Family and Children's Trust Fund (FACT)
Child Abuse and Neglect Committee Minutes

The meeting was called to order by Committee Chair Betty Wade Coyle at 10:04 AM on Thursday, June 2nd, 2016.The meeting included: Nicole Poulin, Rita Katzman, Maribel Saimre, Anya Shaffer, Heather Board, Kathy Jones, Cedric Moore, John Oliver, Melissa O'Neill and Amy Marschean. Ms. Coyle announced that Craig Patterson was not able to make the meeting due to unexpected circumstances.

Following introductions and a review of the agenda, Ms. Poulin explained that due to a miscommunication, the December minutes were not available to review and approve. Ms. Coyle indicated that a copy would be provided to the committee members prior to the September meeting, at which time, both the December and June minutes would be voted on.

Ms. Poulin provided an update on FACT's activities over the past several months. 10 local service grants have been awarded to non-profit programs throughout the Commonwealth for work focused on trauma informed care; these are two year initiatives that will begin in July, 2016. FACT has exhibited and presented at several state wide conferences in the last two months. FACT will be working on a new "branding" campaign in coming months that will include the availability of an on-line donor portal. The first edition in a series of issues briefs on trauma across the life span will be released in June. Updates to the on-line data portal are being made in response to recommendations provided by FACT's Editorial and Planning Committee. FACT continues to participate in the Vision 21 Initiative in an advisement capacity through participation in the "Partner Advisory Team" (PAT) committee.

Discussion took place around progress related to the Vision 21 Initiative including questions related to the screen tool(s), training curriculum and intended venues of implementation. Ms. Poulin will be attending the June 9th PAT meeting and learn more. The Committee will invite Vision 21 Manager, Laurie Crawford and the Manager of the Office of Family Violence, Nancy Fowler, to the September meeting for an update and review of goals for the initiative.

Following Ms. Poulin's report, Ms. Katzman provided an update on the Child and Family Services Review (CFSR) process. CFSR is a federal review that examines safety, permanency, and well-being outcomes and agency systemic factors related to child welfare. The current "Round" of this process will be a "self-review" conducted by the state to occur April-September, 2017. The two prior "Rounds" were conducted by reviewers with the federal Children's Bureau in different localities in Virginia. The purpose of the review is to ensure conformity with federal child welfare requirements, to determine what is actually happening to children and families in child welfare services, and to assist states in helping children and families achieve positive outcomes. The systemic factors measured by the CFSRs include the effectiveness of the State's systems for child welfare information, case review, and quality assurance; training of child welfare staff, parents, and other stakeholders; the services that support children

and families; the agency's responsiveness to the community; and foster and adoptive parent licensing, recruitment, and retention. A sample selection of case files will be reviewed and stakeholder interviews and surveys will be conducted as part of this process. Discussion took place around the complexities and challenges associated with capturing accurate permanency rates of children through this process.

Ms. Katzman provided an update on CPS legislation (a written summary was distributed).

- HB 600-*Child Welfare Mandates* was passed as a result of the enactment of two pieces of federal legislation (Preventing Sex Trafficking and Strengthening Families) and Justice for Victims of Trafficking Act of 2015. As the result of passage of this bill Virginia will be in compliance with federal law.
- HB 674-*Kinship Foster Care-Waiver of Foster Home Approval Standards* allows the Commissioner of Social Services or designee to review the local board of social services' reasoning and decision to grant a waiver to relatives from the standards and to ensure that what is being waived is not a safety standard.
- SB 417- *Unauthorized Practice of Law* codifies current practice related to the filing of documents with the courts by LDSS staff.

Budget bills review included:

- Item 434 #1c- *Facilitated Care Reporting Pilot Project* requires DSS to conduct a pilot project on data collection and reporting for local departments of social services in the western region of the state regarding facilitated care arrangements.
- Item 346 #1h- *Pilot Project-Temporary Placement of Children in Crisis* directs DSS to establish a pilot program in partnership with Patrick Henry Family Services in Planning District 11 to provide temporary placements for children ~~in~~ whose families are in crisis.
- Item 346 #3c- *Authority for Fostering Futures Program* provides DSS with the authority to implement the Fostering Futures Program and develop guidance on eligibility and services for local implementation of foster care children who have reached the age of 18 but have not reached the age of 21
- Item 348 #1c- *Child Advocacy Centers of Virginia* provides an additional $300,000 each year from the general fund for Child Advocacy Centers of Virginia to handle the increase in caseloads and coverage areas.
- Item 348 #4c- *Healthy Families* provides an additional $4.7 million in TANF funding to Healthy Families

Ms. Katzman provided an update on CPS activities and provided a summary of the Foster Care diversion program in Mr. Patterson's absence. CPS currently manages over $16 million for over 100 contracts. Some of these are funded through formula

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grants, some through a competitive RFP process. Healthy Families funding is an example of a formula based funding that was established in 2015. 20 applications are currently being reviewed for $1.8 million allocated through a competitive process for Child Abuse Treatment, Enhancement of Services and Evidence-Based, Trauma Informed Service implementation. Mr. Oliver requested a summary of those projects funded once the award process was completed. In addition to grant funding, CPS is focusing efforts on updating policy guidance around working with substance exposed children.

The Foster Care Diversion Program is a diversion data pilot established by the General Assembly to begin in July, 2016. (A written summary was distributed). DSS will conduct a pilot project on data collection and reporting for local departments of social services regarding foster care diversion (Ms. Katzman indicated the program is now described by the General Assembly as "facilitated care management"). Over 22 pilot sites will be participating with a goal of the development of best practice guidance, proposed necessary regulatory and/or code changes, guidance on future data collection and request for further technical assistance.

Ms. Katzman provided a brief summary of the Safe Families Pilot initiative. (A written summary was distributed). DSS will partner with Patrick Henry Family Services to evaluate the Safe Families children model as an alternative to placement in foster care for children in Planning District 11. She also shared information on a recent application submitted by DSS Family Services to the Three Branch Institute, a partnership between the National Conference of State Legislatures and the National Governors Association. The Institute is designed to bring the three branches of government together to develop an action plan to address the most pressing child welfare issues. This is accomplished with a national convening of all the teams, as well as regular in-state meetings among the three branches. The focus of the current initiative is on Improving Child Safety and Preventing Child Fatalities. The goal is to help participating states develop an integrated and comprehensive approach for increasing the safety of children known to the child welfare system or at risk of child welfare involvement. Virginia's proposal focuses on enhancing "predictive analytics", with three goals: 1) increase understanding of risk and protective factors that are predictive of/associated with child maltreatment and child fatalities, 2) assess the effectiveness of existing screening, safety and risk tools and explore the development of new or expanded policies, practices and protocols, and 3) strengthen existing efforts to improve child welfare practice through primary prevention and family engagement strategies. Core Team members include representatives from VDSS, DMAS, the Virginia Senate, the Virginia House of Delegates, and the Virginia Supreme Court. Up to eight states will be selected to participate, and recipients will be notified the week of June 6th.

Committee member updates included

- Heather Board announced that she recently accepted the position of Division Director for Prevention and Health Promotion. Anya Shaffer now will serve as the primary representative for VDH on this committee due to personnel changes within the Division. Anya Shaffer provided information on a new VDH initiative

focused on the intersection of opioid exposed infants and best practices in discharge care planning. The project has been accepted into the Safe States Evaluation Institute.

- Cedric Moore reported that the staff employed by the organization for which he serves as CEO of, Spectrum Transformation Group, is required to complete the DSS on-line mandated reporter training. There is a licensing requirement for staff to assist clients in completing advanced directives, which are legal documents. Mr. Moore expressed his concern over staff being required to assist others in preparation of a legal document and commented on the benefits of SB *417- Unauthorized Practice of Law* allowing social workers to carry out currently required practices (such as filing petitions in Juvenile Court) without those practices being considered the unauthorized practice of law.
- Melissa O'Neill provided an update on the planning of a state CASA conference to be conducted in November. There is interest in having a session on substance exposed infants. Ms. O'Neill will work with Ms. Shaffer for ideas on presenters.

There was discussion on the proposed dates for Committee meetings during fiscal year 2016-2017. The new schedule will be September 7, 2016, December 8, 2016, March 2, 2017 and June 8, 2017.

The committee adjourned at 1 PM.

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