional services as defined in §2.2-5211 of the Code of Virginia.
- CSA Private Day Special Education Rate Fiscal Impact Study 2022 - Mr. Reiner provided background information on the language from the 2019 Appropriation Act, and the two rate-setting studies and methodology developed by the Public Consulting Group through a contract with OCS.

During its last session, the General Assembly delayed the implementation of rate setting to July 1, 2023. Beginning with the 2022-2023 school year, OCS began conducting a fiscal impact analysis using

the new tiered rate structure model. That data collection recently ended and members received a copy of the report outlining the results of the data analysis.

That analysis shows that the average daily rate per child would increase approximately 12% if rate setting is implemented. Approximately 75% of individual private day schools would experience an average daily rate increase and approximately 25% would experience an average daily rate decrease. The fiscal impact is primarily driven by the proposed tiered rates for children receiving 1:1 support.

Absence further direction from the General Assembly, implementation of the model/tiered rate structure will begin July 1, 2023.

- IT Changes (Multi-factor Authentication) – OCS has recently enhanced IT security for those who use CSA systems by use of OKTA multi-factor authentication. CANS users have not yet transitioned to the enhanced security measures.

### **New Business**

- SEC Policy Manual Clean Up - Ms. Schabo reported that in an effort to enhance uniformity and achieve regulatory reduction, OCS is proposing a comprehensive review of the CSA Policy Manual. She noted that the Policy Manual Cleanup project was presented to the SEC at their December 2022 meeting. At that time, the SEC decided to refer the project to SLAT for additional input.

Ms. Schabo further reported that the purpose of the review would be two-fold:

- To employ a uniform format throughout the policy manual
- To eliminate policies that only restate existing statutes from the Code

Ms. Schabo explained that the content of any existing policy will not be changed; therefore, a public comment period would not be necessary. Proposed revisions would be vetted by the Attorney General's Office to ensure that the modification(s) propose no alteration(s) to content or intent. The proposed policies would then be presented to the SEC for their consideration.

Policies that only restate existing statutes from the Code would be vetted by the Attorney General's Office to ensure that the policy aligns with the requirements (only a restatement of the Code). The proposed revisions would be presented to the SEC for consideration of removal from the policy manual.

- Three Tiered Match Rate – Mr. Reiner reported that, while reviewing General Assembly reports with the SEC at their December 2022 meeting, a discussion was held on the *Impact of Tiered Match Rates for CSA* report. Mr. Reiner reported to the SEC that the intent of the tiered match rates, when first implemented, was to encourage reduced utilization of residential care and to increase the number of children served in community-based settings.

Based on that discussion, several SEC members suggested perhaps it was time to review the current match rate structure. The topic will be discussed further at the March 2023 SEC meeting and they also suggested that the topic be referred to SLAT for discussion.

During the SLAT discussion, pros and cons of the current match rate system were discussed. SLAT also discussed how they might conduct an analysis of the current match rate structure and whether or not they should develop recommendations for SEC consideration. Mr. Reiner noted that he had prepared

a spreadsheet showing the cost per locality to the state if there was no residential match rate. He will share that with SLAT as a tool for further discussion. This topic will also be added to the agenda for the upcoming CSA Coordinators' Network meeting.

### **Member Updates**

Members reported that they are tracking legislation for their agencies and organizations as well as working on ongoing projects and new programs. 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.

- Ms. Kyndra Jackson is the new Director of Public Health Nursing at VDH and will be joining the SLAT as the VDH representative.
- Kepro has been selected by DMAS to replace Magellan at the end of Magellan's contract period.
- VDSS has developed a new on-line platform to help the state support local LDSS offices with recruiting foster families. The platform offers families who are interested in the fostering process easier access to information and training. So far over 700 families have registered in the portal.
- DBHDS is closely monitoring the Governor's budget that includes funding that would provide for expansion of school-based mental health services and expansion of the statewide crisis services system.
- NAMI – VA will host a combined Family and Youth Summit in Chesapeake this June.

### **Adjournment**

There being no other business, the meeting adjourned at 12:15 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for May 4, 2023.