

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 Co-chair Jeanine Harper at 2:07 PM on Thursday, March 23rd, 2017. The meeting included: Jeanine Harper, Nicole Poulin, Jenna Easton, Anya Shaffer, Laura Aparicio, Martha Kurgans, Christopher Spain, Meghan Resler and Nadine Marsh-Carter. Co-chair Betty Wade Coyle called in. Ms. Harper updated the group that Cedric Moore will not be able to participate on this committee any longer due to time commitments. Ms. Harper then reminded the committee that it's really important that private citizens are represented on the committee and members should let Ms. Poulin, Ms. Harper, or Ms. Coyle know of any potential members before the June meeting so they have time for an orientation. Ms. Poulin stated that the Child Abuse and Neglect Advisory Committee charge is to have representatives from every state agency, but because it's a citizen advisory board we'd like to have more citizens. Ms. Poulin also noted that it's a state wide advisory board so members outside of the greater Richmond area are encouraged. Additionally, FACT is enthusiastic about untraditional partners, and encourages people to think outside their job at the state when thinking about new members.

Approval of Minutes

Following committee member introductions, Ms. Harper reviewed the agenda. The committee reviewed the minutes from the meeting that took Place December 8th 2016 and Ms. Marsh-Carter noted her name was misspelled. ON MOTION DULY MADE (Ms. Marsh-Carter) and seconded (Ms. Shaffer) the minutes were approved with noted corrections. All present voting in favor.

FACT Update

Ms. Resler updated the committee on FACT's Issue Brief on Trauma-Informed Schools coming out in April. Ms. Easton offered to help disseminate the Brief once it is out. Ms. Poulin updated the board on FACT's partnership with the VCU Gerontology Department to create a program that provided trauma informed care for nursing home CNAs and FACT's progress on securing an Online Donation Portal. Ms. Poulin also outlined the three ad hoc grants that were just approved by the FACT Board of Directors: DCJS Intersections of Violence: Domestic Violence, Sexual Assault, and Child Abuse Conference, People Against Child Trafficking Summit and the Virginia Coalition for the Prevention of Elder Abuse, Inc. Conference.

CPS Legislative Update

Following Ms. Poulin's report Mr. Spain, the VDSS Child Protective Services Program Manager presented the CPS Program's 2017 legislative update. A Power Point presentation was reviewed. The group discussed SB1086/HB1786 which requires in utero exposure to a controlled substance to be reported to social services. Mr. Spain noted that Virginia is a locality administered, state supervised, therefore SB1086 will be pushed out by local offices but overseen and supported by the state.

Three Branch Initiative Update

Following the legislative update, Mr. Spain updated the committee on progress on the Three Branch Initiative. They are currently working on complying with CAPTA law, using an SPM tool for intake, and have working groups organized around Three Branch's goals. The bill put forth to the General Assembly to centralized CPS intake did not pass this session. Mr. Spain introduced the new 'Baby Box' initiative which gives boxes to new mothers after giving birth to promote safe sleep. Mr. Spain explained that the project is not just about a single box but will be used as a tool to disseminate safe sleep education and referrals to local services in increase social support for families.

Overview of Virginia's Handle with C.A.R.E Initiative

After Mr. Spain's report, Ms. Kurgans, from the Office of Substance Abuse Services at Virginia Department of Behavioral and Developmental Health Services (DBDHS), presented on the Handle with Care Initiative. A Power Point presentation was reviewed. Handle with Care is an interagency initiative that works with different systems, to increase coordination of services for women who use drugs during pregnancy as well as their children. It is estimated that 10% of women in Virginia, who are pregnant, use some sort of mood altering drug. That means approximately 10,000 newborns have been exposed to a substance. With the rapid increase of the opioid epidemic, there are ongoing concerns about Virginia's service delivery systems reaching and serving substance using pregnant and parenting women and their children. Ms. Kurgan's department surveyed Virginia CSBs and found that half do not receive reports from hospitals in their area. Technical assistance is on-going with the goals to create a shared vision, evaluate legislation, and develop a system of care to address the epidemic of Substance Exposed Infants (SEI).

Overview of Virginia Home Visiting Programs

After Ms. Kurgan's report, the committee was running short on time for the final presentation. Ms. Aparicio, Director of Early Impact Virginia, quickly shared several points of intersection between home visiting and what was discussed previously in the meeting. Ms. Kurgan's noted

that home visiting is focused on building relationships over time with families, and sustained relationships are the most effective way to create substantive change. Providing educational materials and information are limited in effecting change for issues such as substance abuse and safe sleep. In contrast, invested and sustained relationships can change behaviors. Ms. Harper added that she consistently hears in meetings that home visiting plays a crucial role, but she doesn't hear a lot about monitoring. She then asked if home visitors are equipped to interact with families with high special needs in a trauma-informed way. Ms. Aparicio answered that home visiting is a voluntary service, so as important as a role it has it is also just as important to understand what home visiting is *not* intended to do. Home visitors are not clinicians. Home visiting is a prevention model, not a treatment model; therefore challenges remain within communities without wraparound services for home visitors to connect families with.

Ms. Harper announced the next meeting is June 8th from 10-1. Ms. Poulin recommended that going forward in fiscal year 2018, Child Abuse and Neglect Advisory Committee meetings should be scheduled at least one week prior to FACT Board of Directors meetings in order for the committee to have time to review and make legislative recommendations to the FACT Board. During the last meeting, there were legislative recommendations that were made by the Committee that were not able to be completed because the FACT Board did not meet in time to vote on them.

The meeting adjourned at 5:00pm