

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

**MINUTES
February 6, 2025**

Members Present: Mills Jones, SLAT Chair; Sabrina Gross, DOE; Shannon Updike, VCOPPA; Laura Reed, DMAS; Grace Hughes, VDH; Amy Swift, CPMT – DSS Representative (*virtually*); William Stanley, CPMT – CSU Representative (*virtually*); Em Parente, VDSS (*virtually*); Patti Hodge, DARS; The Honorable Marilyn Goss, Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court Representative; Kari Savage, DBHDS; Cristy Corbin, Parent Representative; Linda McWilliams, DJJ (*virtually*); Kristina Williams-Pugh, CPMT – School Representative

Members Absent: Lesley Abashian, CPMT – Local Government Representative; Sandy Bryant, CPMT – CSB Representative

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

Welcome/Opening

Mills Jones called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m. and welcomed everyone. Introductions were made. Several members asked to attend the meeting virtually: Linda McWilliams, Em Parente, William Stanley and Amy Swift. Their virtual attendance was approved on a motion by Shannon Updike, seconded by Laura Reed and carried.

Public Comment Period

There were no public comments.

Approval of Minutes

The November 7, 2024, meeting minutes were approved on a motion by Marilyn Goss, seconded by Shannon Updike and carried.

Workgroup Updates

- DARS and VDOE representatives serve on an Interagency Transition Team. Current initiatives involve youth and family engagement and review of resources available from other Team member agencies.
- The State Implementation Team for Evidence-Based Practices is currently working to assist with local implementation of evidence-based practices based on the HFW model to enhance access and support to youth and families.
- Health and Human Resource agencies in the Commonwealth are working on website accessibility for those with disabilities and limited language comprehension.

Old Business

- SLAT Bylaws – Ms. Schabo highlighted proposed revisions to the SLAT bylaws. The proposed revisions were first discussed at SLAT's November 7, 2024 meeting. Major revisions include:

- Article VI – Election of Officers – The term of office changed from one to two years, with no individual serving more than two consecutive terms in the same office.
- Article VII – Meetings—Provides for members or designated alternates to virtually participate in meetings following the parameters of SEC Policy 2.1.3.

The proposed revised SLAT bylaws were approved on a motion by Patti Hodge, seconded by Cristy Corbin and carried. The revised SLAT bylaws will be submitted for final approval by the SEC at their March 13, 2025 meeting.

- Policy Update – Ms. Schabo reported that the following policies are currently under review:
 - Policy 2.1.3 Individual Participation in State Executive Council Meeting by Electronic Means (first 45-day public comment period ended January 31, 2025 – no comments received.) This policy provides guidance to the SEC regarding the parameters of electronic participation in SEC meetings or any committees established by the SEC. The proposed changes bring the current policy into compliance with the guidelines set forth in §2.2-3708.2 and §2.2-3708.3, as amended, effective July 1, 2024.
 - Policy 4.4.2 Medicaid Funded Services (second 60-day public comment period ending February 17, 2025 – no comments received to date.) This policy is a verbatim restatement of language that has been included in the Appropriation Act since 2011.
 - Policy 4.5.3 Administrative Funds (second 60-day public comment period ending February 17, 2025 – no comments received to date.) The proposed changes align the existing policy with a new administrative funding process utilized by OCS that is more streamlined and accessible to localities.
 - Policy 4.3 “Carve-out” of Allocation for Development of New/Expanded Services (Adopted April 30, 2013) – This policy was repealed by the SEC at its December 12, 2024 meeting. The policy had never been used, and funds had never been appropriated for its intended purpose.
- SEC Strategic Plan – Ms. Schabo reported that SLAT members Em Parente and Amy Swift are serving on the Model Strategic Planning Template Workgroup developing a template and guidance document that will be available for localities to use in their strategic planning processes. A notification will be sent out once the documents are available and they will also be posted on the CSA website.

SEC Report

Mr. Jones reported on the following items from the December 12, 2024 SEC meeting:

- The SEC will be asked to review/approve a model Family Survey form and best practice guidelines. OCS is developing the form and guidelines that will be shared with the SLAT and the SEC..
- CSA FY2024 was successfully closed with no pending matters to resolve. Policy 4.5.2 Time Frames Regarding CSA Pool Fund Reimbursements was amended by the SEC in 2024.
- A statutory change was introduced in the 2025 General Assembly Session to include CHINS as an eligible population for CSA. This change was also recommended by the Commission on Youth (COY) Study of the Use and Impact of Relief of Custody on Care and Support of Youth. The legislation would have no fiscal impact.

OCS Updates

Ms. Schabo provided updates in the following areas:

- HB2282 and SB801 were introduced in the 2025 General Assembly Session to include CHINS-eligible youth as an eligible, sum-sufficient population for CSA. HB2282 failed to report from Committee. SB801 is still active.

- A budget proposal has been recommended for CSA funding that would provide one pool of sum sufficient funding available to reimburse localities, thereby eliminating allocations and the necessity for a supplemental funding process.
- Total CSA expenditures for FY2024 were \$550M, up approximately \$68M from the previous year.
- OCS has recently released several new tools, including an updated CSA User Guide, updated CSA and Special Education guidance, and new CANVaS reports, which are available on the CSA dashboard.
- OCS received \$100,000 from the \$2M granted to VDSS to increase website accessibility. OCS is working with a contractor for a complete overhaul of the CSA website, which should be completed by July 2025
- SLAT members were provided with copies of five OCS reports submitted to the General Assembly.
- Updated guidance documents are available on the CSA website: Policy Manual, CSA User Guide and Special Education Guidance. As policies and guidance are being updated periodically, please refer to the latest policy/documents on the CSA website.
- A New CSA Coordinator Academy will be held in Richmond on May 6 – 8, 2025.
- The Annual CSA Conference will be held in Roanoke October 15-16, 2025 with a pre-conference session to be held on October 14, 2025. SEC member Melvin Roy will be the keynote speaker.

New Business

Kristi Schabo reported that one of the two-year metrics in the SEC's Strategic Plan is developing a process to acknowledge areas of local excellence and best practices. SLAT members received a document on the process containing eligibility, criteria, and how to nominate a local CSA program for the recognition. The first award will be presented at the March 13, 2025, SEC meeting.

Member Updates

Members reported for their agencies and organizations on the current legislative session, projects, new programs, and other ongoing activities. 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.

- Mr. Jones noted that CSA needed more information about and/or approved services for sponsored residential care for children in foster care. He asked representatives from DBHDS to include this topic as part of their presentation at the February 21, 2025 OCS office hours.
- DJJ reported that one of the recommendations from the COY study on The Use and Impact of Relief of Custody on Care and Support on Youth was that DJJ develop best practices to distribute to CSUs when a parent comes in to intake desiring to petition for relief of custody. The best practices will be designed to inform parents of services available in their community.
- DBHDS will be expanding services in existing Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHC) to include mental health services. Recovery high schools are also planned for the Augusta-Waynesboro-Staunton area, Loudoun and Virginia Beach.

Adjournment

There being no other business, the meeting adjourned at 11:55 a.m. on a motion by Laura Reed, seconded by Shannon Updike and carried. The next meeting is scheduled for May 1, 2025.