

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

**MINUTES  
November 2, 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; Laura Reed, DMAS (*virtually*); Kyndra Jackson, VDH (*virtually*); Shannon Updike, VCOPPA; The Honorable Marilyn Goss, Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court Representative; Sandy Bryant, CPMT – CSB Representative (*virtually*); William Stanley, CPMT – CSU Representative

**Members Absent:** Susan Aylor, CPMT – School Representative; Sabrina Gross, DOE; Linda McWilliams, DJJ

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

**Welcome/Opening**

Rebecca Vinroot, SLAT Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:35 a.m. and welcomed everyone. Introductions were made.

**Public Comment Period**

There were no public comments.

**Approval of Minutes**

The minutes of the August 3, 2023 meeting were approved on a motion by Lesley Abashian, seconded by Mills Jones and carried.

**Status Items**

- FAPT Retreat Resource Manual – Lesley Abashian reported that the workgroup, with support from OCS Program Consultant, Courtney Sexton, developed the document that SLAT members received today. The document includes examples of materials (i.e. agendas, etc.) and related resources, training options/activities in support of team building as a resource to assist with training of FAPTs. Members were asked to send feedback to Mrs. Abashian.
- Policy Update - Kristi Schabo, Senior Policy and Planning Specialist for OCS presented three Notices of Intent to Develop/Revise SEC policies. The Notices of Intent were approved by the SEC at their September 14, 2023 meeting for a 45-day public comment period. The public comment period ended on October 30, 2023 with one comment received. The policies were:
  - Policy 2.4 – Public Participation in Policy-Making Actions
  - Policy 3.4 – Dispute Resolution Process
  - Policy 4.2 – Payment for Services and Change of Legal Residence – Mr. Reiner reported that since the policy review began, it has become necessary to make more substantive changes

to this policy, which the SEC will address at their December 14, 2023 meeting. These changes are necessary to provide additional clarification regarding the processes related to the transfer of CSA cases due to a child/family's change of legal residence.

Ms. Schabo reviewed each of the proposed changes/ additions to the policies. She further explained that next steps would entail a 60-day public comment period on the proposed/revised policies, if that action is approved by the SEC at their December 14, 2023 meeting.

### **SEC Report**

Mrs. Vinroot reported that the SEC last met on September 14, 2023 and discussed/developed goals/metrics for the SEC Strategic Plan. She noted that SLAT members were provided with a copy of the document developed as a result of that work. Mrs. Vinroot asked that members submit feedback to her as the SEC will be voting on the Strategic Plan at their December 14, 2023 meeting.

She also reported that the revised SLAT bylaws were submitted to the SEC and approved at their September 14, 2023 meeting. A copy of the updated SLAT bylaws has been distributed to the SLAT membership.

The Safe and Sound Task Force has developed a Universal Referral Form for residential treatment facilities, which is one standard form can be used to send to multiple providers concerning a potential placement. Mrs. Vinroot noted that she has not had any feedback on the use of the form.

### **OCS Updates**

Mr. Reiner reported on the following:

- Legislative/Budget Update – The state budget has been adopted and the implementation of private day special education rate-setting repealed.
- Summary of CSA Utilization and Expenditure Data – FY 2023 – Mr. Reiner reviewed several documents provided to the SLAT membership about CSA and CSA utilization and expenditures for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2023.
- Upcoming CHINS/CSA Parental Agreement Workgroup – A workgroup will be convened after the first of the year to work on this project. SLAT members will be invited to participate.
- Time-to-Service Study – The Study has been concluded. OCS is waiting on approval before it can be released.
- Bench Cards – Both the SEC and the Center for Evidence-based Practices recommended the development of a “bench card” that juvenile and domestic relations district court judges could have available while on the bench. The cards will include a listing of evidence-based practices and will be available soon.
- CSA Conference Recap - Mary Bell, CSA Program Coordinator, reported that CSA's 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference was held at the Hotel Roanoke and Conference Center, on October 17 and 18, 2023, with over 500 participants. Pre-conference sessions for CSA coordinators, members of FAPTs, and CPMTs were held on October 16, 2023. Next year's Conference will be held on October 16 and 17, 2024 with pre-conference sessions held on October 15, 2024.
- Model Parental Co-Payment Policy – Kristi Schabo, CSA Senior Policy and Planning Specialist, reported that a model parental contribution policy has been developed including best practices and guidance to assist localities with developing their own parental contribution policies. The policy is being vetted by the Attorney General's Office for presentation at the SEC's December 14, 2023 meeting.

### **New Business – FY 2024 Officers**

Mrs. Vinroot reported that this would be her last meeting as SLAT Chair. She noted that, per the SLAT bylaws, the SLAT Vice-Chair may assume the duties of the SLAT Chair in case of a vacancy. A Nominating Committee will be appointed at the February 2024 SLAT meeting to work on nominations for the upcoming year (beginning July 1, 2024). An election of officers will be held at the May 2024 SLAT meeting.

Mr. Reiner thanked Mrs. Vinroot for her service to the SLAT and wished her well in the future.

### **Member Updates**

Members reported for their agencies and organizations on ongoing projects, new programs, conferences, and other ongoing 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 has been recruiting youth to serve on Virginia's Youth Advisory Council which encourages youth to become involved in the public health of their communities.
- VDSS is focusing on the “Kin First Now” initiative that invests in relative foster care placements of youth.
- VDSS Family Services participated in the CSA Office Hours in October 2023.
- DHBDS received funding in the state budget to provide for the expansion of school-based mental health services and the expansion of community-based crisis stabilization.
- DMAS behavioral health fee-for-service programs will be administered by Magellan as of November 1, 2023.
- DMAS has submitted a budget request for additional funding for youth behavioral health services (Project BRAVO, Phase 2).
- On behalf of the CSA Coordinators Network, Mills Jones thanked OCS for hosting the CSA Conference, the OCS Audit Team for their workshops at the Conference, and the recent OCS Office Hours with representatives from VDSS.
- Judge Goss reported that November 18, 2023, is National Adoption Day. This is an annual program for families to connect with the juvenile and domestic relations district courts in celebration of and to raise awareness of adoption.
- Cristy Corbin reported on activities of the Virginia Family Network and ways in which parents and youth can become informed and involved. She also thanked OCS for the family-focused content of the CSA Conference.
- The Virginia Association of Local Human Services Officials (VALHSO) held its Fall Conference in September.

### **Adjournment**

There being no other business, the meeting adjourned at 11:30 a.m. on a motion by Lesley Abashian, seconded by Mills Jones and carried. The next meeting is scheduled for February 1, 2024.