

Child Abuse & Neglect Committee Meeting

September 13, 2019

Libbie Mill Library

Meeting attendees: Ginny Powell, FACT Board; Jeanine Harper, GRSCAN; Jane Tingley, Medical Examiner's Office; Shannon Hartung, VDSS; Anya Shafer, DCJS; Craig Patterson, VDSS; Ali Faruk, Families Forward; Martha Montgomery representing Michael Gregory, VDOE; Ellen White, VA Courts; Jenna Foster representing Melissa O'Neil for DCJS; Katherine Hunter, DBHDS Office of Child and Family Services; Beverly Crowder, FACT Board (by phone); Betty Wade Coyle, CFC:PCAHR (by phone)

Committee Co-chair, Jeanine Harper called the meeting to order at 10:06am and introduced the minutes from the June 13th meeting. Betty Wade moved to approve minutes and Anya seconded, motion passed with all in favor.

Committee Member Updates:

- Betty Wade Coyle, CFC:PCAHR - Hampton Roads Child Fatality team recently had their 25th anniversary and held a press conference to discuss current and long-term findings. The event was covered by three TV channels and two newspapers.
- Jenna Foster, DCJS- DCJS contracted with Justice 3-D to develop a protocol around the investigation of child fatalities. They will convene representatives from law enforcement, CPS and other stakeholders in the protocol review and are developing a training to accompany the protocol.
- Ellen White, VA Courts- Judges began training on the Families First Prevention Act in May. The Court Improvement Program is now holding regional trainings for attorneys that represent the department of social services and Guardians ad Litem.
- Anya Shaffer, DCJS- DCJS has very recently hired a State Trafficking Response Coordinator, Angella Alvernaz. The position sits in Director's office so that that person can be a point person to collaborate across systems. Additionally, DCJS recently obtained several new positions including 3 new grant monitors and a fiscal monitor.

Fact update:

Nicole Poulin updated the committee on FACT's upcoming Grant Cycle, which will focus on supporting emerging and existing system wide Trauma-Informed Community Networks (TICNs) across Virginia. By supporting emerging and existing TICNs across Virginia, FACT intends to leverage the collective ability across localities and regions of Virginia to address social, economic and structural challenges that affect health and equity.

Additionally, FACT will support small organizations, especially in rural, under-served areas with grant-writing and nonprofit management technical assistance. Many programs in underserved areas do not have the capacity to write and administer successful grants. This new program will tackle this lack of capacity and therefore address gaps in family violence service funding across the state.

Meghan Resler updated the committee on FACT's Issue Brief Series - Systems of Trauma: How societal injustices affect and cause traumatic stress. The first brief on Racial Trauma is on the FACT website now, the second on Economic Trauma will be released in October, and the Third on Gender-based trauma will be released in April 2020.

CPS Update:

Shannon Hartung gave the committee the CPS update, which included:

- CPS is working to add a neglect category for classification of sudden unexpected death
- The new Human and Sex Trafficking assessment response track went into effect July 1st, since that time there have been 6 cases to fall into that category or response. A conference call has been coordinated with the state office to receive feedback, provide technical support and learn more about how localities can be supported in implementation. The biggest needs cited so far are resources like housing.
- Preliminary Child Fatality report will be put out next week, they are waiting on final approval.
- CPS developed a DV decision tree tool (Similar to the SEI Decision Tree Tool)- several localities are piloting the tool, and they will widely role it out with a webinar next month.
- State hotline is now fully staffed. Six hotline workers are still in training. They have requested 30 new positions on hotline for this year's budget. For the majority of calls, the average wait time is 5-10 minutes, down from an hour. However, there are still occasional wait times of up to an hour.
- Mandated reporting website has been put on hold—upon testing it, it was not user friendly for reporters or hotline workers. CPS wants to make sure it's correct and useful before putting it out.
- Compass Mobile is on schedule for launching iPads to caseworkers in the community. So far they have received positive feedback from localities. Structured Decision Making tools will be on the Compass Mobile Application and will be released in April. Training will be in early spring.

Diversion Study

Craig Patterson presented the Diversion Study report to the committee. At the 2016 General Assembly Session there was a budget amendment that directed VDSS to conduct a pilot project on data collection and reporting for local departments of social services (LDSS) regarding facilitated care arrangements (i.e. foster care diversion). The project intended to collect baseline data regarding "diversion cases" that will assist in exploring the barriers to achieving safety and stability for children with kin or alternative caregivers. Findings included:

- Diversion is mostly happening in investigative phases
- Primary involvement was linked to parental substance use, second to physical neglect and abuse
- 1,200 families had diversion cases during the 18 month pilot period.
- Relationship to the caregiver was overwhelmingly grandparents (47%); then aunts and uncles (17%)
- Service Provision was varied. There were more built out services for older youth

Next Steps:

Co-Chair Ginny Powell led the committee in a conversation about next steps.

Ginny Powell spoke with the Director of the Virginia Sexual and Domestic Violence Action Alliance. A member from their staff will be joining the CAN Committee team in the December meeting to discuss services available for child on child sexual abuse.

Jeanine Harper will reach out to Janice Dickens Davidson the new Director for Child Advocacy Centers in Virginia and ask her to also participate in the December meeting to discuss the topic of child on child sexual abuse.

Jenna Foster will reach out to DCJS's new hire Angella Alvernaz to see if she has any materials on human trafficking from a child welfare perspective to share with the committee.

Shannon Hartung will send Nicole the SEI tools for her to share with the committee.

Craig Patterson will send out the *Variations in the use of kinship diversion among child welfare agencies* brief to Nicole for her to share with the committee. The brief is open for dissemination.

The next CAN meeting is December 3, 2019

Meeting adjourned 12:42pm