

# VIRGINIA FAMILY AND CHILDRENS' TRUST FUND

## MINUTES: Meeting of the Board of Trustees, September 26, 2018

**Present:** Trustees Allison Lawrence (Vice-Chair, Acting Chair), Frank Blechman (Secretary), Judy Kurtz (Treasurer), Beverly Crowder, Jennifer Gillyard, Tarina Keene, John Oliver, Duke Storen (Commissioner); Staff and Support Nicole Poulin (Executive Director), Meghan Resler (Research Director), Michelle L'Hommedieu (Counsel), Mariah Williams (Spark Consulting). **Not present:** Trustees: Robert Bolling, Carter Boyd, Linda Gilliam, Lilliana Hernandez, Kay Kovacs, Mary Riley, Yasmine Taeb.

**Opening:** The meeting was called to order at 10:05 AM at the DSS Central Regional Office (1604 Santa Rosa Road, Henrico, VA) by the Vice Chair Allison Lawrence. She noted that we did not have a quorum (nine votes are required), and so there would be no votes taken. Discussions might be abbreviated. *(In the following minutes, the term "we agreed" will represent the predominant opinion of those trustees present. No votes were taken and no binding decisions were made.)* We noted that new state rules allow members to participate in a meeting electronically, but a quorum must still be present in person. Our counsel agreed to help develop a policy clarifying this, to be adopted at the next meeting.

**Minutes:** The minutes were reviewed. No changes were proposed. Adoption was deferred until a future meeting.

**The Strategic Plan:** The proposed new Mission and Vision Statements were presented for discussion. Several trustees noted that while the new versions used "family violence" as a broad term that represents FACT's focus family violence across the lifespan, our enabling legislation specifically mentions "child abuse and neglect" as part of our purpose. Another trustee raised a question of whether we need to ask the General Assembly to amend our purpose or, in the reverse, whether we need to conform our language to the terms in code. We agreed that this input should be considered when the staff revises the two statements for presentation and adoption at a future meeting.

The other four sections of the Strategic Plan were reviewed. We agreed that the first section regarding rewriting the mission and vision statement should be removed since those would be adopted separately. Discussion was raised concerning the issue that some terms used sounded like jargon that might be misunderstood by others who had not been involved in these discussions. FACT staff explained to the group the meaning of the words in question and noted that once FACT staff develops accompanying objectives and action plan all points of the plan will be clarified.

### **The Executive Director's Report:**

- FY2019-20 Grants: Procurement contracts have been signed with all of the new grantees and work on all of the projects has begun. The Tidewater TICN remains "troubled" but the Executive Director thanked the trustees from that region for their help and reported that they are very hopeful that the project will fully blossom over the coming year. A process to more closely monitor and consult with grantees has been developed and favorable feedback has been provided by the grantees in that regard.
- DMAS Civil Money Penalty Funds project: Start of this project is still delayed, but they expect it to begin very soon. This project was submitted in partnership with VCU's Department of Gerontology to develop and implement an on-line curriculum for CNAs working in Nursing Home Facilities focused on trauma informed practices and increasing resiliency. The project is a pilot program that will include a strong evaluation component.
- Board Seats: All Board seats have now been filled.
- Financial Management: The donor portal is working and after much effort, we have a credit card!
- Social media: Our efforts to use social media advertising to build our network seems to be working very well. As many as 2500 contacts have responded to certain recent posts. This in no way replaces other more conventional forms of outreach such as Op-Eds, Letters-to-Editors, network alliances, partnerships, and/or personal contacts.

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- **Group participation:** Our involvement in other groups is becoming more and more important. For example, our presence on the Trauma Informed Workgroup that has been formed as part of the work of the Governor's Children's Cabinet has been valuable through both the Executive Director's participation and the use of FACT information and resources. We discussed whether our role needed to change as others emerge to take on and support TIC. We agreed that our role remains unique and essential.
- **Family First Prevention Services Act Implementation:** We are heavily engaged with others in the slow and complicated implementation of this Federal initiative. We expect this to continue.

**Treasurer's Report:** The treasurer reported that our license plate revenue was down again this year, but it was balanced by an increase in tax-check-off contributions. She also reported that a CPA has been found who meets state procurement requirements to conduct our bi-annual financial review. We expect to enter into a contract with him by our next Board meeting to complete the work. We were pleased to hear that this was being done for significantly less than budgeted.

**Grant Committee:** The grant committee brought two proposals for consideration for ad-hoc support. We agreed that the first proposal from the SW Legal Aid group did not arrive in time and could not be supported. The second proposal from VVAN was timely and appropriate, but could not be funded for lack of a quorum. We agreed to support a call for a special meeting to address this, before our scheduled December quarterly session.

**Chair's Report:** Because we did not have a quorum, we deferred action on **prospective changes to the by-laws addressing the use of discretionary funds**, the policies governing ad-hoc grants, and the operation of our CAN committee. The chair noted that these would be pushed forward onto another agenda, which would be crowded as a result.

**Editorial and Training Report:** Staff reported that they have gotten over 120 responses to a survey about our publications and educational programs. The majority responded that they were not aware of or familiar with all the resources FACT offers. Those who know the resources (particularly the issue briefs) said that they have used them for both internal and other education. Topics that got the most support for future work were,

- 1) The intersection of the economic factors and family violence.
- 2) Diversity and family violence.
- 3) Community violence and trauma.
- 4) Secondary trauma.
- 5) Substance abuse and family violence.

**The Child Abuse & Neglect Committee:** As directed in March, the FACT CAN report was sent to the VDSS Commissioner in May. Response and follow-up have been good. Discussion continues about the pluses and minuses of diversion programs which use private resources to address CAN cases. These policies seem efficient, but do not produce thorough records for future reference. A sub-committee has been formed to examine issues related to DJJ's regulations regarding the care of youth in detention facilities. In particular, the sub-committee will examine the factors associated with a recent case at the Shenandoah Valley Juvenile Center involving undocumented immigrant youth. Over all concerns for care of un-accompanied minor immigrants also continues.

**The Commissioner's Report:** The Commissioner noted that public agencies can't address every private problem. There are pluses and minuses to every approach. Responding to questions about resources for local social services, he said that he is pushing hard to get increases for both salaries and training in the next Governor's Budget. At the same time, he said that changing federal policies (such as new interpretations about "public charge" rules) is making it harder to deliver needed services, especially to immigrants. Regarding FACT, he said:

- **Strategic Planning:** He strongly supports the notion that FACT should deliberately try to meet needs (fill gaps) where other resources are not available. He believes that FACT is well positioned to encourage coordination,

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convening, collaboration and cross silo programming. No-one else will do the basic work promoting expansion and innovate in TIC.

- Fundraising: This Board is not well constituted to raise large amounts. Therefore, a strategy, involving professional fundraising resources is needed.

**Next Meeting:** The staff agreed to send out a survey to determine a date before December for a quick session to address essential unfinished matters from this meeting.

**Adjourn.** We closed the meeting at 3:35PM.