

VIRTUAL MEETING –February 4, 2021
STATE & LOCAL ADVISORY TEAM (SLAT)
CHILDREN’S SERVICES ACT
1604 Santa Rosa Road, Suite 137
Richmond, VA 23229

Members Present: Lesley Abashian, SLAT Chair, CPMT – Local Government Representative; Shannon Updike, SLAT Vice-Chair, VCOPPA; Lisa Madron, CPMT – CSB Representative; Em Parente, DSS; Ashley Harrell, DMAS; Mills Jones, CSA Coordinators Network; Sabrina Gross, DOE; Christina Owens, DOE; Linda McWilliams, DJJ; Beth Stinnett, DJJ; The Honorable Ashley Tunner, Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court Representative; Susan Aylor, CPMT – School Representative; Nina Marino, DBHDS; Pam Fisher, DBHDS; Jeannine Uzel, VDH; Rebecca Vinroot, CPMT – local DSS Representative; Martha Carroll, CPMT – local CSU Representative

Members Absent: Cristy Corbin, Parent Representative

OCS Staff Members Present: Scott Reiner, Marsha Mucha

Welcome/Opening

Lesley Abashian called the meeting to order at 9:32 a.m.

Mr. Reiner noted that in accordance with state law governing meetings of public bodies during the declared state of emergency related to COVID-19, the SLAT is meeting virtually and the meeting is being recorded. Additionally, all votes must be taken via roll call.

Attendance of SLAT members on the call was taken by roll call. A quorum was present.

Public Comment Period

There was no public comment offered.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the November 5, 2020 meeting were approved on a motion by Lisa Madron, seconded by Shannon Updike and approved by roll call vote by a majority of the members present.

SLAT Member Survey Results

Members received a copy of Part 1 of the SLAT Membership Survey from Ms. Abashian. She explained that today she would like SLAT to come up with two or three goals and action items to focus on moving forward. Ms. Abashian noted that several themes emerged from the survey including the importance of the member updates/reports and orientation of new SLAT members.

Members discussed whether it would be beneficial to have reports submitted in writing and shared as a summary report before the meetings. If reports were shared in writing before the meetings, members could be prepared to ask questions and engage in conversation rather than reporting at the meeting. While members had mixed feelings on using written reports for their updates to SLAT, members recognized that the results of the Survey indicate an opportunity for re-centering the purpose of SLAT and how SLAT interfaces with the SEC.

SLAT members discussed and agreed that an orientation for new SLAT members would be helpful. Mr. Reiner noted that he orients new SEC members and he would be willing to assist SLAT with development

of orientation materials for new SLAT members. Ms. Abashian will initiate a call with several volunteers from SLAT to further discuss orientation for new SLAT members. She will report back at the May SLAT meeting.

Also, in advance of the May meeting, Ms. Abashian would like members to review the SLAT Member Survey results for other themes/topics that could become action items. She will also send members Part 2 of the Survey.

DBHDS Children's Residential Workgroup Report

Pamela Fisher (DBHDS) presented a summary of the report on HB 728/SB 734, Children's Residential Workgroup. HB 728 and SB 734 of the 2020 Acts of Assembly directed the Secretaries of Education and Health and Human Resources to establish a workgroup to study the approval process for children's residential psychiatric placements, barriers to timely approval of those placements, and to develop recommendations for improvement to the process.

Workgroup recommendations include:

- Improving the alignment of the IACCT and FAPT process.
- Standardizing the admissions referral material through a universal application process.
- Increasing the use of family support partners and peer navigators to provide support and improve timeliness in accessing services.

Because of the timing, there were no bills introduced during the current legislative session pertaining to the report.

Families First Implementation Update

Elizabeth Lee (VDSS) presented an update on implementation of the Family First Prevention Services Act (FFPSA) which becomes effective July 1, 2021. Ms. Lee thanked Mr. Reiner and OCS for their collaboration on FFPSA implementation activities and alignment of CSA practices with FFPSA.

Ms. Abashian thanked Ms. Lee for the presentation and ask if she would be willing to come to the next SLAT meeting for an in-depth discussion of FFPSA with the SLAT membership. Ms. Abashian also asked if Ms. Lee and Ms. Parente would be available for a separate meeting with the SLAT membership for a discussion of FFPSA and CSA. In preparation for the proposed meeting, Ms. Abashian asked members to submit any questions they may have to her.

Ms. Lee's PowerPoint presentation will be shared with the SLAT membership.

2021 Legislative Session Updates

Members briefly shared some of the bills they are following during the legislative session including:

- SB 1313 and HB 2117 – CSA and special education programs
- SB 1307- School-based health services; DMAS to amend state plan for services to provide for payment
- SB 1328 - State-Funded Kinship Guardianship Assistance program
- SB 1469 and HB 2322 - Opioid Abatement Authority
- HB 2212 - Children's Services Act; effective monitoring and implementation

SEC Strategic Plan Workgroups Updates

In the interest of time, Ms. Abashian noted that work is ongoing and the Workgroups will report at the May SLAT meeting.

OCS Report

In the interest of time, no report was made.

Member Updates

As well as following the legislative session, other items included:

- Linda McWilliams (DJJ) – JLARC will be conducting a comprehensive study of DJJ.
- Pam Fisher (DBHDS) – 1) DBHDS has submitted a new SOC grant proposal; 2) Effective January 1, 2021, funding has been restored to the Virginia Mental Health Access Project (VMAP)
- Mills Jones (CSA Coordinators) – 1) CSA Coordinators are following several bills in the General Assembly including (1) Requirement to serve children eligible for Protected Funds and bills related to CSA and Private Day Education; 2) CSA Coordinators are concerned about the IV-E/ Medicaid changes regarding children in residential care and fiscal impact to local CSA programs. Estimated cost to local programs is the Medicaid match on up to \$300/day; 3) OCS training on CANS and Service Planning is being coordinated with OCS Program Consultants Anna Antell and Carol Wilson in several localities; 4) CSA Coordinators group is reforming the CSA Utilization Managers group to help support local programs; 5) Several local CSA Coordinators have submitted input regarding local use of Protected Funds. The input has been compiled and submitted to Mr. Reiner for review.
- Lisa Madron (CSB) – 1) Restoration of funding for STEP VA. 2) Collaborating with DJJ on the Marcus Alert System which promotes a behavioral health response to individuals in crisis and also limits the role of law enforcement.
- Susan Aylor (Schools) – 1) JLARC recently completed a study of K-12 Special Education in Virginia; 2) Regulations governing the use of seclusion and restraints in public elementary and secondary schools in Virginia became effective January 1, 2021.

Other Business

Judge Tunner requested a FFPSA presentation for the judges conference planned for May.

Ms. Abashian reported that she needs volunteers to serve on a SLAT Nominating Committee. She will reach out to the SLAT membership if volunteers are not forthcoming.

Adjournment

The virtual meeting adjourned at 11:40 a.m. on a motion by Rebecca Vinroot, seconded by Martha Carroll and carried. The next meeting is scheduled for May 6, 2021.