

## Family and Children's Trust Fund (FACT)

### **Child Abuse and Neglect Advisory Committee Minutes**

#### **Call to Order and Introductions**

The meeting was called to order by Committee Chair Betty Wade Coyle at 10:05 AM on Thursday, December 8<sup>th</sup>, 2016. The meeting included: Jeanine Harper, Bob Franklin (standing in for Anya Shaffer), Johanna Schuchert, John Oliver, Kathy Jones, Mellissa O'Neill, Nadine March-Carter, Rita Katzman, Vivian Stith Williams, Christopher Spain, Carl Ayers, Nicole Poulin and Meghan Resler.

#### **Approval of Minutes**

Following committee member introductions, which included an introduction of Child Protective Services' new Program Manager, Christopher Spain, Ms. Coyle reviewed the agenda. The committee reviewed the minutes from the meeting that took Place September 7<sup>th</sup>. ON MOTION DULY MADE (Mr. Oliver) and seconded (Vivian Stith-Williams) the minutes were approved with all present voting in favor.

#### **Review of Charge**

Ms. Coyle reviewed the Child Abuse & Neglect Advisory Committee Charge, highlighting the change made in the September meeting that adds a non-FACT Board member as co-chair. Ms. Coyle explained that a citizen member co-chair will allow for increased autonomy for the group and provide additional support and perspective in leadership. Ms. Coyle stated that she asked Jeanine Harper to serve in this capacity and asked the committee to vote on approving Ms. Harper as co-chair. ON MOTION DULY MADE (Ms. March-Carter) and seconded (Ms. Stith-Williams) the committee approved Ms. Harper as co-chair with all present voting in favor.

#### **PCAV + CHIP of Virginia Consolidation Update**

Ms. Schuchert updated the committee on the Prevent Child Abuse Virginia (PCAV) and CHIP (Comprehensive Health Investment Project) of VA consolidation. The consolidation grew out of the Early Impact Virginia Consortium, an unincorporated group that represents all home visiting models in Virginia. The consortium created a sustainability plan that included two main components: 1) Hire a Director for the consortium; and 2) Find a home for consortium outside of state government. Because CHIP of VA & PCAV are the only two private organizations with home visiting they decided to consolidate to host the consortium. This will allow them to coordinate programs, operate more efficiently, and have a stronger advocacy voice. They predict that the consolidation will raise the image of home visiting and their ability to operate

within the home visiting space. They will direct separately until July 1, 2017, working together to share human resources, advocacy and public awareness efforts but keeping core programs intact. Ms. Shuchert will provide a copy of preliminary organizational chart to the committee.

Ms. Coyle asked if PCAV collects child fatalities in their data. Ms. Shuchert responded yes. Ms. Coyle stated that home visiting is one of the best ways to prevent child fatalities.

Mr. Oliver asked the committee to hold a future agenda item to discuss the differences in services provided by established home visiting programs such as CHIP of VA and Healthy Families home with those provided by Medicaid Managed Care Organizations.

### **CASA/CJA Strategic Plan Update**

Following Ms. Shuchert's update, Ms. O'Neill updated committee on the CASA/CJA Strategic Plan. The CASA and Children's Justice Act (CJA) committee is a multidisciplinary advisory group made up of members defined by federal legislation by Children's Justice Act and other stakeholders determined by CASA. Members represent a broad range of actors and organizations that influence the child welfare system. The Purpose of the committee is to improve the investigation, prosecution and judicial handling of child abuse; they ask members to look at the overarching system related to child abuse to determine what's working well and what can be improved.

Committee members are asked to survey the individuals and organizations they are representing and bring surveys, reports and data that might inform discussion. They then come up with broad, system-wide recommendations.

Ms. O'Neill passed out their last report on recommendations and Ms. Coyle asked Ms. O'Neill to bring the new report to the June meeting.

### **Three Branch Initiative Overview**

Mr. Ayers explained the Three Branch Initiative, which is a Federal Grant that harnesses the recommendations of the executive, legislative and judicial branches of state government to move the needle on an issue.

In 2013 Virginia received a Three Branch grant focused on the well-being of children in foster care and successfully moved foster children into a managed care model, reduced the overprescribing of psychotropic medicine, and revised their Child Abuse and Neglect instrument to be trauma focused. Virginia's current Three Branch Initiative focuses on improving child safety and preventing child fatalities. Virginia was one of 8 states selected nationally for this grant.

The leadership team consists of Carl Ayers, chair (Department of Social Services), Cheryl Roberts (Department of Medical Assistance Services), Sandy Karison, Judge Kellas, Delegate Bobby Orrock, Senator Jennifer Wexton

Mr. Ayers handed out the Three Branch Action plan and went over its four specific areas:

1. Increase understanding of risk and protective factors that are predictive/associated with child maltreatment and child fatalities. There was discussion and comments around the following items:
  - Children under 4 and even more specifically children under 1 made up the highest occurrences of child fatalities
  - The single most common factor in child fatality cases was that a call had been made to CPS about the child
  - Initiative is working to share data across systems by developing a 'home team' of 62 people with representatives from all systems that influence child welfare and safety.
  - The initiative will examine CPS screen in and screen out rates (nationally screen out rates are 40% while Virginia is at 60%)
2. Assess the effectiveness of existing screening, safety, and risk tools and explore the development of new or expanded policies, practices and protocols. There was discussion and comments around the following items:
  - Initiative will pilot an automatic R1 response for CPS complaints for children under 1 (if a child under 1 it's automatically a valid complaint). This may need a code change. They have 2 agencies that are willing to pilot.
  - Children's Research Center will re-evaluate the Structured Decision Making tools from 2011.
3. Strengthen existing efforts to enhance child safety through primary prevention and family engagement strategies across systems. There was discussion and comments around the following items:
  - A potential initiative to pilot an automatic R1 response for CPS complaints for children under 1 (if a child under 1 it's automatically a valid complaint). This may need a code change. There are two local agencies that have indicated they are interested in participating in a pilot for this.
  - The re-evaluation of the Structure Decision Making tools from 2011 Children's Research Center.

4. Enhance child welfare recruitment and retention efforts in order to create and sustain a culture of safety in the workforce. There was discussion and comments around the following items:
  - Well trained, well-staffed, experienced child welfare system is crucial. Current child welfare workers have very high turnover rates (30%) and often workers do not stay in the job long enough to complete their training. Training takes workers out of the field for around 70 work days over 2 years. This training model is not working, for a number of reasons, including: new workers are put in the field before they are trained; the shortage of workers in some jurisdictions results in workers not completing training in a timely way; the training is inadequate to meet current performance requirements.
  - The initiative will bring in an expert to change the training model. The trauma component of the training will not be lost.
  - University of Nebraska has a national study on child protective services turnover rate and are looking for 8 sites to research. Virginia is looking into that opportunity.
  - Social Work programs at universities in Virginia often times are not offering course work on child welfare but instead are emphasizing course work related to clinical licensing.

Following Mr. Ayers' presentation on the Three Branch Initiative, Ms. Coyle asked Mr. Ayers to update the committee on the centralized CPS hotline system. Mr. Ayers responded that work is being done to get input from local agencies to determine the most effective and efficient way to develop and implement such a system. The goal of a centralized system is to increase consistency in determining which reported cases get opened by CPS and prevent cases from falling through the cracks.

Mr. Ayers also updated the committee on his department's passing of Title IVE monitoring for the first time with only one error. Previously, VDSS faced large penalty fines for not passing.

### **Executive Director's Report**

Ms. Poulin provided an update on her attendance at the National Alliance of Children's Trust and Prevention Funds in Scottsdale Arizona where she collected useful resources specifically on issues around trauma informed care. Ms. Poulin also updated the committee on FACT's rebranding process with the marketing agency Purple Strategies, FACT's progress on developing an Online Donation Portal, and her work on a potential project to design a collaborative grant request for DMAS Civil Money Penalty Funds with VCU's gerontology department. Finally, Ms. Poulin gave the news that FACT's offices are moving to DSS Central Regional Office's at 1604 Santa Rosa Avenue on December 15<sup>th</sup> 2016. Ms. Coyle asked if we will change our mailing address and Ms. Poulin responded that FACT's *mailing* address will not change.

### **Committee Priority Planning Session**

Following the executive director's report Ms. Harper led the committee in a discussion with the opening question: "Is there a tangible outcome related to Child Welfare that we can focus on for the next 18 months?" The following comments and suggestions arose from the discussion:

- Ms. Harper opened the discussion with the priority of *Substance Exposed Infants + Substance Abuse in general*- the committee could focus on coming up with specific strategies through a trauma-informed lens. Ms. Stith Williams mentioned a couple other committees that are looking into this priority including Handle with Care, YSAT Youth Study, and a VDH training to increase the number of doctors that have mental health trauma informed approach. The committee discussed how they can avoid duplicating efforts by looking for gaps or ways to support work already being done.
- The issue of researching hospital discharge policies was discussed, specifically uniformity or lack of uniformity of discharge after childbirth. Mr. Franklin suggested looking into hospitals in Virginia near Bristol (near the Tennessee/Virginia border) in which mothers are arrested if they have opioids in their system.
- Mr. Oliver suggested looking into training for Guardians ad Litem (GAL) and utilizing skills of CAN committee members and/or home visitor trainings to teach GALs through a trauma informed and substance abused lens.

The committee agreed that looking at Guardian ad Litem training is an appropriate issue to review as part of the focus on substance abuse as related to child abuse.

The committee agreed to invite Martha Kurgans from DBHDS and Laurel Aparicio from the VA Home Visiting Consortium to present information on their programs, specifically around issues related to hospital discharge of new mothers, substance abuse and training that goes on for home visiting.

### **Resolutions**

Following the Priority Planning Session Ms. Coyle asked the committee to endorse the following at the upcoming General Assembly session: 1) a resolution recognizing FACT's 30 years of service (to be potentially introduced by Delegate Paul Krizek); 2) a resolutions recognizing the importance of trauma Informed services and approaches 3) legislation requiring background checks for all childcare facility workers.

Ms. Harper moved to endorse the resolutions and legislation.

Mr. Oliver observed that he didn't want to endorse until he knew what the bills are.

ON MOTION DULY MADE (Ms. Harper) and seconded (Ms. March-Carter) to allow for endorsement of the outlined resolutions and legislation upon committee members review and approval of the language used in them.

**Committee Updates:**

Mr. Franklin handed out a report Anya Shaffer wrote on Lead Exposure—because of lack of time committee members agreed to discuss at next meeting.

Ms. Harper brought to the group’s attention that this meeting is Ms. Katzman’s last meeting with the Child Abuse and Neglect Committee because she is retiring at the end of the year. The committee thanked her for being a constant and valuable asset on the committee. Ms. Katzman thanked the committee and stated that she hopes the Child Abuse and Neglect Committee can find a focused priority to plan an initiative around going forward.

The Committee adjourned at 1:15 PM.