

Family and Children's Trust Fund (FACT)
Child Abuse and Neglect Committee Minutes

The meeting was called to order by Committee Chair Betty Wade Coyle at 10:04 am on Wednesday, July 15th. The meeting included Hayley Mathews, Rita Katzman, John Oliver, Jo Ann Wilson-Harfst, Melissa O'Neill, Anya Shaffer, Jeanine Harper, Cedric Moore, and Dawn Chillon (arrived late). Ms. Coyle also welcomed Deborah Eves, Senior Program Consultant from VDSS.

The committee reviewed the draft minutes from the meeting that took place on March 2, 2015. ON MOTION DULY MADE (Mr. Oliver) and seconded (Ms. Katzman) moved to approve the minutes as presented.

Following committee member introductions and a review of the agenda, Committee Chair Coyle provided an update on the letter that was sent to the Governor's office regarding Fostering to 21 and Senate Bill 967. The response from the Governor's office was reviewed and discussed.

In addition, Ms. Mathews updated the committee on FACT's recent work. She provided an update on the FACT Board's focus on trauma. She also informed committee members of the new blog feature through FACT's website and demonstrated how to access the data portal. She indicated that FACT would be making changes to its RFP for the 2016-2017 grant cycle, which would likely be issued in December, and reminded members about training and public awareness sponsorship opportunities through FACT's ad hoc grants.

Following Ms. Mathews' report, Jeanine Harper provided an update on the Greater Richmond Trauma Informed Care Network (TICN), which has been meeting regularly since 2012 and represents 73 members and 43 agencies. TICN's annual report should be complete in September and will provide updates on work that is taking place regarding training, education, trauma certifications, workforce development, screening and piloting efforts at Henrico and Chesterfield DSS.

Rita Katzman provided several updates from VDSS' Division of Family Services. She reported that the new guidance chapter related to Domestic Violence is now public, and she showed the committee how to access it through VDSS' public site. She also provided an update on the division's Learning Collaboratives, which provide a series of learning opportunities to 21 participating local departments of social services to test "good practice." These learning opportunities have focused on organizational leadership, trauma, and coaching and are being supported by Casey Family Programs. Transfer of learning work is taking place in each region of the state in between meetings.

Ms. Katzman and Ms. Eves reported that the CPS, Foster Care and Independent Living service plans are now going to share similar fields. Assessment information from both the SDM and CANS assessment tools will now be used to inform the actual plan. Changes also allow for more comprehensive information to be captured including health, family search, and education information. Efforts are currently underway to integrate information with the Office of Comprehensive Services.

Ms. Eves provided an update on Virginia's five year plan and the preparatory efforts currently underway for the 2017 CFSR review. Virginia will likely opt for a state-led review, and several committee members expressed interest in serving as a reviewer.

The committee ran out of time to discuss additional updates from other members.

Foster care diversion recommendations are due to the General Assembly on October 1st, so draft guidance will be reviewed at the next meeting. A recommendation was also made to get an update on the Vision 21 grant as part of this committee's efforts to get a better understanding of the statewide context for Virginia's trauma efforts.

The next meeting is scheduled to take place on Thursday, September 3rd from 10:00 to 1:00 in Richmond. The meeting ended at 1:02 pm.