

## **Family and Children’s Trust Fund (FACT) Board of Trustees September 2015 Meeting Minutes**

### **Members Attending**

Anne J. Atkinson  
Candace Bryan Abbey  
Robin Foreman-Wheeler  
Frank Blechman  
Dawn Chillon (first day only)  
Betty Wade Coyle  
Jack Frazier, VDSS Deputy Commissioner for Operations (designee for Commissioner Schultze)  
Pam Kennedy  
Kay Kovacs  
Judy Kurtz  
Nadine Marsh-Carter  
John Oliver  
Mary Riley  
Lisa Specter-Dunaway  
Yasmine Taeb

### **Members Not Attending**

Kevin Keene

### **Also Attending**

Michelle L’Hommedieu, Office of the Attorney General  
Ms. Janice Johnson, incoming interim Executive Director, YWCA of South Hampton Roads  
Ms. Ruth Jones, Executive Director, YWCA of South Hampton Roads  
Ms. Angela Kellam, Executive Director, Samaritan House  
Hayley Mathews, FACT Executive Director  
Ms. Leah Williams, Chief Development Officer, YWCA of South Hampton Roads

**September 9, 2015**

### **Call to Order and Review of Agenda**

Chairman Specter-Dunaway called the meeting to order at 11:01 AM. Ms. Nadine Marsh-Carter, President and CEO of the Children’s Home Society, was introduced as a newly appointed FACT Board member; other members welcomed Ms. Marsh-Carter and briefly introduced themselves. Chairman Specter-Dunaway reviewed the agenda and no revisions were made.

### **Approval of Minutes**

Secretary Atkinson presented the June 2015 minutes that were sent via e-mail to Board members in advance. ON MOTION DULY MADE (Ms. Coyle) and seconded (Mr. Blechman) the minutes were approved. Motion carried with all present voting in favor.

### **FACT Chair Report**

Reviewing the development of FACT’s strategic plan, Chairman Specter-Dunaway noted that goals of the plan would be reviewed and discussed the next day after committee meetings to make sure the plan continues to reflect the Board’s intent.

## **Family and Children's Trust Fund (FACT) Board of Trustees**

### **September 2015 Meeting Minutes**

It was announced that each Board member has been assigned to at least one of the FACT committees and briefly reviewed the list that was provided.

Chairman Specter-Dunaway shared in the meeting materials a letter to the Governor (dated March 12, 2015) regarding 2015 legislation related to youth in foster care transitioning to adulthood (Fostering to 21) and child care as well as the response of the Governor's Office (dated May 26, 2015). Noting the process by which a letter to the Governor is sent, received, received by appropriate agencies, and a response is developed, discussion followed about what are the most effective ways to advise the Governor on issues related to family violence. The role of FACT in educating policymakers, including advising the Governor, was clarified and differentiated from the advocacy role of other organizations.

#### **Executive Director's Report**

A written summary report was included as part of Board meeting materials. Ms. Mathews reported that data for the FACT Report was currently being collected and updated on the FACT's site and was expected to be completed by the end of September. Following discussion of the potential topics for the next Issue Brief, consensus was reached that a series of Issue Briefs would be produced on the topic of family violence and intergenerational trauma. Such a series would represent an opportunity to advance the intergenerational aspects of family violence and include information on effective preventive strategies as well.

During a working lunch, Ms. Mathews demonstrated the FACT website and reported on social media presence efforts and plans for a quarterly electronic newsletter. Members encouraged Broad distribution and use of analytics to assess effectiveness. A website that allowed users to access data for particular localities was demonstrated and the possibility of FACT having such a function on its website was briefly discussed. The topic will be reviewed again in the future after further investigation.

Regarding local services grants, Ms. Mathews reported all fourth quarter invoices have been paid for 2014-2015 grantees.

Ms. Mathews also reported on FACT's involvement with a federal grant initiative, Vision 21, to improve the identification of children and youth who have been victimized and to provide them effective services.

Ms. Mathews reported that federal Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) funding has increased and is being administered in Virginia by the Department of Criminal Justice Services. Board members were encouraged to take part in public listening sessions that are to be held in the upcoming weeks in order to provide input regarding how additional funds might be used.

#### **Treasurer's Report**

## **Family and Children's Trust Fund (FACT) Board of Trustees**

### **September 2015 Meeting Minutes**

Board members were provided copies of Profit and Loss statements for July 2014 to June 2015 and for July 2015; Balance Sheets as of June 30, 2015 and for July 31, 2015; and a draft proposed 2015-16 Budget for year ending June 30, 2016. It was noted that larger balances were largely attributable to no grants being awarded this year and reduced costs of consultant fees for the FACT Report. Ms. Mathews circulated historical data on declining license plate revenues; disbursements were \$136,080 for KIDS First plates and \$48,375 for Children's Programs for FY15. Ms. Mathews also provided an update on the FY14 audit, which is very near completion; a final report will be presented at the December meeting. A new audit firm will be identified via a competitive bid process.

#### **Grants Committee Discussion**

Ms. Kurtz summarized deliberations of the Grants Committee in determining the approach to grant making. It was noted that FACT is different from other organizations in that FACT focuses on the entire continuum of family violence which requires an approach that is broad-based and flexible in support of local communities. Types of grants awarded in 2013-2014 and 2014-2015 were reviewed. Three options were presented and discussed. Action was deferred until the second day of the meeting. Chairman Specter-Dunaway asked the Board to consider whether members would be comfortable awarding both large and small grants, committing to 2-year awards (1 year plus a conditional 2<sup>nd</sup> year), and having applications reviewed by the committee rather than the whole Board.

#### **Update from the Field**

Ms. Specter-Dunaway introduced representatives from two organizations that received FACT grants, noting that the presentations served as the meeting's mission moment.

Ms. Angela Kellam, Executive Director of Samaritan House presented an overview of the work of her organization, which received a \$12,000 from FACT last year. A PowerPoint handout of her presentation was distributed to Board members. Samaritan House serves Virginia Beach and is the largest provider of domestic violence services in the state. Both housing and community-based services are provided.

Ms. Ruth Jones, Executive Director of the YWCA of South Hampton Roads and Leah Williams, Chief Development Officer, provided a presentation on their organization. Also, Ms. Janice Johnson was introduced as Interim Executive Director of the YWCA effective September 20. The presentation included an overview of services including respite child care, the program area that received a \$15,000 FACT grant. A folder of information on the YWCA was distributed to Board members.

#### **Announcements and Recess**

Ms. Specter-Dunaway reminded Goal Champions and committee chairs to review the draft workplan in preparation for reporting on day two of the meeting, beginning at 8:30 AM. The meeting was recessed at 4:00 PM.

**September 10, 2015**

## Family and Children's Trust Fund (FACT) Board of Trustees September 2015 Meeting Minutes

### **Meeting Reconvened and Opening Remarks**

The meeting was re-convened at 8:34 AM. Ms. Specter-Dunaway asked Ms. Atkinson, Ms. Coyle, and Mr. Oliver to join the Fund Development Committee discussion and Ms. Chillon and Ms. Marsh-Carter to join the Grants Committee discussion. Members were reminded to use the workplan document shared with the Board and to carefully record any needed changes to the plan during committee deliberations.

Committee Breakouts began at 8:45 AM.

### **Committee Reports and Workplan**

The full Board re-convened at 10:27 AM.

***Goal #1: Serving as data clearinghouse on family violence throughout Virginia:*** Ms. Atkinson reported that the FACT Report will be available electronically in October and that resource materials will be provided online. FACT staff have been presenting information on FACT's data portal to various stakeholder groups and have continued to receive positive feedback; presentations to targeted groups will continue through the fall. Facebook, Twitter, and Linked-In accounts have been launched to assist in promoting use of the information. Google Analytics are being used to determine portal traffic and inform decisions about webinar needs.

***Goal #2: Supporting organizations and communities and building community capacity:*** Ms. Kurtz reported that the Grants Committee recommends approval of Option #3. ON MOTION DULY MADE (Ms. Kurtz for Grants Committee) and seconded (Ms. Coyle) that the Board approves Option #3 of the Grants Committee recommendations for 2015-2016. This option allows for awards up to a total \$100,000 (\$200,000 set aside in year 1) and award up to two \$25,000 awards with a one-year renewal (\$100,000 set aside in year 1). The \$15,000 grants would support direct services, training, and/or public awareness efforts; all funded projects must focus on trauma in some way; and work must be evidence-informed. The \$25,000 grants must focus on prevention and/or treatment; focus on trauma; focus on systems change in some way; should be evidence-informed or evidence-based; and require public/private collaboration. Motion passed with Mr. Blechman opposed, all other Board members supporting, and no abstentions.

***Goal #3: Conduct comprehensive fundraising efforts to support prevention and treatment of family violence:*** Ms. Kovacs reported on the discussion of the Fund Development Committee. Four areas of existing and potential funding were reviewed and action items identified. Given the limited capacity of FACT and current commitments of staff, there was consensus that there is need to work with other organizations that may have a common interest. Various members agreed to explore potential for promotional alliances with organizations in the fields of helping professions, education, pediatric medicine, and family law. Board members have been asked to donate at the \$500 level; follow-up communication regarding these donations will be undertaken. Ms. Kovacs will explore potential foundation funding sources. UPON MOTION DULY MADE (Ms. Kennedy) and seconded (Mr.

## **Family and Children's Trust Fund (FACT) Board of Trustees**

### **September 2015 Meeting Minutes**

Blechman), it was resolved to authorize Ms. Mathews to explore further the feasibility of establishing an endowment.

***Goal #4: Enhance marketing efforts to promote FACT's mission and service to the community:*** Ms. Mathews sought clarification on action to be taken related to logo development and marketing activities. Board consensus was for Ms. Mathews to clarify status of logo development with Mr. Keane by October, and if need is indicated, to pursue other options.

#### **VDSS Update**

Mr. Jack Frazier, VDSS Deputy Commissioner for Operations provided updates on major department initiatives including 1) eligibility systems modernization, 2) youth permanency and adoption efforts, 3) modernization of child support practices, and 4) child care regulation. He reported that the long-term cases had begun to be converted into the electronic eligibility system and the process was going well. Related to youth permanency efforts, children available for adoption are being featured on the USKids and Virginia websites. A new staff member is examining data on children in care with intent to work closely with courts to ensure action to achieve permanency. As part of the modernization of child support practices, kiosks for payments via debit or credit cards or cash have been installed in many DSS offices. Related to child care regulation, a federal plan for the Commonwealth is under development. Board members were encouraged to take part in upcoming public hearings. The Department is also working on a communication plan as result of changes in state law and federal block grant requirements; the plan is aimed at helping parents choose wisely in selecting a child care provider, focusing on safety. Also reported was that certain block grant requirements were creating more family-friendly eligibility requirements and imposing additional health and safety requirements for child care providers. Additional inspections will be conducted and VDSS licensing and child care staff are working more closely.

#### **Debrief and Adjourn**

Upon invitation of Chairman Specter-Dunaway, Board members commented on what worked well and suggestions for improving future Board meetings. Ms. Mathews reminded members that the next meeting is scheduled for December 1 and 2 in Richmond.

UPON MOTION DULY MADE (Ms. Kennedy) and seconded (Mr. Blechman) the meeting was adjourned at 12:15 PM.