

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 1:08 AM on Monday, June 25th, 2017. The meeting included co-chair Jeanine Harper, Melissa O'Neill, Anya Shafer, Chris Spain, Johanna Schuchert, Nicole Poulin and Meghan Resler.

The committee reviewed the draft minutes from the meeting that took place on June 8, 2017. A MOTION DULY MADE (Mr. Spain) and seconded (Ms. Harper) moved to approve the minutes as presented with one clarifying correction.

Following the approval of the minutes, Mr. Spain reported on progress on changes to child abuse and neglect hotline reporting systems in order to improve efficiency. Mr. Spain also shared the *Plan of Safe Care for Mothers, Others and Substance-Exposed Infants* form and the *Perinatal Substance Use: Promoting Healthy Outcomes* PowerPoint and brochure which will be used for healthcare providers and community stakeholders.

Following Mr. Spain's report, Ms. Poulin updated the committee on FACT's recent work. She announced the release of FACT's first Annual Report, updated the committee on the Trauma-Informed Schools Issue Brief released in April and the upcoming Issue Brief of Trauma-Informed Homelessness Services which will be released in late October. In addition, Ms. Poulin gave an overview of efforts to increase state-wide trauma-informed initiatives that were proposed at the Commission on Youth Meeting. The recommendations made to the Commission included a proposal to encourage the FACT Board to seek funding for Trauma-Informed Initiatives. Ms. Harper highlighted that the proposal would provide a great opportunity for local networks to direct initiatives up to the state level as they relate to policy. Ms. Poulin informed the committee that there is a public comment period for the proposal and Emily Griffey from Voices for Virginia's Children will come to the FACT Board meeting to present on the initiative.

Ms. Schuchert updated the committee on Prevent Child Abuse Virginia's (PCAV) merger with CHIP of Virginia and on the planning process for the next Statewide Child Abuse Prevention Conference. Mr. Spain and Ms. Schuchert discussed the possibility of CPS and PCAV working together to focus on prevention. Ms. Schuchert informed the committee that PCAV is still in the beginning stages of determining speakers and themes for the conference so they are open to taking suggestions from committee members. Ms. Harper suggested incorporating mindfulness as a prevention technique. Ms. Schuchert also informed the committee that PCAV was recently pleased to accept several large donations, which they used to update their technology to help them improve communication and share information across the state.

Ms. Harper informed the committee about a new initiative in which SCAN is partnering with VCU and Family Lifeline to work with Substance Exposed Infants and their moms. SCAN will provide a therapeutic model, VCU will provide medical expertise and Family Lifeline will provide home visiting infrastructure. The project will be piloted in 2018. Ms. Harper also updated the committee on one of SCAN's prevention initiatives that trains groups in Henrico County Jail on ACEs.

Ms. Schuchert provided an update on the Three Branch Institute's Baby Box campaign, and told the committee that the actual physical baby box has taken a back seat to the importance of accompanying information. Ms. Schuchert noted that when the Baby Box campaign started it was planned as an isolated pilot project, not statewide, because of lack of research on outcomes from similar projects.

Ms. O'Neill shared that DCJS recently approved expansion of three CASA programs to include Appomattox, Pittsylvania and Warren Counties. These projects will be funded through the Victims of Crime Act federal funds.

Ms. Coyle informed the committee that the eastern region child fatality review team did a mock review of a sleep related death that was videoed by the National Center for Fatality Review and Prevention. It is their understanding that the video will be posted shortly on the national web site. Ms. Coyle also shared that she co-authored a chapter on child fatality review teams in the new addition of the APSAC (American Professional Society on the Abuse of Children) Handbook.

Ms. Shafer informed the committee that VDH has plenty of Stewards of Children materials in English and Spanish so committee members should let her know if they need more. VDH is also starting to pilot the SEEK program (Safe Environments for Every Kid) which provides screening for kids that might be at risk for abuse or neglect.

Ms. Shafer also gave a brief presentation on lead exposure in children, a subject committee member John Oliver had asked for more information on in a previous meeting. Children under 6 are most at risk for lead exposure, particularly children under 3. The biggest risk for exposure is lead dust from paint or lead dust from airplanes that gets into the ground/dirt that kids play in. All Medicaid enrolled children are tested for lead exposure at ages 1 and 2 and several groups are recommended to get tested such as if they live in a house built before 1960 or live near a battery plant. Public water is required to be tested for lead, however, well water doesn't have any oversight.

After committee member updates Anne Kisor, project manager from the Division of Family Services gave an overview of the work group she led to study the barriers to treatment of substance-exposed infants (SEI) in the Commonwealth. Themes surrounding barriers to treatment included current laws that aren't fully utilized, such as requirements for hospitals to refer to CSBs at discharge. CPS is not always the best fit as the intervention agent for substance exposed infants, because of lack of consistency in agency responses and lack of service in rural areas.

The next Child Abuse & Neglect Advisory Committee meeting is scheduled to take place on December 12th. The meeting was adjourned at 4:02 pm.