

Child Abuse and Neglect Committee Meeting Minutes

June 25, 2020

Remote Meeting

Meeting attendees: Ginny Powell, FACT Board; Jeanine Harper, GRSCAN; Nicole Shipp, VDSS; Anya Shafer, DCJS; Ellen White, VA Courts; Melissa O'Neill, CASA-DCJS; Michelle L'Hommedieu, OAG; Betty Wade Coyle, Craig Patterson, VDSS; Quyen Duong, DOE; Shannon Hartang, VDSS; Keisha William, VDSS; Jenna Easton, DJJ; Nancy Toscano, UMFS; Kat Monusky, VSDVAA, Katherine Hunter, DBHDS

Committee Co-chair Jeanine Harper called the meeting to order at 9:04 AM and introduced the meeting agenda and minutes. There was one correction made to the minutes. Ellen White moved to approve the minutes with the correction and Ginny Powell seconded. Motion passed with all in favor and no abstentions.

Ginny Powell moved that previous actions taken by the committee on April 16th and 29th of 2020, including the minutes and the 2020 Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (CAPTA) Report, be approved for the recorded record. Ellen White seconded. Motion passed with all in favor and no abstentions.

VDSS Child Protective Services (CPS) Update: Shannon Hartung, CPS Manager

- The Department continues to develop social media campaigns focused on providing resources and referrals for victims of domestic violence and child abuse.
- Work continues to provide all training previously provided in classroom form to on-line venues. New worker trainings are expected to be made available on-line in August.
- Data on access to services continues to be closely monitored and used in Continuous Quality Improvement processes/ There are continued challenges with the current case management system, where user error issues have been identified.
- Preparation continues for an expected increase in referrals as schools begin to reopen in the fall.
- Work with Regional Practice Consultants to review data and trends for preparation plans continue. This process has led to identifying and reviewing overdue referrals in order to close out those that have been successfully completed. to free up room in caseloads, and to work with agencies that have not followed up to develop action plans to address these cases appropriately.
- DSS is working with DOE and Families Forward to assist in training school personnel on indicators of possible child abuse/neglect and processes for making reports.
- New Legislation for CPS- Effective July 1, 2020
 - Retention for unfounded reported cases extended from 1 to 3 years

- Timeframe for family assessment has been changed from 45 to 65 days
- All athletic coaches are now mandated reporters (private and public)
- Name of “Sex Trafficking Assessment” changed to “Human Trafficking Assessment” in Code of Virginia
- LDSS has authority to question victim and siblings in Human Trafficking Assessments without parent or guardian permission
- Hotline Updates
 - Call volume is down
 - Wait times are down
 - 3 positions vacant and unable to be filled due to state hiring freeze
 - Anticipate significant increase in calls as summer camps, day cares and schools start to reopen
 - Mandated reporting website has been outsourced to same vendor who developed Compass Mobile Application
- Kristine Zagar has been selected as the new Director of Family Services for VDSS.
- There was discussion about possible concerns related to increase of virtual visits and potential challenges related to foster care placement.
 - There have not been any concerns expressed by local CPS workers. Virtual visits are being used to supplement, not replace, face-to-face visits in most cases, and there have not been any barriers or problems reported regarding placement of children related to Covid-19.
- There has not been an increase in removals or fatalities.
- There has not been a statewide system for children to self-report abuse and neglect , although some of the school systems have developed “daily check in” tools. Child Help, a national organization, has reporting tools available.
- There was discussion about the potential of this committee to formally endorse hiring allowances in order to move forward with filling vacant hotline positions and other local DSS staff vacancies.
- There was discussion about confidentiality issues for local workers working from home during this time.
 - Local agencies have their own individual confidentiality policies. Many agencies have opened up offices and most workers are used to working on an “on-call” basis and are therefore familiar with confidentiality standards required for working from home.

VDSS Prevention Update: Keisha Williams, Prevention Manager

- It looks as though Families First will be moving forward beginning January, 2021.
- Work continues on QRTP (Qualified Residential Treatment Program) standards.
- Work continues around increasing Evidence Based Treatment options available that meet Families First standards.
- There is a Families First website available; any questions can be submitted.

- Examination of training and guidance needs for In-Home Services Workers continues.
- Work has begun on a multi-system Statewide Prevention Plan outlined in the last legislative session.
- The application for Community Based Child Abuse Prevention funding has been submitted. The department will examine how CBCAP funds are being used by grantees to ensure maximum impact on prevention.
- Work continues with Consultants around open on-going cases and examining why some cases aren't being closed out, including delays related to the availability of court hearing dates .

Committee Members Updates

- Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services (DBHDS)
Katherine Hunter
 - There has been significant strain placed on local Community Services Boards during this time of COVID-19. Several had to furlough and cut back staffing positions.
 - The *SAMHSA Emergency Grant to Address Mental and Substance Use Disorders During COVID-19* was applied for and awarded to support ongoing treatment and recovery needs. This will provide for the development and implementation of specialized supports for health care workers affected by COVID-19, and ensuring that individuals with symptoms that do not reach the threshold of serious mental illness or severe substance use disorder can access services.
 - The SAMHSA Crisis Counseling Program (CCP) (\$391,655), which will provide time-limited community-based capacity to provide crisis counseling dealing with the traumatic effects of the coronavirus pandemic, was also recently awarded.
 - The SAMHSA Emergency Suicide Prevention Grant (\$800,000) has been applied for. If awarded, it will allow the six regional suicide prevention coalitions to build their capacity to support suicide prevention and interventions, as well as targeted funding to build bridges with and support domestic violence populations who are particularly at risk for suicide given heightened isolation.

Next Steps: Ginny Powell

- We would like to expand the membership on this committee to increase involvement from local agencies and private citizens. Members were asked to pass on any potential candidates to Nicole to pass along to the Co-Chairs.
- The Committee will begin to look at the issue of racial disparities at the next meeting.
- Ginny will be making data requests specific to child-on-child sexual assault.

- A scheduling poll will go out for our next meeting in September.

Meeting was adjourned at 10:35 AM