

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

**MINUTES  
August 1, 2024**

**Members Present:** Mills Jones, SLAT Chair; Shannon Updike, VCOPPA; Patty Smith, DMAS; Grace Hughes, VDH; Sabrina Gross, DOE; Amy Swift, CPMT – DSS Representative; William Stanley, CPMT – CSU Representative; Kristina Williams-Pugh, CPMT – School Representative; Lesley Abashian, CPMT – Local Government Representative; Em Parente, VDSS (*virtually*); Matt Luther, DARS; The Honorable Marilynn Goss, Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court Representative; Sandy Bryant, CPMT – CSB Representative (*virtually*)

**Members Absent:** Kari Savage, DBHDS; Cristy Corbin, Parent Representative; Sabrina Gross, DOE; Linda McWilliams, DJJ

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

**Welcome/Opening**

Mills Jones called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m. and welcomed everyone. Introductions were made. Mr. Jones thanked Shannon Updike for chairing the May meeting in his absence.

**Public Comment Period**

There were no public comments.

**Approval of Minutes**

The minutes of the May 2, 2024 meeting were approved on a motion by Lesley Abashian, seconded by Amy Swift and carried.

**Workgroup Updates**

The Commission on Youth (COY) held its second Relief of Custody Roundtable yesterday. A wide group of stakeholders were in attendance. Issues discussed included: family readiness for services, provider availability and CHINS-foster care policies.

Two more meetings are planned before a final report is made by COY.

**Status Items**

Kristi Schabo reported:

- *Policy 4.1.1 – Eligibility as a Child in Need of Services (CHINS)*  
Ms. Schabo reported that a stakeholder workgroup had developed a draft revised policy 4.1.1 to align the policy with current statutes and practices. Ms. Schabo further reported that a Notice of Intent to Develop/Revise Policy for Policy 4.1.1. had been presented at the State Executive Council's June meeting for their consideration of a 45-day public comment period.

Ms. Schabo noted that changes made to the VDSS definition of foster care placement only pertain to foster care cases under the VDSS's purview. Because of that change, the CSA's ability to serve CHINS

through community-based services to prevent foster care placements no longer exists. To correct this issue, a statutory change to add CHINS to CSA eligibility would need to be made.

During the SEC's discussions at their June meeting, members discussed whether or not to disseminate the notice of intent to revise the policy for a 45-day public comment period or to address the needed statutory change. The SEC agreed to table the intent to revise the policy and to address the statutory change. Delegate Coyner, Senator Van Valkenburg, Carl Ayers, and Judge Logan will work on the project.

- *Policy 4.5.2 – Time Frames Regarding CSA Pool Fund Reimbursement*  
At its June meeting, the SEC approved revised draft policy 4.5.2 for a 60-day public comment period ending August 16, 2024.
- *Policy 4.3 – “Carve-out” of Allocation for Development of New/Expanded Services (Adopted April 30, 2013)*  
At its June meeting, the SEC approved a Notice of Intent to Develop/Revise Policy for Policy 4.3. for a 45-day public comment period, which ends today. The notice of intent is to repeal the policy that has never been utilized, as the required funds have not been appropriated to allow for the activities addressed in the policy.
- *Policy 6.3 – Community-Based Behavioral Health Services*  
This is the next policy under review. Language in the policy will be changed to make the policy less prescriptive.
- *SEC Strategic Plan* - SLAT will form two workgroups to focus on areas of the SEC's Strategic Plan. A SLAT workgroup will develop a model strategic plan template for localities to use as a tool in developing their own strategic plans. SLAT will also convene a workgroup to develop a model CSA intake form. SLAT members were asked to volunteer for the workgroups. Amy Swift and Em Parente will serve on the Model Strategic Plan Template Workgroup. Lesley Abashian and Shannon Updike agreed to serve on the Model CSA Intake Form Workgroup.

### **SEC Report**

Mr. Jones reported on the following items from the June 13, 2024 SEC meeting:

- As reported earlier, the SEC approved several draft revised policies for public comment.
- Dr. Alexis Aplasca and Mira Signer presented on Governor Youngkin's youth mental health and wellbeing initiative and Safe and Sound.
- The SEC approved the OCS Training Plan for FY2025 and received the FY2024 OCS Training Progress Report.
- The SEC approved new and reappointed SLAT members.

### **OCS Updates**

Ms. Schabo provided updates in the following areas:

- The 13<sup>th</sup> Annual CSA Conference will be held in Roanoke on October 16 and 17, 2024. A pre-conference session will be held on October 15, 2024, for CSA Coordinators, members of CPMTs, and FAPTS. The registration fee is being waived for parent representatives who serve on FAPTS and CPMTs.
- A family guide video has been completed and is available under the Parents and Families link on the CSA website. It is also available on CSA – YouTube.
- A new one-step process has been developed for localities to request their administrative funding allocations. The new process will only require the locality's fiscal agent's approval.
- Revised SEC Policy 4.2 – Payment for Services and Change of Legal Residence, became effective July 1, 2024.

- The CSA User Guide is in the process of being updated.

### **New Business**

- CANS Training and Use – Amy Swift, the local DSS representative to SLAT, noted that additional training and support are needed at the local level on the CANS assessment instrument. She further noted that localities are not properly utilizing CANS for service planning. Mr. Reiner reported that OCS staff members Carol Wilson and Anna Antell provide training on request on CANS and service planning. Localities should contact them if they would like a training in their locality.
- Fiscal Shared Responsibility – Ms. Swift also asked SLAT members to consider and discuss the issue of shared fiscal responsibilities between local dollars, Title IV-E reimbursements and CSA pool funds. Localities may have to fund services that local budgets are not prepared to absorb when Title IV-E and CSA are unable to pay (i.e. when a child care facility is provisionally licensed).

During discussion, Mr. Reiner reported that there is a Title IV-E Shared Fiscal Accountability and Management Plan that was developed between VDSS, local DSS departments and OCS. Em Parente suggested that Ms. Swift discuss these concerns with Nikole Cox, Family Services Director at VDSS.

- Family Input Survey Results – SLAT members received and reviewed the results of the survey that captured information on whether or not a FAPT/CPMT asked for input/feedback from youth and families and, if so, how the information is captured and how the locality utilizes the input/feedback.

Members discussed how to convey the survey results to the SEC. Ms. Schabo asked members to review for further discussion at the November meeting.

### **Member Updates**

Members reported for their agencies and organizations on their projects, new programs, other ongoing activities and workforce issues. 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.

- DMAS reported that they are working on a Behavioral Health Redesign which will be a two-year project through June 2026. DBHDS is participating in the project with DMAS.
- The 21<sup>st</sup> Central Virginia CSA Training and Resource Day will be held on from 9 to 3 on Friday, September 20, 2024 in Midlothian.
- A NAMI VA Mental Health Conference and Youth and Family Summit will be held on September 26 at the Inn at Virginia Tech. There is no cost to attend. Youth, families, peer support providers, and mental health professionals are encouraged to register and attend.
- Over the next two years, CSBs will be working to develop crisis receiving centers and mobile crisis teams in an effort to offer crisis response across the state.

### **Adjournment**

There being no other business, the meeting adjourned at 12:00 p.m. on a motion by Lesley Abashian, seconded by Shannon Updike and carried. The next meeting is scheduled for November 7, 2024.