

## **Child Abuse and Neglect Committee Meeting Minutes**

**April 16, 2020**

### **Remote Meeting**

**Meeting attendees:** Ginny Powell, FACT Board; Jeanine Harper, GRSCAN; Nicole Shipp, VDSS; Anya Shafer, DCJS; Ellen White, VA Courts; Ali Faruk, Families Forward; Melissa O'Neill, CASA-DCJS; Zandra Relleford, Office of Children's Services; Katherine Hunter, DBHDS Office of Child and Family Services, Beverly Crowder, FACT Board; Michelle L'Hommedieu, OAG; Betty Wade Coyle, Craig Patterson, VDSS; Heather Board, VDH; Quyen Duong, DOE

Committee Co-chair Jeanine Harper called the meeting to order at 10:08am and introduced the meeting agenda and minutes. There were no corrections to the minutes. Ellen White moved to approve the minutes and Betty Wade Coyle seconded. Nicole Shipp and Craig Patterson abstained. Motion passed with all in favor.

#### **FACT Update:** Nicole Poulin

- Due to the Covid-19 crisis, FACT has cancelled the scheduled Grant Review Committee and Board Meetings. FACT is required to comply with state and federal laws related to public meetings and therefore a physical quorum is required to meet. There may be some changes related to this requirement coming from the legislature in upcoming weeks that will allow for virtual meetings.
- Much of the budget originally set forth by the General Assembly during this legislative session is expected to be reviewed and modified in order to address the Covid-19 crisis. Many of the items related to supporting trauma informed work in the Commonwealth may be eliminated or modified during this process, including the revenue from casino operations allocated to FACT.

#### **Discussion of CAPTA Letter:** Ginny Powell

- The FACT Board of Trustees must formally vote on the final recommendations of this committee prior to the submission of an official letter to VDSS. However, a provisional draft may be submitted in order to meet federal guidelines.
- The draft letter was reviewed and discussed by the Committee. Betty Wade Coyle brought up several issues to consider, including:
  - Increasing focus on Covid 19 crisis response as related to all the items
  - Increasing the scope of focus on the issue of Child on Child sexual assault to include institutions and not just family settings
  - Emphasizing the urgent need for a more coordinated and consistent response to SEI cases
  - Including discussion of need to ensure appropriate responses to extremely high risk families that ensure safety for the children in the planning for Families First
- Ginny will work with Nicole, Jeanine and Betty Wade to incorporate some of the suggested changes and present an undated draft to the committee for review prior to submission.

## **CPS Update: Nicole Shipp**

### Overview of Covid-19 Responses:

- An Executive Order was declared for CPS Workers to be classified as “Essential Workers”. This allows them to access PPE in order to more safely enter homes and have face to face contact with families they are working with
- Updates have been made to software and apps to allow for workers to readily access resources and tools specific to the crisis including those focused on self-care for workers
- Weekly data reports are being run and analyzed to provide guidance on responses and trends
- Working regularly with internal partners in addition to those in the federal government and other state agencies such as DOE; on communication, coordination and reporting
- Working with state non-profits (Voices for VA’s Children and Families Forward) to share information and resources
- Working with state partners at DMAS, VDH and DBHDS to coordinate protocol and responses to children who have been exposed to Covid-19.
- Updating internal and external websites with information and resources
- Supporting local responses to CPS reports as “business as usual”; workers are expected to respond to all valid cases in person using PPE when appropriate
- Supporting local efforts to provide in person or virtual visits to on-going CPS and foster care cases
- 6 local agencies had to temporarily close due to staff exposure; Regional Directors were able to help coordinate coverage with neighboring departments to provide services
- Monitoring number of calls coming to the hotline, do not have enough data yet to analysis trends. Anecdotally hearing that fewer cases are being reported but calls that are coming in are for more severe cases
- One locality is working with law enforcement to track calls for service related virus exposure

### **Next Steps:**

- Agreement was made to adjourn the meeting in order to respect time commitments of participants and conduct an addition meeting in the few weeks to get further updates and review updated CAPTA letter

Meeting was adjourned at 11:12AM