

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

MINUTES

May 5, 2022

Members Present: Lesley Abashian, SLAT Chair, CPMT – Local Government Representative; Rebecca Vinroot, SLAT Vice-Chair, CPMT – local DSS Representative; Mills Jones, CSA Coordinators Network; Honorable Ashley Tunner, Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court Representative (*by telephone*); Pam Fisher, DBHDS; William Stanley, CPMT – local CSU Representative; Michael Triggs, VCOPPA (*by telephone*); Sabrina Gross, DOE; Cristy Corbin, Parent Representative; Lora Smith, DSS (*by telephone*)

Members Absent: Jeannine Uzel, VDH; Linda McWilliams, DJJ; Susan Aylor, CPMT – School Representative; Lisa Madron, CPMT – CSB Representative; Laura Reed, DMAS

CSA Staff Members Present: Scott Reiner, Anna Antell, Mary Bell, Marsha Mucha, Courtney Sexton, Carrie Thompson

Welcome/Opening

Lesley Abashian called the virtual meeting to order at 9:35 a.m. and welcomed everyone. In accordance with provisions of the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), several members asked to participate virtually in the meeting: Laura Smith, representing DSS and Michael Triggs, representing VCOPPA because of scheduling/travel issues. Judge Tunner asked to participate virtually because of illness.

A motion was made by Cristy Corbin, seconded by Pam Fisher and carried to allow these members to participate virtually.

Public Comment Period

There were no public comments.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the November 4, 2021 meeting were approved on a motion by Mills Jones, seconded by Cristy Corbin, and carried.

The minutes of the February 3, 2022 meeting were approved on a motion by Mills Jones, seconded by Cristy Corbin, and carried.

CSA Coordinator Report – Virtual FAPT Meeting Best Practices

Mills Jones reported on behalf of the workgroup that developed the draft guidelines for virtual FAPT meeting. Members were provided a copy of the draft guidelines for their review. Mr. Jones reviewed both benefits and potential barriers to virtual FAPT meetings as identified by the workgroup.

Mr. Jones further reported that if localities are going to use a virtual FAPT option, the workgroup recommends that local policy include language regarding the allowance for and circumstances of virtual

FAPT meetings. Policy language may include content related to some of the best practices identified for virtual FAPT meetings. During the discussion, it was noted that guidance should also contain information on how to prepare families for virtual FAPT meetings.

Ms. Abashian thanked Mr. Jones and members of the workgroup for developing the draft guidance. She asked members to send her feedback and comments. After the guidance is finalized, it will be shared with localities for use with their local policies and/or for guidance in developing their own Virtual FAPT Meeting policies.

Updates on the CSA Local Competencies Workgroup

Ms. Abashian reported that the CSA Local Competencies Workgroup has developed a draft CPMT Chair job description that is being finalized for distribution. Additionally, the Workgroup is addressing recommendations made as part of the CSA Leadership work.

Report of the Nominating Committee and Election of FY2023 SLAT Officers

Ms. Abashian reported that the Nominating Committee Chair, Susan Aylor could not attend today's meeting. Michael Triggs reported on behalf of the Committee. He reported that the Nominating Committee recommends Rebecca Vinroot to serve as SLAT Chair and Mills Jones to serve as SLAT Vice-Chair for the upcoming fiscal year.

There were no nominations from the floor. The Nominating Committees' recommendations for SLAT Chair and Vice-Chair were accepted by unanimous consent on a motion by Sabrina Gross and seconded by Pam Fisher.

Mr. Reiner and the members of SLAT thanked Ms. Abashian for her service as SLAT Chair.

Safe and Sound Task Force Update/Discussion

Rebecca Vinroot and Lora Smith reported on the Governor's Safe and Sound Task Force convened to address youth in foster care with no placement who are being housed in DSS offices, hotels, etc. The initial focus of the Task Force is to have all of these youth placed by July 1, 2022. The Task Force will then turn its attention to prevention and systemic changes.

OCS Updates

- *Required Report Under HB427/SB435 (reported by Anna Antell)* – This legislation (2022 Session) removes the provisions that prohibit a parent representative from serving as a member of a CPMT or a FAPT if the parent representative is employed by a public or private program that receives funds to serve children or agencies represented on a CPMT or FAPT. The legislation directs an inventory of current efforts by CPMTs and FAPTs to recruit and retain parent representatives be conducted, along with compiling a list of best practices for distribution to CSA programs.

A report is also due to the Chairmen of the Senate Committee on Rehabilitation and Social Services and the House Committee on Health, Welfare, and Institutions by November 1, 2022. Please contact Anna Antell, OCS Program Consultant, if you would like to work on this project.

- *Annual Conference* – OCS Program Consultant, Mary Bell, updated members on the CSA Conference that will be held November 1-2, 2022 at the Hotel Roanoke and Conference Center. The title of this year's Conference is "Connections Matter." An program on Adaptive Leadership

for CSA Coordinators and a strategic planning session for CPMT members are being planned for October 31, 2022.

- Annual Performance Measures – Carrie Thompson, OCS Research Associate Senior spoke about the recently released FY2021 CSA Annual Performance Measures Report. She noted that the Report measures statewide performance across seven key indicators that address the impact of CSA.

Ms. Thompson further reported that the FY2021 CANS cohort was the first completely contained within the COVID pandemic period. A smaller percentage of children with improvement was seen in the three CANS Domains measured, as compared to children whose first year of assessment was FY2019 or FY2020. Ms. Thompson encouraged members to review the data and to let OCS know if something doesn't seem correct.

- Budget Actions Impacting CSA – Mr. Reiner reported that a state budget has still not been approved. Budget amendments pending include a \$1.0 million increase in local support for CSA administration/operations (Senate Only) and delayed implementation of rate-setting for private day special education programs by one year and validate rates (Senate only). Unless delayed, structured rate-setting will be implemented beginning July 1, 2022. OCS is anticipating and moving forward with plans for implementation.

Member Updates

Members reported on the statuses of ongoing projects, new programs, training 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.

- Lora Smith from VDSS reported that their agency has received federal monies that they will be using to support youth in foster care (and those aging out of foster care) in obtaining their driver's licenses. The monies can also be used to help pay for driving school, insurance, etc. VDSS is also seeking technical assistance from two states that have Driver's License Programs in place to build out the VDSS program.
- Pam Fisher from DBHDS reported that their agency has been awarded \$6.7 million in funding for school-based mental health services. In honor of Children's Mental Health Awareness Day, the Office of Child and Family Services chose Resilience and Hope: Youth Suicide Prevention as their theme. A video presentation of a panel discussion of subject matter experts was disseminated. Ms. Fisher will send the information to OCS to share with SLAT members.
- Mr. Reiner shared a report from Laura Reed on behalf of DMAS. Project Cardinal, going from two MCO contracts to one, is on track to start July 1 (pending state budget approval). A fee-for-service contractor RFP has been posted. A review of those applications will take place in May with a new vendor slated to start in November 2022. ARTS and Support Act grant Spring training sessions will be posted soon.
- Rebecca Vinroot (LDSS) and William Stanley (CSU) reported seeing an uptick in truancy issues. Sabrina Gross (DOE) reported that DOE is receiving more complaints around behavioral issues.

- Mills Jones reported that the CSA Coordinators Network is developing a mentoring program. Bryan Moeller and Rudy Zavala are taking the lead on this program. Representatives from the CSA Coordinators Network met with the VCU Center for Evidence-based Practices and DMAS concerning evidence-based practice providers. Mr. Jones thanked Mr. Reiner for the review of CSA policies.
- Judge Tunner reported that 14 new juvenile and domestic relations district court judges have been appointed. A Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court Judges Conference is scheduled for mid-May in Charlottesville.
- Cristy Corbin reported that a Virginia Family Network Family and Youth Summit was held on April 30, 2022. Additional trainings are being developed and planned to advance parent and youth leadership and advocacy roles. The revised CSA Family Guide is also being shared.
- Michael Triggs reported that private providers continue to struggle with staffing concerns and the delay in processing background checks.

Adjournment

At the close of the meeting, Mrs. Abashian thanked everyone for their support during her time as Chair. The meeting adjourned at 12:00 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for August 4, 2022.