

Family and Children's Trust Fund (FACT) Board of Trustees

March 1, 2017 FACT Meeting Minutes

Board Meeting Site: VDSS Central Regional Office, Henrico

Members Attending

Frank Blechman
Robert Bolling
Pam Kennedy
Judy Kurtz
John Oliver
Lisa Specter-Dunaway
Linda Gilliam
Kay Kovacs
Mary Russo Riley

Members Not Attending

Candace Bryan Abbey
Betty Wade Coyle
Robin Foreman-Wheeler
Liliana Hernandez
Nadine March-Carter
Margaret Schultze, VDSS Commissioner
Yasmine Taeb

Also Attending

Jack Frazier, VDSS Deputy Commissioner for Operations
Nicole Poulin, FACT Executive Director
Meghan Resler, FACT Senior Research Associate
Michelle L'Hommedieu, Office of the Attorney General
Caroline Sage, Purple Strategies

Call to Order and Review of Agenda

Chair Lisa Specter-Dunaway called the meeting to order at 10:08 AM and provided an overview of the agenda.

Mission Moment

The Board watched a video of a TED Talk called *Violence against women—it's a men's issue*. In his talk, Jackson Katz outlined that domestic violence and sexual abuse, often called "women's issues" are intrinsically men's issues because these violent behaviors are often tied to definitions of manhood. Mr. Katz also introduced the "Bystander Approach" which concentrates on the role of peers in gender violence. The video can be found at:

https://www.ted.com/talks/jackson_katz_violence_against_women_it_s_a_men_s_issue

The Board discussed the relevance of the mission moment in today's political climate as well as how programs and philosophies such as Mr. Katz's Bystander Approach can be incorporated into FACT's grant giving process.

FOIA Review

Ms. L'Hommedieu presented on FOIA policy as it applies to the FACT board. Ms. L'Hommedieu went over a PowerPoint that provided a high level view of FOIA and *FAQs: What Every Board Member Absolutely has to Know about FOIA*. Copies of the PowerPoint and FAQs were provided to the Board.

Approval of Minutes

Ms. Specter-Dunaway presented the December 2016 minutes that were sent in advance via email to the Board members.

Ms. Kennedy noted that Joe Abbey's name was misspelled and "Mr." needed to be changed to "Ms." In reference to Ms. Taeb's name on page 9. Dr. Gilliam noted that the word "to" was missing from a sentence on page 7. ON MOTION DULY MADE (Mr. Oliver) and seconded (Ms. Russo-Riley) amended December minutes were approved. Motion carried with all present voting in favor.

Commissioner's Report

Mr. Frazier presented the Commissioner's Report in place of Mrs. Schultze who had to miss the meeting. Mr. Frazier provided a legislative update, this year the Commissioner's Office tracked 82 bills, more than last year (79). Mr. Frazier overviewed the following bills pertaining to Family Services, all of which had been passed and were on the Governor's desk waiting to be signed:

- SB868 Response for Children <2 years
- SB1086/HB1786 Substance Exposed Infants- In utero exposure to a controlled substance requires local department of social services to collect information
- SB1164/HB2279 Military Notification to CPS for complaints involving members of the US Armed forces
- HB 1580 Possession of Child Porn- Possession of child pornography by employees of DSS in the course of conducting professional duties
- HB 2162 Substance Abused Infants Workgroup to study barriers to treatment of SEI in the commonwealth
- SJ 282 Substance Exposed Infant Week designated for the first week of July
- HB 1451 FC survey for youth aging out of foster care
- HB 1492 Background checks for fostering futures participants
- SB 1461 Ensuring Medicaid enrollment for youth aging out of foster care
- HB 1604 Reasonable efforts to prevent removal, TPR if in care 15 of the last 22 months
- HB 1456 Allows judges use the term "parenting time" to be synonymous with visitation in custody and visitation order
- HB 1795 Local agencies will be required to use the Mutual Family Assessment home study template
- SB 1315 Requires foster parents to store firearms and weapons in a locked closet or cabinet
- HB 2215 Clarifies that special needs children were in the custody of a local board or licensed CPA at the time of the adoptive placement may be eligible for state funded maintenance payments
- HB 2216 Changes the name of the Putative Father Registry to the Virginia Birth Father's Registry

Mr. Frasier then gave an overview of SB 1239 which involves childcare programs exempt from licensure. The bill was implementing recommendations from a study the Commonwealth contracted from an outside research firm from North Carolina to examine Virginia's current licensure exemptions and make recommendations for changes. The bill received resistance from the beginning, and on the last day of the General Assembly, the bill as it was presented could not be agreed on by the House and Senate— instead a bill that removes religious affiliated day centers from the law was passed. SB 1239 as it stands now would exempt over 1000 childcare providers in the state from licensure. SB1239 is currently on the Governor's desk waiting to be signed.

Ms. Specter-Dunaway reminded the board that one of the roles of FACT is to advise the department on family violence-related legislation, and asked how the Board would like to respond to SB1239. Mr. Oliver moved to have Ms. Poulin write a letter to the Governor's office exhibiting FACT's objection to SB1239 as it stands with the exemption of religious affiliated day centers. Ms. Riley seconded. Motion carried with all present voting in favor.

Mr. Frasier then overviewed some of DSS' successes of 2016 including: a 2.5% increase in TANF benefits; a focus on training of CPS workers with an additional 600 workers trained in 2016; a contract with Penn State University to provide training to childcare workers (licensed or unlicensed), in 2016 they had 12,000 people go through training and already several thousand more in 2017; a more family-friendly approach to child support enforcement by making it easier for the non-custodial parent to pay child support at kiosks, updating the online system, and working more on developing relationships between custodial and non-custodial parents for the benefit of the child. In 2016 over 1 million Medicaid cases were switched to a modernized eligibility system and the department has started to modernize SNAP, TANF & Energy systems. DSS has also gotten approval from the Federal Government to get the child welfare data system modernized and replaced.

Mr. Frasier also discussed changes on the federal level under Trump's administration that may affect DSS and other state departments, including the potential expiration of budget continuation and plans that are in place to block Grant Medicaid. Additionally, the refugee programs' admittance has gone down from 110,000 to 50,000, and departments are already seeing a lay-off of refugee program staff while special immigrant visas from Iraq and Afghanistan have almost doubled. TANF, SNAP, and Energy assistance programs have seen level federal funding.

Ms. Riley noted that in the Tidewater Area, as a result of new immigrant and refugee laws a lot of children aren't going to school because of fear of deportation. Mr. Frasier added that some people are asking to be taken off benefits for the same reason, and they are beginning to monitor case load data in areas of the Commonwealth where there is high immigrant populations to see if they notice any change in the number of families who are ceasing to receive benefits by request. Ms. Poulin asked if the department can monitor Medicaid benefits for children. Mr. Frasier responded that they currently monitor this but haven't until now looked at those data points specific to immigrants.

Ms. Gilliam asked about the status of laws surrounding incarcerated parents and child support, which accrues while non-custodial parents are in jail who have little to no resources to pay. Mr. Frasier said he would ask the Child Support Department for an update on that issue.

FACT Chair Report

Nomination Committee

Ms. Specter-Dunaway noted that the FACT Board has 4 members with first terms ending and one member with a second term ending (Ms. Foreman-Wheeler). Ms. Specter-Dunaway then asked the board to review the board roster to see if their term is ending, and if so, if they are interested in reapplying for appointment, now is the time to apply. The Board noted that Nadine, Mary, Pam and John are all up for reappointment.

Ms. Specter-Dunaway reminded the board, that per outlined by their by-laws, they need to appoint a nominating committee to propose next year's executive committee. In years past, the committee has been comprised of members from our current executive committee. Ms. Specter-Dunaway appointed herself and Ms. Foreman-Wheeler for the nomination committee and noted that she will determine a third in coming weeks.

Access to Federal/State Funds

Ms. Specter-Dunaway will work with Ms. Poulin and Ms. L'Hommedieu in upcoming weeks to explore possible strategies on FACT accessing state or federal funds such as DCJS's VOCA funds and/or DSS CBCAP funds

Executive Directors Report

Ms. Poulin provided a written update to the Board members and highlighted the following projects:

FACT Rebranding Initiative with Purple Strategies – Ms. Poulin and Ms. Resler participated in biweekly calls with staff from Purple Strategies to provide input on design and information on FACT's history and current work. Members of the FACT marketing subcommittee participated in one "open meeting" via phone.

DMAS Civil Money Penalty Funds (CMP) proposed project - After meeting with stakeholders working in a variety of different fields associated with older adults, VCU's Department of Gerontology has stepped forward to take the lead in developing a two phase project with FACT focused on trauma informed care through increasing resiliency.

UPON MOTION DULY MADE (Mr. Oliver) and seconded (Ms. Russo-Riley) Ms. Poulin moving forward to submit a joint grant application VCU was approved.

FACT On-Line Portal -Per the Board's instruction, Ms. Poulin moved forward with working with The Department of Treasury to access the services outlined in the original estimate provided by Elavon:

(\$149 for setup fee, \$10 per month service fee, \$.02 per transaction plus credit card service fee for an “off the shelf” payment site that captures basic information associated with credit cards)

In order to complete requirements per Treasury and Elavon, FACT must formally adopt a refund and privacy policy. A paper copy of the policy was provided to the Board and Ms. Russo-Riley suggested “made” be replaced with *if that request is made* and noted one typo. ON MOTION DULY MADE (Ms. Gilliam) and seconded (Ms. Russo-Riley) the adoption of the refund and privacy policy was approved.

Local Services Grants -All invoices and second quarter reports were received, reviewed and processed for the January 15th due date. Ms. Resler and Ms. Poulin continue to work with Board members on the administrative and scheduling processes associated with upcoming site visits.

Stakeholder Group Participation – Ms. Poulin participated in the following stakeholder groups: Greater Richmond SCAN’s Trauma Informed Care Network Policy Committee, Vision 21 Partner Advisory Team and Resource Mapping Subcommittee, Virginia Sexual and Domestic Violence Action Alliance VADATA data review advisory committee and Virginia’s National Governors Association Three Branch Institute Home Team and “Goal Three” Committee.

Editorial and Planning Committee Report

Ms. Gilliam reported that the committee met in January to edit the draft Issue Brief on Trauma-informed Schools and will meet to finalize the draft next week and release the brief in April. The brief provides an overview of childhood trauma and how it impacts students learning. It then outlines strategies for trauma informed schools and teaching. A brief on trauma-informed practices that affect adults will be released in October, 2017 and a brief on trauma-informed practices that affect older adults will be released in April, 2018.

Grants Committee Report

Ms. Kurtz reported that the Grants committee will be convening after the full board meeting to begin to discuss the next round of programmatic funding. The two year funding cycle for current grantees will be completed June 30th, 2018 and the RFP for the next grant cycle will be out by December. FACT received three ad hoc grants requests from the Department of Criminal Justice Services (DCJS), Virginia Coalition for the Prevention of Elder Abuse (VCPEA) and People against Child Trafficking in American Schools (ImPACT). Ms. L’Hommedieu noted the technicality that DCJS Conference was less than 2 months away which doesn’t follow FACT’s Ad Hoc Policy: “Requests must be submitted for Board consideration at least two months in advance of the event taking place”.

UPON MOTION DULY MADE (Mr. Bolling) and seconded (Ms. Russo Riley) The VCPEA Conference grant request and ImPACT Conference grant were approved. UPON MOTION DULY MADE (Mr. Blechman) and seconded (Ms. Kurtz) the two month consideration for the DCJS Conference grant was waived and the grant proposal approved.

Rebranding Update and Discussion/Marketing Committee Report

Ms. Sage presented on strategy development for FACT's branding and messaging goals of increasing awareness of FACT among stakeholders and the general public, establishing FACT as a thought leader in the family violence and trauma arena, and enhancing FACT's presence among donors.

Ms. Sage then overviewed following written documents provided to the board: General Public Messaging Guide, Internal FAQs and External FAQs. Mr. Oliver suggested shifting to more positive language in the FAQs using words like "resilience" and "skill- building" more than "family violence". Ms. Specter-Dunaway responded that negative tends to catch people's attention but agreed with Mr. Oliver that we need to find a balance. Ms. Sage noted that these materials are living breathing documents and meant to be changed and edited as needed. The board agreed that they would go through Ms. Poulin or Ms. Resler to add to and edit the content presented.

Ms. Sage presented FACT's Annual report template and noted that because this is a template, FACT can pick and choose which pages fit best for their annual report and can change pictures and color as needed. Ms. Sage then presented on messaging and fund development strategies for the board as a precursor for a fundraising workshop currently being planned by Joe Abbey and FACT staff.

The Board discussed the proposed strategy and special considerations for messaging to specific audiences such as Human Service Professionals, the General Assembly, the Governor's office and local government.

Child Abuse & Neglect Committee Report

Ms. Poulin presented for Ms. Coyle. The last committee meeting was held December 8th and at that meeting Jeannine Harper was approved to co-chair the committee. At the meeting overviews of the PCAV/CHIP of VA consolidation, the CASA/CJA Strategic Plan and Three Branch Initiative were provided. The committee discussed pending legislation, and the committee determined that they wanted to endorse proposed legislation; however the actual language of the legislation was not available during the time of the meeting. The committee identified challenges with their ability to review and discuss matters under FOIA requirements and plan on discussing and resolving these challenges at their March 23rd meeting.

The FACT supported (Ad hoc grant) Annual Child Abuse and Neglect Training in April will be smaller and take place in the form of a symposium as opposed to a formal conference with breakout sessions. FACT would like to recognize Anne Childress, retired Child Abuse Prevention Supervisor with a certificate of appreciation as a champion of child abuse prevention and treatment in Virginia. UPON MOTION DULY MADE (Ms. Kurtz) and seconded (Mr. Blechman) Ms. Childress' certificate of appreciation was approved.

Treasurer's Report

Board members were provided copies of the balance sheet as of January 31, 2017, profit and loss statement through January 2017 and the FY17 budget. Ms. Russo-Riley reviewed the financial

statements and noted she will be working on a proposed budget to present in June. ON MOTION DULY MADE (Ms. Gilliam) and seconded (Ms. Kurtz) the Treasurer's Report was accepted. Motion carried with all present voting in favor.

Closing Remarks

Ms. Specter Dunaway reminded those board members whose term is expiring to reapply if they would like to be reappointed and that the last meeting of this fiscal year is June 7th. The grants committee will be meeting after adjournment of the full FACT Board Meeting.

Adjourn

UPON MOTION DULY MADE (Ms. Russo Riley) and seconded (Ms. Kovacs) the meeting was adjourned at 2:52 PM.

Grants Committee Breakout

Members Attending:

Judy Kurtz
Lisa Specter-Dunaway
Pam Kennedy
Mary Russo Riley

Upcoming Grant Cycle

The grants committee agreed to continue following a two year grant cycle and keep a small group for grants review. The committee discussed funding priorities for next year and possible changes to the RFP. There was discussion around the following options for priorities: evaluation of existing trauma informed networks

- existing trauma informed networks to do evaluation work around their programs
- evidence based/evidence informed curriculums
- a technical assistance grant for a high performing trauma-informed community network to provide a model and guidance to other TICNs

The committee decided to collect more information on trauma informed community networks' priorities, strengths, challenges, and needs before releasing the RFP with funding priorities by sending out an informal survey to TICNs in Virginia.

Ms. Poulin and Ms. Resler agreed to conduct an informal survey of Virginia TICNs with questions such as:

- How does your network excel?
- What are your challenges?

- What is your value to the community?
- How did your network help in a care provision capacity for someone in the community?
(narrative)

Ad hoc policy

Ms. Kurtz noted their needs to be more requirements added, such as organizations must credit FACT, write specifically how they will use money in their proposal and send FACT the data they collected from their project.

The meeting adjourned at 3:36pm