

August 5, 2021
STATE & LOCAL ADVISORY TEAM (SLAT)
CHILDREN'S SERVICES ACT
1604 Santa Rosa Road, Suite 137
Richmond/Henrico Rooms
Richmond, VA 23229

Members Present: Lesley Abashian, SLAT Chair, CPMT – Local Government Representative; Rebecca Vinroot, SLAT Vice-Chair, CPMT – local DSS Representative; Lisa Madron, CPMT – CSB Representative; Em Parente, DSS; Ashley Harrell, DMAS; Jessica Webb, CSA Coordinators Network; Sabrina Gross, DOE; The Honorable Ashley Tunner, Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court Representative; Nina Marino, DBHDS; William Stanley, CPMT – local CSU Representative; Cristy Corbin, Parent Representative; Michael Triggs, VCOPPA

Members Absent: Jeannine Uzel, VDH; Linda McWilliams, DJJ; Susan Aylor, CPMT – School Representative

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

Welcome/Opening

Lesley Abashian called the meeting to order at 9:33 a.m. and she welcomed everyone back to the in-person meeting. She introduced William Stanley, Director of the 12th District Court Service Unit (CSU) in Chesterfield as the new CSU primary representative to SLAT. Mrs. Abashian also noted that Angela Neely representing local schools had moved to a new position.

Public Comment Period

Public comment was given by Mary Ottinot, a parent from Fairfax. She noted that she was a registered nurse, and parent advocate who moved to Virginia from Chicago. She has three children with disabilities.

She spoke about her concerns and the difficulties she has experienced in navigating human services where she resides. Ms. Ottinot expressed the need for better accountability and oversight in regard to the interactions between parents and those who work in and oversee human services in Virginia. She also noted several recommendations for improvements to Virginia's human services system.

Mrs. Abashian and Mrs. Corbin plan to follow-up with Ms. Ottinot.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the May 6, 2021 meeting were approved on a motion by Nina Marino, seconded by Lisa Madron and carried.

New SLAT Member Orientation Update

Mrs. Abashian reported that yesterday she forwarded a draft of the proposed items to be included in an orientation package for new SLAT members. She asked members if they would review the package when they could and provide feedback to her.

For today's discussion, members received a one-page document with their meeting materials on the role of SLAT. Mrs. Abashian asked members if there was any feedback on the document. Several suggestions were made including the addition of where the SLAT role comes from; inclusion of family

voice and examples of work assignments SLAT has completed. SLAT members should provide additional feedback to Mrs. Abashian.

SLAT Role in CSA Policy

Mrs. Vinroot explained that recently a policy/practice question was raised that called attention to the fact that the particular policy discussed was inconsistent with some local practices. She used this as example to encourage others to call or ask OCS if they have policy/practice questions or come across areas of concern in regard to policy and practice.

Mr. Reiner noted that one of the responsibilities of SLAT is to advise the State Executive Council (SEC) on policy matters. He noted that SLAT members should serve as the voice of the constituencies they represent and SLAT would be an appropriate forum for discussion of policy clarification.

Family First – How’s It’s Going and What’s Next?

Em Parente reported on behalf of VDSS. She reported that as of July 1, 2021 the federal funding is now available. VDSS has submitted plans to the federal government for expansion of evidence-based services as more are needed across the state.

Currently there are 48 approved QRTP’s and 11 pending applications. VDSS continues to work on the procedure for accessing the new evidence-based services and billing clarification so that payments for QRTP services are billed to the correct payment source. VDSS is also working with OCS on extracting local level data from the Local Expenditure, Data Set and Reimbursement System (LEDRS) for Family First data collection purposes.

There was a discussion about the Family First requirements for clearly measurable short-term and long-term goals linked to evidence-based practice services. It was noted that the local CSAs share this requirement for FAPT approved services and that the Family First team should build on that existing practice.

Lessons Learned/Operational Changes from Pandemic

Mrs. Abashian noted that many changes have been made operationally due to the on-going pandemic. She asked members to provide her with their thoughts on the use of virtual FAPT/CPMT meetings and whether or not use of the virtual meetings has been effective.

Items to consider are family availability, technology and public meeting requirements. Jessica Webb reported that the CSA Coordinators’ Network is looking at this issue. She noted that, for her, the pros outweigh the cons. Mrs. Webb will request that the CSA Coordinators’ group compile a summary of best practices for virtual FAPT meetings to be shared with SLAT at their November meeting.

SEC Strategic Plan Workgroups Updates

- Leadership and Collective Action – Mrs. Abashian presented the report to the SEC at their June meeting. During a discussion of next steps, SLAT members were asked to endorse the report as SLAT begins to more directly work to implement recommendations made in the report. A motion was made to endorse the report by Michael Triggs, seconded by Rebecca Vinroot and carried.
- Empowering Families and Communities – Cristy Corbin reported on behalf of the Workgroup. A draft Family and Youth Guide to CSA will be sent out for feedback. Next steps include development of distribution strategies for the Guide and development of other related products.

OCS Report

Scott Reiner reported on the following items:

- *Introduction of New OCS Staff Member* – Mary Bell has joined the OCS staff as a Program Consultant. She was previously the CSA Coordinator in Prince George County.
- *Annual CSA Conference* – The Conference will be held virtually on October 28 and 29. The keynote speaker will be Dr. DeLacy Davis. Dr. Davis founded Black Cops Against Police Brutality in 1991 and is the author of *Black Cops Against Police Brutality: A Crisis Action Plan*.
- *Workgroups* – Updates were provided on three workgroups:
 - OCS staff members are participating in a Workgroup on the interface of the FAPT and IACCT (Medicaid) processes in admissions of youth into psychiatric residential treatment facilities after a stay in acute psychiatric care.
 - Meetings are underway to develop a plan to direct the transfer of CSA funds currently reserved for children requiring an educational placement in a private special education day school or residential facility to VDOE.
 - Work is beginning on Implementation of a process to work with local programs that are consistently underperforming. Interviews will be held next week for a CSA Program Consultant to assist with this activity.
- *EBP Readiness Training Events* – OCS is engaged in cross-agency efforts to improve outcomes for evidence-based programs. To date, three virtual local team events, “Virginia Are You Ready” have been held with approximately 600 in attendance.

Member Updates

Members reported on activities and the statuses of ongoing projects, new programs and grant opportunities. 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.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 12:10 p.m. on a motion by Cristy Corbin, seconded by Sabrina Gross and carried. The next meeting is scheduled for November 4, 2021.