

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

**MINUTES
May 1, 2025**

Members Present: Mills Jones, SLAT Chair; Sabrina Gross, DOE; Ronnie Gehring, VCOPPA; Laura Reed, DMAS; Amy Swift, CPMT – DSS Representative; William Stanley, CPMT – CSU Representative; Anya Horning, VDSS; Patti Hodge, DARS; The Honorable Marilyn Goss, Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court Representative; Kari Savage, DBHDS; Cristy Corbin, Parent Representative; Kristina Williams-Pugh, CPMT – School Representative; Lesley Abashian, CPMT – Local Government Representative

Members Absent: Kyndra Jackson, VDH; Linda McWilliams, DJJ; Sandy Bryant, CPMT – CSB Representative

CSA Staff Members Present: Stephanie Bacote, Mary Bell, 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. Mr. Jones noted that, at the March 13, 2025 SEC meeting, the SEC presented its initial Excellence in CSA Award to the City of Petersburg CSA program.

Mr. Jones also noted that May is Foster Care Awareness month, and he thanked all those who serve in foster care service roles.

The agenda for today's meeting was approved on a motion by Lesley Abashian, seconded by Amy Swift and carried. A quorum was present.

Public Comment Period

There were no public comments.

Approval of Minutes

The February 6, 2025, meeting minutes were approved on a motion by Marilyn Goss, seconded by Patti Hodge and carried. Lesley Abashian abstained.

Workgroup Updates

There were no updates to report.

Old Business

- Policy Update – On April 1, 2025 a revised Policy Manual was posted to the CSA website.
- Ms. Schabo provided an update on the following policies:

- Policy 4.4.2 Medicaid Funded Service – The policy was repealed by the SEC at their March 13, 2025 meeting. This policy is a verbatim restatement of language that has been included in the Appropriation Act since 2011.
- Policy 4.5.3 Administrative Funds – A revised policy was adopted by the SEC at their March 13, 2025 meeting. The policy changes align with a new administrative funding process utilized by OCS that is more streamlined for localities.
- Policy 2.1.3 – Individual Participation in State Executive Council Meetings by Electronic Means – At the SEC’s March 13, 2025 meeting, the SEC approved draft Policy 2.1.3 for a 60-day public comment period. Policy 2.1.3 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.

If the policy is approved by the SEC, SLAT will abide by the same policy as indicated in the SLAT bylaws.

Policy 5.1 – Data Set - Ms. Schabo reported that a Notice of Intent to Develop or Revise Policy for Policy 5.1, Data Set, which outlines and defines the three different local match rates as defined in the Appropriation Act, was presented for the SEC’s consideration at their March 13, 2025 meeting. The intent was to repeal policy 5.1, and replace it with a new policy that outlines specific local match rates for services as defined in the Appropriation Act and contains updated service language.

The SEC did not take action on Policy 5.1 at that meeting but requested that OCS review the definitions in the current policy and revise them for clarity and consistency. These revised definitions will be reviewed at the June 12, 2025 SEC meeting.

- Model Strategic Plan Template Workgroup - Amy Swift presented the CSA Strategic Planning tool developed by the workgroup. SLAT members expressed their appreciation to Kristi Schabo and the Workgroup members for their work and noted that the tool would be very useful to localities as they develop their strategic plans. The tool will be presented tomorrow at the CSA Coordinators’ Network meeting.
- SLAT Bylaws – Ms. Schabo reported that, at the SEC’s March 13, 2025 meeting, the SEC approved the amended SLAT bylaws. Amendments have been made in the elections, terms of office, and meetings sections.

SEC Report

Mr. Jones reported on the following items from the March 13, 2025 SEC meeting:

- Members received updates on legislation impacting or of interest to CSA.
- Members discussed the CSA budget and the 5 percent cap for private day special education.
- As reported earlier, the SEC discussed and tabled action on Policy 5.1, *Data Set*. The SEC will revisit the policy at their June 12, 2025 meeting.
- Members received a written update on program audit activities along with a copy of the Program Audit Charter and the OCS Audit Plan for FY 2024-2026.

OCS Updates

Ms. Schabo provided updates in the following areas:

- SB801, passed by the 2025 General Assembly, includes CHINS-eligible youth as an eligible, sum- sufficient population for CSA. The change becomes effective July 1, 2025. A CHINS policy will be developed along with practice guidance for localities.
- HB1733/SB1372 – Requires an LDSS as part of its investigation after receiving a referral for a petition for relief from the care and custody of a child to refer the parent to the local FAPT and create a written report.
- HB2260 – expands the definition of CHINS for purposes of juvenile and domestic relations district courts.
- HB1600 – The budget bill (amendment) decreases CSA funding by \$5 million in the second year of the biennium (FY2026) to reflect general fund savings resulting from a five percent limit on the growth rate in state reimbursement to localities for private special education for children with disabilities. The amendment also adds reporting requirements for OCS, in coordination with DOE, regarding the transition of students from private day education services to local education agencies.
- Beginning July 1, 2025 for FY2026, OCS will cease the current allocation process. one pool of sum sufficient funding will be available to reimburse localities, thereby eliminating allocations and the necessity for a supplemental funding process. Protected fund allocations and funding for special education wraparound services will remain the same.
- A New CSA Coordinator Academy will be held May 6 – 8, 2025.
- A total redo of the CSA website is underway. The new website will be ADA compliant and mobile friendly. Financial reports are being moved behind the new public site as those reports cannot be made ADA compliant. Testing on the new web site is underway.
- 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

Ms. Schabo reported that OCS has prepared a CSA FAPT: Family/Youth Satisfaction Survey. The Survey uses clear, easy to understand language. Members received a copy.

Members also held a brief discussion on the use of sponsored residential care for children in foster care. Mr. Jones thanked Kari Savage (DBHDS) and her staff for their presentation on the topic at the February 21, 2025 OCS office hours. There will also be a breakout session at the CSA Conference concerning sponsored residential care.

Member Updates

Members reported for their agencies and organizations on state and federal funding, 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.

- Mills Jones shared, on behalf of the CSA Coordinators' Network, the dates for the upcoming regional CSA Training and Resource Days. Mr. Reiner asked that the dates be submitted to OCS for the training calendar.
- Cristy Corbin will be presenting on the "parent perspective" at the New CSA Coordinator Academy.

Adjournment

There being no other business, the meeting adjourned at 12:10 p.m. on a motion by Amy Swift, seconded by Lesley Abashian and carried. The next meeting is scheduled for August 7, 2025.