

**STATE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL (SEC)
FOR CHILDREN’S SERVICES
1604 Santa Rosa Road
Richmond/Henrico Rooms
Richmond, VA
Thursday, June 9, 2022**

SEC Members Present:

Leah Mills, Deputy Secretary of Health and Human Resources for The Honorable John Littel,
Secretary of Health and Human Resources (SEC Chair)
Lesley Abashian, Chair, State and Local Advisory Team (SLAT)
Danny Avula, M.D., Commissioner, Virginia Department of Social Services
Sophia Booker, Service Recipient Representative
The Honorable Carrie Coyner, Member, Virginia House of Delegates
The Honorable Margaret Angela Franklin, Member, Prince William County Board of
Supervisors (*virtually*)
The Honorable Willie Greene, Mayor, City of Galax
Samantha Hollins, Ed.D. for Jillian Balow, Superintendent of Public Instruction, Virginia Department
of Education
Parham Jaber, M.D., for Colin Greene, M.D., Commissioner, Virginia Department of Health
Sandra Karison for Karl Hade, Executive Secretary of the Supreme Court of Virginia
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*)
Cheryl Roberts, Acting Director, Department of Medical Assistance Services
Mira Signer, Chief Deputy Commissioner for Nelson Smith, Commissioner, Virginia Department of
Behavioral Health and Developmental Services
The Honorable Frank Somerville, Presiding Judge, 16th Judicial District, Juvenile and Domestic
Relations District Court
Ron Spears, CEO, Elk Hill

SEC Members Absent:

Amy Floriano, Director, Department of Juvenile Justice
Michelle Johnson, County Administrator, Charles City County
Amanda Stanley, President and CEO, DePaul Community Resources
Jessica Stern, Parent Representative

Other Staff Present:

Mary Bell, Program Consultant, OCS
Marsha Mucha, Administrative Staff Assistant, OCS
Scott Reiner, Executive Director, OCS
Courtney Sexton, Program Consultant, OCS
Susan Whyte, Assistant Attorney General

Call to Order/Opening Remarks

Leah Mills, Deputy Secretary of Health and Human Resources called the meeting to order at 9:35 a.m. She welcomed everyone on behalf of Secretary Littel who was not able to attend today's meeting. A motion was made by Monty Mason, seconded by Parham Jaber and carried to approve requests made by Supervisor Palchik (medical) and Supervisor Franklin (travel issue) pursuant to §2.2-3708.2 and SEC Policy 2.1.3 to participate virtually from their home and office, respectively.

The Honorable Carrier Coyner was introduced as a new legislative member to the SEC representing the Virginia House of Delegates. Certificates of appreciation were presented to Sophia Booker, Judge Somerville, Jessica Stern, Amanda Stanley, Andelicia Neville, and Lesley Abashian who will be leaving the SEC.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the March 10, 2022 meeting were approved on a motion by Sandra Karison seconded by Lesley Abashian, and carried.

Public Comment

There were no public comments.

Governor's Safe and Sound Task Force

By unanimous consent, in consideration of Ms. Kelly's schedule, the SEC agreed to move her presentation up on the agenda. Janet Kelly, Special Advisor to the Governor provided an update on the activities of the task force. Ms. Kelly reported that Governor Youngkin established the task force to address the issue of children in foster care with complex needs and no satisfactory placement. These children are often being housed temporarily in hospital emergency rooms, hotels and at local DSS offices because placements are not available.

Since the first of April, small teams comprised of staff from child serving agencies have been meeting to address the situations specific to each child in this cohort and to collaboratively brainstorm and identify a placement for each child. These teams have reached out to private providers, community partners, and other stakeholders for assistance to meet these needs. The task force is also receiving updates on children that may be at risk of not having a placement in the near future. While this small team intensive approach has worked in the short term for children already in this situation, systemic changes are needed going forward.

Ms. Kelly further reported that next steps include development of a sustainable process to meet complex placement needs and a plan/vision to address child welfare in Virginia. At the end of her presentation, Ms. Kelly answered questions from SEC members.

State and Local Advisory Team (SLAT) Report

Lesley Abashian, SLAT Chair, provided the update. She noted that her term as SLAT Chair would be ending June 30. She noted some of the work products and guidance documents SLAT developed as part of the SEC's Strategic Plan. She encouraged the SEC to continue to utilize SLAT and its expertise in the future for projects and initiatives.

Mrs. Abashian presented a roster of the SLAT membership for the SEC's approval. She noted that Rebecca Vinroot, the local DSS representative to SLAT from James City County has been elected as SLAT Chair for the year beginning July 1. Mills Jones, the Goochland County CSA Coordinator will serve as Vice-Chair. The SLAT membership roster was approved on a motion by Carrie Coyner, seconded by Frank Somerville and carried.

OCS Executive Director's Report

Mr. Reiner reported on the following items:

- *FY2023 OCS Training Plan* – Mr. Reiner presented a draft of the OCS Training Plan for FY2023 for the SEC's consideration and approval. Mr. Reiner highlighted several aspects of the training plan. Members also received a copy of the December 2021 Report to the General Assembly on *Regional and Statewide Training Regarding CSA* and a copy of the FY2022 Training Progress Report. At the end of his presentation, the training plan was approved on a motion by Lesley Abashian, seconded by Andelicia Neville and carried.
- *Budget Items* – Includes a \$50,000 increase in training funds and \$500,000 in additional funding to support local programs.
- *Status of Implementation of Rate-Setting for Private Day Special Education* - Two rate setting studies have taken place with the last report being made in November 2021. Mr. Reiner provided members with a copy of a proposed rate structure for private day special education. The legislature has (pending the Governor's approval of the budget) delayed the implementation of rate-setting from July 1, 2022 to July 1, 2023. During this time, OCS is directed to provide training and conduct a fiscal impact study of the new tiered rate structure.
- *Status of Workgroup on the Transfer of Private Special Education to DOE* – The Workgroup continues to meet to plan for the transfer of private special education funding from CSA to DOE. A preliminary report was filed in November 2021, with a final report due in November 2022.
- *CSA Annual Conference* – The Conference will be held at the Hotel Roanoke and Conference Center, November 1-2, 2022. All SEC members are invited and encouraged to attend.

Member Updates of Relevance to CSA and Services to Children

Members reported on recently held and upcoming conferences and trainings. Members also reported on projects, their agencies/organizations efforts to address workforce and mental health needs, IT projects to enhance data sharing/reporting and outcome measures and improvements to services and service delivery for the children, youth and families of Virginia.

Closing Remarks and Adjournment

In closing, Deputy Secretary Mills thanked everyone for attending today's meeting. The next meeting is scheduled for September 8, 2022.

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 12:05 p.m.