

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

**MINUTES  
November 7, 2024**

**Members Present:** Mills Jones, SLAT Chair; Shannon Updike, VCOPPA (*virtually*); Oketa Winn, DMAS; Grace Hughes, VDH; Amy Swift, CPMT – DSS Representative (*virtually*); William Stanley, CPMT – CSU Representative; Em Parente, VDSS (*virtually*); Patti Hodge, DARS; The Honorable Marilyn Goss, Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court Representative; Katharine Hunter, DBHDS; Cristy Corbin, Parent Representative; Linda McWilliams, DJJ

**Members Absent:** Sabrina Gross, DOE; Kristina Williams-Pugh, CPMT – School Representative; Lesley Abashian, CPMT – Local Government Representative; Sandy Bryant, CPMT – CSB Representative

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

**Welcome/Opening**

Mills Jones called the meeting to order at 9:35 a.m. and welcomed everyone. Introductions were made. Mr. Jones noted that he had heard from colleagues how wonderful and informative the OCS Conference had been.

**Public Comment Period**

There were no public comments.

**Approval of Minutes**

The August 1, 2024, meeting minutes were approved on a motion by Marilyn Goss, seconded by Cristy Corbin, and carried.

**Workgroup Updates**

Two SLAT workgroups have been convened to focus on areas of the SEC's Strategic Plan:

- A SLAT workgroup is developing a model strategic plan template for localities to use to develop their own strategic plans. Amy Swift and Em Parente serve on the Model Strategic Plan Template Workgroup.
- A SLAT workgroup is also developing a model CSA intake form. Lesley Abashian and Shannon Updike serve on the Model CSA Intake Form Workgroup. Members received and discussed a draft CSA Intake Form. A suggestion was made to include a field for an OASIS number.

**Status Items**

Mills Jones and Scott Reiner reported:

- Family Input Survey – Mr. Jones reported that SLAT members had received for their review the results of the CSA Family Input Survey (conducted at the request of the SEC) 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. A synopsis of the survey results will be presented at the SEC's December 12, 2024 meeting.

Policy Update – Mr. Reiner reported on the status of several SEC policy reviews. Two policies have been out for an initial 45-day public comment period that ended November 1, 2024. Repeal of *SEC Policy 4.4.2 – Medicaid Funded Services* as a verbatim restatement of language included in the Appropriation Act since 2009. *SEC Policy 4.5.3 – Administrative Funds* would revise the existing policy to align with a new administrative funding process utilized by OCS that is more streamlined and accessible by localities.

Neither policy received any public comment during the 45-day public comment period. Both policies will be recommended to the SEC at its December 12, 2024 meeting for a 60-day public comment period.

Mr. Reiner further reported that *SEC Policy 4.3 – “Carve-out” of Allocation for Development of New/Expanded Services (Adopted April 30, 2013)* is currently out for a 60-day public comment period ending November 18, 2024. The policy would be repealed. The policy has never been utilized, as the required funds have not been appropriated to allow for the activities addressed in the policy.

No public comments have been received to date. The SEC is expected to take final action on the policy at its December 12, 2024 meeting.

*SEC Policy 6.3 – Community-Based Behavioral Health Services* is under review. The language will be changed to be less prescriptive.

## **SEC Report**

Mr. Jones reported on the following items from the September 12, 2024 SEC meeting:

- A discussion was held on shared fiscal responsibility, especially between local dollars, Title IV-E reimbursements, and the CSA pool fund. Localities may have to fund services that local budgets are unprepared to absorb when Title IV-E and CSA cannot pay (i.e., when a childcare facility is provisionally licensed). Discussions between VDOE and VDSS concerning provisionally licensed childcare facilities are ongoing.
- In a review of the SEC's Strategic Plan, SEC members discussed how the SEC might acknowledge areas of local excellence and best practices.
- SEC members received an update on revisions to the CHINS policy. During that discussion, it was 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 will be introduced in the 2025 General Assembly Session to include CHINS as an eligible population for CSA. The proposed legislation will have no fiscal impact.

## **OCS Updates**

Mr. Reiner provided updates in the following areas:

- A budget proposal has been put forward so that localities would no longer receive a base allocation. One pool of sum sufficient funding would be available to reimburse localities, thereby eliminating the necessity of the supplemental process.
- Total CSA expenditures for FY2024 were \$550M, up approximately \$68M from the previous year.
- OCS has recently released several new tools, including an updated CSA User Guide, updated CSA and Special Education guidance, and new CANVaS reports, which are available on the CSA dashboard.

### **New Business**

Mr. Reiner highlighted revisions to the draft SLAT bylaws. He noted action would not be taken on the revisions until the February 6, 2025 SLAT meeting. Major revisions include:

- Article VI – Election of Officers – The term of office changed from one to two years, with no individual serving more than two consecutive terms in the same office.
- Article VII – Meetings—Provides for members or designated alternates to virtually participate in meetings following the parameters of SEC Policy 2.1.3.

### **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 Virginia's children, youth, and families.

- VDH - A new mental health toolkit has been developed for use by school nurses.
- VDSS is continuing to prepare for the Title IV-E review and a Child and Family Services Review, which focuses on comprehensive practice behaviors and outcomes for families.
- DMAS reported that they are working on a Behavioral Health Redesign, a two-year project that will run through June 2026. DBHDS is participating in the DMAS project.
- DARS appreciated the opportunity to present at the CSA conference. Their presentation was well received, and they have been asked to make a presentation for the Hampton-Newport News CSB.
- The CSA Coordinator Network has 17 mentors working with 21 CSA coordinators. CSA coordinators continue to serve on various workgroups and track issues of interest to their localities. Mr. Jones thanked OCS Senior Program Consultant Carol Wilson for her presentation on the Kinship Parent-Child Safety Program.
- Cristy Corbin thanked OCS for covering the registration fee, which allowed parent representatives to attend the CSA Conference.

### **Adjournment**

There being no other business, the meeting adjourned at 11:20 a.m. on a motion by Cristy Corbin, seconded by William Stanley and carried. The next meeting is scheduled for February 6, 2025.