

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

**MINUTES
August 3, 2023**

Members Present: Rebecca Vinroot, SLAT Chair, CPMT - DSS Representative; Mills Jones, SLAT Vice-Chair - CSA Coordinators Network; Katharine Hunter DBHDS; Cristy Corbin, Parent Representative; Em Parente, DSS (*virtually*); Lesley Abashian, CPMT – Local Government Representative (*virtually*); Laura Reed, DMAS; Kyndra Jackson, VDH; Shannon Updike, VCOPPA; Linda McWilliams, DJJ; The Honorable Marilynn Goss, Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court Representative; Lisa Madron, CPMT – CSB Representative

Members Absent: Susan Aylor, CPMT – School Representative; Sabrina Gross, DOE; William Stanley, CPMT – CSU Representative

CSA Staff Members Present: Stephanie Bacote, Mary Bell, Marsha Mucha, Scott Reiner, Kristi Schabo

Welcome/Opening

Rebecca Vinroot, SLAT Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m. and welcomed everyone. Introductions were made.

Public Comment Period

Two public comments were made by:

- Kathy Halvorsen (Powhatan County parent)
- Cheryl Sims (Goochland County grandmother)

Both Mrs. Halvorsen and Mrs. Sims spoke on behalf of and advocated for their child and grandchildren, respectively.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the May 4, 2023 meeting were approved on a motion by Cristy Corbin, seconded by Shannon Updike and carried.

Status Items

- SLAT Bylaws – Members received a copy of the SLAT bylaws with suggested revisions. No further comment was made. The revised SLAT bylaws were approved on a motion by Mills Jones, seconded by Cristy Corbin and carried. The bylaws will be presented to the SEC for final approval at their September 14, 2023 meeting.
- FAPT Retreat Resource Manual – Mr. Jones reported that the workgroup, with support from OCS Program Consultant, Courtney Sexton, is developing examples of materials (i.e. agendas, etc.) and related resources, training options/activities in support of team building to include in the FAPT Retreat Resource Manual. The workgroup will make a presentation of materials at the November 2, 2023 SLAT meeting.

SEC Report

Mrs. Vinroot reported that the SEC last met on June 8, 2023 and devoted most of the meeting to strategic planning. She noted that members had the opportunity to rotate through and brainstorm in three primary areas to develop draft goals/metrics for 2024-2025.

She also reported that she presented on SLAT's findings from their analysis of the three-tiered match rate system. Based on the SLAT report, the SEC decided not to take any further action or consider any changes to the match rate system. Mrs. Vinroot further reported that the SEC was very appreciative of SLAT's review and report on the match rate system.

OCS Updates

Mr. Reiner reported on the following:

- Legislative/Budget Update - Adoption of the state budget is pending. Due to the delay in adopting a budget and to remain in compliance with the requirement in the current state budget, a rate setting model will be implementation for private day special education programs for the 2023-2024 school year. CSA will reimburse localities for private day special education tuition for the 2023-2024 school year at a level no higher than a statewide two percent rate above the rates established for the 2022-2023 school year.
- Co-Pay Policy Workgroup – Kristi Schabo, CSA Senior Policy and Planning Specialist, reported that the workgroup continues to develop a model parental contribution policy, best practices and guidance to assist localities with developing their own parental contribution policies. The workgroup plans to have a product available for the November 2, 2023 SLAT meeting.
- Service Gap Survey – Carrie Thompson, CSA Research Associate Senior, reported that the Service Gap Survey data has been received and is being compiled. (This was a full Survey year.) The information will be accessible for ease of utilization of the findings.
- Time-to-Service Study – Carrie Thompson reported Individual CSA offices received a survey and data collection tool in order to determine the length of time from referral to CSA to service delivery. Data was collected over a two-month period. This was the first year for the survey which was required by the General Assembly.
- CSA Annual Conference - Mary Bell, CSA Program Coordinator, reported that CSA's 12th Annual Conference would be held at the Hotel Roanoke and Conference Center, October 17 and 18, 2023. Pre-conference sessions for CSA coordinators, members of FAPTs and CPMTs will held on October 16, 2023. A number of Conference proposals for breakout sessions have been received and are under review.

New Business – SEC Strategic Planning

Mrs. Vinroot asked members to review the draft SEC Strategic Plan Development document and provide feedback to Kristi Schabo at OCS with a copy to Mrs. Vinroot. Feedback is due by August 18, 2023.

OCS will send the document out in an email to all SLAT members.

Member Updates

Members reported that they continue to monitor the pending state budget. They also reported for their agencies and organizations on ongoing projects, new programs, conferences and other on-going activities. Members continue to work within their agencies and advocate through their associations for improvements to services and service delivery for the children, youth, and families of Virginia.

- VDH is currently recruiting youth advisors for the fall. They will work to engage adolescents in public health through Virginia's Youth Advisory Council.
- DJJ is in the process of renegotiating the contract for the regional services coordination model.
- DJJ, DMAS and DSS will participate in special sessions of CSA Office Hours, which begin again in September 2023.
- DSS is continuing the pilot program (Exceptional Circumstances Payment) that enhances payments to qualifying foster care families on a limited basis to those foster care families caring for children with high levels of need. DSS now has six professional foster care homes available (one parent does not work outside of the home). Four of the six homes have placements.
- DHBDS is closely monitoring the pending state budget as the budget includes funding that would provide for the expansion of school-based mental health services and expansion of the statewide crisis services system.
- The Virginia Mental Health Access Program has received grant funding from SAMHSA.
- DMAS behavioral health fee-for-service programs will be administered by Magellan as of November 1, 2023.
- DMAS is transitioning to Cardinal Care, which will combine two benefit programs into one pending approval from CMS.
- Prince William County has launched a youth fentanyl overdose prevention campaign.
- The Virginia Family Network is planning a Parent Learning Institute for the fall and VALHSO will host its fall conference September 26 and 27, 2023 in Chesterfield.

Adjournment

There being no other business, the meeting adjourned at 12:00 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for November 2, 2023.