

Family and Children's Trust Fund (FACT)

Child Abuse and Neglect Committee Minutes

The meeting was called to order by Committee co-chair Betty Wade Coyle at 9:37 AM on Thursday, June 8th, 2017. The meeting included co-chair Jeanine Harper, Laurel Aparicio, Melissa O'Neill, Heather Board, John Oliver, Liliana Hernandez, Chris Spain, Nicole Poulin and Meghan Resler.

Following committee member introductions, Ms. Aparicio, director of Early Impact Virginia (EIV), formerly the Home Visiting Consortium, gave an overview of Early Impact Virginia's current work as well as home visiting in Virginia.

Ms. Poulin asked Ms. Aparicio to speak to the difference between Managed Care Organizations (MCOs) and EIV's Home Visiting Models. Ms. Aparicio stated that MCOs check in with parents prenatally with limited contact afterwards and focus less on social determinates of health than EIV's home visiting models.

Ms. Coyle asked if EIV is infusing trauma-informed practices into their work. Ms. Aparicio responded that EIV was one of the first organizations to implement a trauma-informed approach and contracted with Allison Jackson to develop a trauma-informed reflective practice training for Home Visitors and Supervisors. Ms. Coyle also asked what EIV was doing to respond to the opioid epidemic. Ms. Aparicio responded that EIV incorporates screening techniques in order to make referrals into their trainings, however, the ability to respond to the opioid epidemic depends on the resources available on a local level and home visitors are not substance abuse specialists. Mr. Oliver mentioned the opportunity to train Guardians ad Litem on safe sleep to provide another set of eyes and ears on children in the home and as a referral service for home visiting.

Following Ms. Aparicio's presentation, the committee reviewed the minutes from the meeting that took place March 23rd 2017. ON MOTION DULY MADE (Mr. Oliver) and seconded (Ms. Harper) moved to approve the minutes as presented.

After approval of the minutes, Mr. Spain, gave his DSS Family Services update. Mr. Spain outlined the changes to the Substance Exposed Infant Laws and Plan of Safe Care forms. He provided the committee with printed materials to supplement his update.

Ms. Hernandez asked if there is training for CPS workers around Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome (NAS), and Mr. Spain responded that there is information and training around NAS but it's out of the scope of a child welfare worker to diagnose. Mr. Spain agreed to get the committee a copy of the training available and explained that some of the trainings are just elective trainings however, some information about NAS is covered in the New Worker Training which is required.

Mr. Oliver asked Mr. Spain what a child welfare worker has the ability to do if their services are declined. Mr. Oliver understood from the Virginia Code that the worker has no choice but to close their file on that family. Mr. Spain responded that if a child welfare worker sees a need for intervention and it's refused they can continue their case. Mr. Oliver noted contradictions in the Virginia Code pertaining to

this issue and his concerns that the law on family assessment is weak. Ms. Poulin stated that there is an issue around lack of consistency throughout the state if the code isn't explicit and clear and that this may be something the committee looks into.

After Mr. Spain's update the committee Ms. Poulin announced upcoming CAN Meeting Dates which will fall one day before FACT Board Meetings from 1-4pm: September 25th, December 12th, March 26th, and June 27th. The committee then took a short break to prepare for Dr. Emily Douglas' presentation and to make room for invited community stakeholders joining for the presentation. Ms. Hernandez introduced Dr. Douglas and her work:

Dr. Douglas is an associate professor in the School of Social Work and Master of Social Work program at Bridgewater State University in Bridgewater, Massachusetts and founder and chair of the National Research Conference on Child and Family Programs and Policy. Her work focuses on child and family well-being, with a strong focus on policy and programmatic implications. She's currently working as Congressional Fellow with the U.S House of Representatives.

Dr. Douglas presented an overview of her research on fatal child maltreatment with a specific focus on issues related to child welfare workers and policies. Dr. Douglas also covered considerations and concerns surrounding child welfare workers focus on strengths based perspective without a clear definition of strengths, protective factors and risk factors. Download Dr. Douglas's presentation here: [Child Maltreatment Fatalities and the Child Welfare Profession: Experiences, Preparation, and Exploring How Workers Miss Red Flags.](#)

The meeting adjourned at 1:03pm.
