

BROADCAST 7494

DATE: June 28, 2012

TO: Local Departments of Social Services Directors, Foster Care and Adoption Supervisors and Staff, Resource Family Recruiters, Trainers, staff and Supervisors, Licensed Child-Placing Agencies, CSA Coordinators

FROM: Jack Ledden, Director, Division of Family Services
Therese Wolf, M.A., Permanency Program Manager

TIME: 2:20 p.m.

SUBJECT: Changes to Enhanced Maintenance Rates using the Virginia Enhanced Maintenance Assessment Tool (VEMAT)

CONTACT: Therese Wolf, 804-726-7522 or therese.wolf@dss.virginia.gov

The purpose of this broadcast is to update local departments of social services (LDSS) and all key partners on the previously announced changes to the Enhanced Maintenance rates.

Adjustments to the enhanced maintenance rates that were to take effect on July 1, 2012 have been postponed and are anticipated to take effect September 1, 2012. In the past two months, the Department has collected data related to the VEMAT and is currently analyzing the data and considering the best approach to take in reducing the enhanced maintenance rate amounts. The actual reduction will be announced by Broadcast as soon as this information is available.

This change to the enhanced rate will still occur on a “go-forward” basis only. Based on the anticipated date for the new rates to take effect, local departments must begin using the new rates for every VEMAT administered as of September 1, 2012. Foster parents are to continue receiving their current rate until the next VEMAT review. Localities are also advised that all children must receive a VEMAT review before February 28, 2012 using the new rate structure. New adoption assistance agreements negotiated after September 1, 2012 that includes an enhanced maintenance payment must be based on the new rate structure.