

**STATE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL (SEC)
FOR CHILDREN'S SERVICES
1604 Santa Rosa Road
Richmond/Henrico Rooms
Richmond, VA
Thursday, December 9, 2021**

SEC Members Present:

The Honorable Vanessa Walker Harris, M.D., Secretary of Health and Human Resources
Sophia Booker, Service Recipient Representative

Angela Valentine for Valerie Boykin, Director, Department of Juvenile Justice

The Honorable Margaret Angela Franklin, Member, Prince William County Board of Supervisors

The Honorable Willie Greene, Mayor, City of Galax

The Honorable Elizabeth Guzman, Member, Virginia House of Delegates (*virtually*)

Samantha Hollins, Ed.D. for James Lane, Ed.D. Superintendent of Public Instruction, Virginia Department of Education

Parham Jaber, M.D., for M. Norman Oliver, M.D., Commissioner, Virginia Department of Health

Michelle Johnson, County Administrator, Charles City County

Sandra Karison for Karl Hade, Executive Secretary of the Supreme Court of Virginia

Karen Kimsey, Director, Department of Medical Assistance Services (*virtually*)

Mira Signer for Alison Land, Commissioner, Virginia Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services

The Honorable T. Montgomery "Monty" Mason, Member, Senate of Virginia

Andelicia Neville, Parent Representative

The Honorable Dalia Palchik, Member, Fairfax County Board of Supervisors (*virtually*)

The Honorable Frank Somerville, Presiding Judge, 16th Judicial District, Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court

Ron Spears, CEO, Elk Hill

Amanda Stanley, President and CEO, DePaul Community Resources

Em Parente for Duke Storen, Commissioner, Virginia Department of Social Services

Rebecca Vinroot, Vice-Chair, State and Local Advisory Team (SLAT)

SEC Members Absent:

Eric Campbell, City Manager, City of Harrisonburg

Jessica Stern, Parent Representative

Other Staff Present:

Mary Bell, Program Consultant, OCS

Marsha Mucha, Administrative Staff Assistant, OCS

Scott Reiner, Executive Director, OCS

Zandra Relaford, Assistant Director, OCS

Susan Whyte, Assistant Attorney General

Call to Order/Opening Remarks

Secretary Harris, called the meeting to order at 9:35 a.m. and welcomed everyone. She noted that she had heard great things about the SEC from Dr. Carey and was honored to be able to serve as Chair. Secretary Harris acknowledged those recently appointed to the SEC: Dalia Palchik, Margaret Angela Franklin and Michelle Johnson.

Secretary Harris further reported that several SEC members (Dalia Palchik, Elizabeth Guzman and Karen Kimsey) asked to join today's meeting virtually. Those wishing to attend virtually for medical reasons (Palchik and Kimsey) and the need to be out of town during today's meeting (Guzman). A motion allowing these SEC members to participate virtually in accordance with SEC Policy 2.1.3. and the Freedom of Information Act was made by Mira Signer, seconded by Monty Mason and carried.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the September 9, 2021 meeting were approved on a motion by Amanda Stanley, seconded by Mira Signer and carried.

Public Comment

Ron Spears spoke on behalf of Bill Elwood, VCOPPA, who was delayed in arriving to the meeting. Mr. Spears commented that Mr. Elwood wanted to let the SEC membership know about the continuing concerns with the processing of background checks and the impact on private providers in the hiring and training of staff.

Proposed Policy Actions

Mr. Reiner reported that both the draft FAPT and Alternate Multi-disciplinary Teams (Policy 3.2) and Family Engagement (Policy 3.3) were presented at the SEC's September 9, 2021 meeting for consideration and approval to disseminate them for a 60-day public comment period. Mr. Reiner presented both the draft policies, which reflect changes made in response to public comments received. He also reviewed summaries of those comments. After a period of discussion, the SEC membership voted to approve both policies as follows:

- Policy 3.2, *FAPT and Alternate Multi-disciplinary Teams* was approved on a motion by Monty Mason, seconded by Michelle Johnson and carried.
- Policy 3.3, *Family Engagement* was approved on a motion by Amanda Stanley, seconded by Ron Spears and carried.

Updates/Revisions to the SEC Strategic Plan

Each member received a draft of the updated Strategic Plan. The Strategic Plan was originally adopted by the SEC in December 2019. Mr. Reiner reviewed the draft plan and the two-year metrics associated with each of the goals in the Strategic Plan. He noted that, if approved by the SEC, the updated Strategic Plan would be incorporated into the SEC's Biennial Report due this month.

After a period of discussion, the updated SEC Strategic Plan was approved on a motion by Monty Mason, seconded by Mira Signer and carried.

State and Local Advisory Team Report

Rebecca Vinroot, SLAT Vice-Chair reported on the following items:

- As part of their work on the SEC's Strategic Plan, SLAT developed core leadership competencies for local CSA leaders, CPMTs and FAPTs. Feedback has been positive.
- SLAT has been having conversations about ways to keep up-to-date with the activities of various workgroups and committees. SLAT has also been discussing the best way to share information and ideas.
- SLAT is engaging the CSA Coordinators Network in new ways by gathering feedback and coordinating information and guidance on issues (i.e., lessons learned in the pandemic and guidance on use of virtual FAPTs, etc.).

Executive Director's Report

Mr. Reiner reported on the following activities:

- Year-end Expenditure and Utilization Numbers – A handout was shared with SEC members providing a summary and comparison of CSA utilization and expenditure data from FY2015 through FY2021. Expenditures for FY2021 were flat as compared to FY2020.
- Activities Related to HB2212 – Requires OCS to provide for the effective implementation of CSA in all localities by regularly monitoring local performance measures and child and family outcomes and providing technical assistance to and working with local programs that are consistently underperforming to develop a corrective action plan.
 - Funding for one FTE was included in the legislation. Courtney Sexton who was the CSA Coordinator in James City County has been hired in that role. A workgroup assisted OCS with developing a methodology for the corrective action plan and defining terms such as “underperforming.” As required, a report was submitted in November 2021 to the General Assembly.
 - Mr. Reiner further reported that OCS has asked for state funding to add four additional program consultants that would be positioned regionally to provide technical support to localities. OCS has also requested state funds to provide each locality with a minimum of \$50,000 in administrative funding.
- CSA/DOE Work group – A work group has been convened and is meeting to plan for the transfer of private special education funding from CSA to DOE. Work group meetings are open to the public. A preliminary report was filed in November 2021, with a final report due in November 2022.
- Cost Study and Rate Setting for Private Day Special Education Programs - The required rate study of private day special education programs has been finalized and a report was submitted to the General Assembly on November 22, 2021. Next steps entail working to develop guidelines on how to implement the rate structure which will go into effect July 1, 2022.

Update on the Family First Prevention Services Act

Em Parente reported on behalf of VDSS. She reported that as of July 1, 2021, Family First funding became available. VDSS is primarily funding three evidence-based prevention services through Family First: multi-systemic therapy (MST), family functional therapy (FFT) and

parent-child interaction therapy (PCIT). Ms. Parente further reported that, for Medicaid members, Medicaid began reimbursement for MST and FFT services as of December 1, 2021.

VDSS has also submitted plans to the federal government for expansion of evidence-based services as more are needed across the state. Those services are currently limited to those on the federal clearinghouse and would include four services: Brief Strategic Family Therapy, Family Check-up, Home Builders, and Motivational Interviewing.

VDSS continues to receive applications for QRTPs. Currently VDSS has 108 young people in QRTP placements and 133 assessments for placement requests. A significant number of those are not IV-E eligible.

At the close of her report, Ms. Parente addressed the concerns about background checks expressed earlier. She noted that VDSS is aware of and addressing the issue. She further noted that VDSS staff vacancies and the start of the school year have exacerbated the delay in the process.

Children with Complex Service Needs and Placement Challenges

Members discussed the issue and provided some thoughts concerning providing services to this population of children. Some of the points discussed included:

- Supporting private providers as they have seen an increase in the acuity of the referrals they receive.
- Recruiting and training foster families to provide the ability to care for children with complex needs.
- Providing community-based services when a higher level of need is indicated.
- Working (VDSS) to invest in relational foster care.
- Developing “no reject / no eject” contracts.

Closing Remarks and Adjournment

In closing, Secretary Harris thanked everyone for their commitment to serving youth and families and for today’s discussions.

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 11:55 a.m.