

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.