

**STATE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL (SEC)
FOR CHILDREN’S SERVICES
1604 Santa Rosa Road, Suite 137
Richmond, VA
(VIRTUAL MEETING)
Thursday, September 10, 2020**

SEC Members Present:

The Honorable Daniel Carey, M.D., Secretary of Health and Human Resources
Lesley Abashian, Chair, State and Local Advisory Team (SLAT)
The Honorable Mary Biggs, Member, Montgomery County Board of Supervisors
Sophia Booker, Service Recipient Representative
Valerie Boykin, Director, Department of Juvenile Justice
Eric Campbell, City Manager, City of Harrisonburg
Courtney Gaskins, Ph.D., Director of Program Services, Youth for Tomorrow
The Honorable Willie Greene, Mayor, City of Galax
The Honorable Elizabeth Guzman, Member, Virginia House of Delegates
Samantha Hollins, Ed.D. for James Lane, Ed.D. Superintendent of Public Instruction, Virginia
Department of Education
Sandra Karison for Karl Hade, Executive Secretary of the Supreme Court of Virginia
Alyssa Ward, Ph.D., for Karen Kimsey, Director, Department of Medical Assistance Services
Andelicia Neville, Parent Representative
Mira Signer for Alison Land, Commissioner, Virginia Department of Behavioral Health and
Developmental Services
The Honorable T. Montgomery “Monty” Mason, Member, Senate of Virginia
The Honorable Frank Somerville, Presiding Judge, 16th Judicial District, Juvenile and Domestic
Relations District Court
Amanda Stanley, President and CEO, DePaul Community Resources
Nanette Bowler for Duke Storen, Commissioner, Virginia Department of Social Services

SEC Members Absent:

Bob Hicks, for M. Norman Oliver, M.D., Commissioner, Virginia Department of Health
Jessica Stern, Parent Representative

Other Staff Present:

Marsha Mucha, Administrative Staff Assistant, OCS
Kim Piner, Senior Assistant Attorney General
Scott Reiner, Executive Director, OCS
Zandra Relaford, Assistant Director, OCS

Roll Call of Members and Opening Remarks

Scott Reiner noted that the COVID-19 state of emergency precludes assembling the required number of individuals in a central location. He noted that the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) requires public bodies holding electronic meetings to make available to the public a public comment form to be completed at the end of the meeting. He provided the link for the form in the chat section of the virtual meeting.

Mr. Reiner conducted a roll call of the membership for attendance purposes.

Secretary Carey called the virtual meeting to order at 9:35 a.m. and welcomed everyone. He recognized Lesley Abashian, the Director of Human Services for the City of Fairfax as the new SLAT Chair and welcomed her to the SEC.

The minutes of the June 11, 2020 meeting were approved on a motion by Courtney Gaskins, seconded by Mira Signer and approved by roll call vote as follows:

Aye: Secretary Carey, Nanette Bowler, Samantha Hollins, Valerie Boykin, Sandra Karison, Alyssa Ward, Mira Signer, Courtney Gaskins, Amanda Stanley, Andelicia Neville, Sophia Booker, Mary Biggs, Eric Campbell, Willie Greene, Delegate Elizabeth Guzman, Senator Monty Mason, Frank Somerville and Lesley Abashian.

Nay:

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Executive Director's Report

Scott Reiner, Executive Director of OCS reported on the following items:

- CSA Protected Funds – Members received a copy of the final Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) document on “Protected” State Pool Funding, prepared by OCS. Mr. Reiner noted that the SEC (*September 2018*) had requested that SLAT review the use of what had been referred to as “non-mandated funds,” including barriers to use of the funds, and best practices. At the December 2019 SEC meeting, SLAT presented the findings and recommendations of their study to the SEC. One of the short-term recommendations was the development of specific training and informational materials for CSA audiences, which resulted in the FAQ.
- Status of Strategic Plan Implementation
 - **SEC Policy Review and Alignment** – Mr. Reiner reported that Ivory Banks and Corey Pleasants from DMAS will provide the equity-based focus/perspective to the policy review work. Chidi Uche from OSHHR will provide the trauma-based focus/perspective. The workgroup would benefit from having a parent representative and someone with Medicaid behavioral health experience. Please send Mr. Reiner recommendations for other workgroup members by the end of next week as he will be convening the workgroup within the next 30 days.
 - **Empowering Families and Communities and Leadership and Collective Action** - SLAT has two workgroups currently meeting. One workgroup is working on development of a guide for youth and families regarding access to services. The other workgroup is working on defining core knowledge, skills and abilities for various local CSA roles (e.g., CSA Coordinators, CPMT and FAPT members).
 - **Outcome-driven Practices** - OCS is in the process of surveying state agencies concerning their collection and reporting of outcomes data. Surveys are due back by

September 15. A summary and next steps will be discussed at the December SEC meeting.

- **Evidence-based Practices** - Collaborative activities continue toward the establishment of an Evidence-Based Center of Excellence. Mr. Reiner reported that multiple agencies, utilizing existing resources, are working in coordination with an institution of higher education in this regard.

At the end of Mr. Reiner's update on implementation of the SEC's Strategic Plan, Sophia Booker suggested the addition of equity-based goals to the Plan.

- Annual CSA Conference – The 2020 CSA Annual Conference will be held virtually on October 29 and 30. The keynote speaker will be the Commonwealth's Chief Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Officer, Dr. Janice Underwood. SEC members are encouraged to attend.

State and Local Advisory Team Report (SLAT)

Lesley Abashian, SLAT Chair provided the report. SLAT last met on August 6, 2020. As noted by Mr. Reiner in his report, SLAT has two workgroups meeting on areas of the SEC's Strategic Plan.

- The Empowering Families workgroup led by Cristy Corbin is working on a survey to parents.
- The Leadership and Collective Action Workgroup led by Jessica Webb and Kristi Schabo is working on deliverables around leadership competencies for local CSA leaders (CSA coordinators, FAPT and CPMT members).

SLAT members also decided to move SLAT meetings to a quarterly schedule with meetings held in the months preceding the SEC's quarterly meetings. This would bring SLAT's meeting schedule into alignment with the SEC's meeting schedule.

Ms. Abashian reported that she and Zandra Relaford would, in the next week or so, be sending a short survey on SLAT meetings to the SLAT membership. She noted that it would be beneficial to her as the new SLAT Chair to gather feedback about the meetings.

CSA Private Provider COVID Survey

Courtney Gaskins reported that, at the June SEC meeting, members received a report of an OCS conducted survey of local CSA programs regarding operations during the pandemic. At that meeting, she and Amanda Stanley suggested a similar survey of private providers.

Dr. Gaskins further reported that a survey was disseminated to private providers through OCS by way of CSA coordinators and CPMT Chairs. Also, Dr. Gaskins, Ms. Stanley and Greg Peters (UMFS) disseminated the survey through their private provider organizational memberships. 307 responses were received (192 were complete responses) during the 30-day period the survey was available. Responses were received from programs providing a wide range of services, with all regions of the state represented. Overall, responses to the survey displayed a strong and clear sense of resiliency.

Dr. Gaskins and Ms. Stanley reviewed results of the survey with members. Most providers have been handling the emergency well and have been able to continue providing services through telephonic and/or video conferencing. Family and youth involvement has remained about the same as in-person meetings. Some concerns were raised such as lack of adequate technology and quality of adapted services. Providers reported particular concern (i.e. receiving consistent guidance and honoring existing contracts) on the financial impact of COVID-19 and their ability to retain the highly-trained staff needed to provide services to their clients and families.

At the end of their report, Senator Mason asked about the issue of honoring existing contracts. Mr. Reiner explained that CSA is limited in its authority to direct localities with regard to contractual matters. If a locality chooses to operate under an existing contract despite variations in the services delivered due to the pandemic, CSA will reimburse the state's share for that contract. CSA does not have authority to mediate a dispute between a locality and a provider and the CSA office has no official position on these matters, which would be referred to the CPMT for mediation. After the discussion, it was noted that this is an issue that needs to be addressed going forward.

Status Updates

Updates were provided on the following areas/projects:

- Return to School Status (public schools) – Dr. Samantha Hollins, VDOE
- Return to School Status (private day schools) – Ron Spears (Elk Hill) and Rick Leichtweis (INOVA)
- Child Welfare/Child Protective Services During COVID-19 – Kristin Zagar, VDSS
- Family First Prevention Services Act – Kristin Zager, VDSS
- Behavioral Health Enhancement – Dr. Alyssa Ward, DMAS

Public Comment II

There was no public comment.

Closing Remarks and Adjournment

In closing, Secretary Carey thanked everyone for their commitment to serving youth and families during these challenging times.

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 11:35 a.m.