

Child Abuse and Neglect Committee Meeting Minutes

December 15, 2020

Remote Meeting

Meeting attendees: Ginny Powell, FACT Board; Jeanine Harper; Anya Shafer, DCJS; Ellen White, VA Courts; Melissa O'Neill, CASA-DCJ; Michelle L'Hommedieu, OAG; Quyen Duong, DOE; Shannon Hartang, VDSS; Jenna Easton, DJJ; Kat Monusky, SDVAA, Katherine Hunter, DBHDS; Amy Strite, Voices for Virginia's Children; Betsy Bell; DCJS; Elizabeth Lee; Deanna Lavery, Haven Shelter; Ali Faruk, Families Forward; Stephanie Howard, Norfolk State University; Betty Wade Coyle

Committee Co-Chair Ginny Powell called the meeting to order at 1:05 PM and introduced the meeting agenda and minutes. There were no corrections made to the minutes. Ellen White moved to approve the minutes and Shannon Hartung seconded. The motion passed with all in favor and no abstentions.

FACT Update: Nicole Poulin, FACT Executive Director

- FACT has released the guidance for the FACT Emergency Fund Project to help families in need during this challenging time. The project is open to existing TICNs. Financial support will be made on a first come, first serve basis during two funding cohort periods open. The first is currently open to support 5 TICNs at \$5,000 the second will be open in March for an additional 5 TICNs. Funding is intended to be flexible to maximize impact and allow TICNs to meet the needs of their specific localities.
- At their next meeting, the FACT Board will be considering a proposal from the Department of Juvenile Justice to expand the FACT Emergency Fund Project to focus on juveniles and young adults who have been involved with the juvenile justice system.

VDSS CPS Update: Shannon Hartung, CPS Manager

- CPS referrals continue to be down 50% from last year overall. However, there was a 9% increase in referrals from schools from September to October- those are still down 19% from the previous year. The most common sources of referrals are from 1) law enforcement 2) unknown/anonymous sources 3) school staff.
- CPS staff continues to meet with consultants to review data and monitor referrals. Timeliness of responses to referrals are currently being reviewed. Staff are required to respond to referred cases within 24 hours, 48 hours or 40 working hours, depending on the response level determined. Movement has been made toward meeting the federal standard set for these response times for 88% of cases; however, there remains a need for improvement, as Virginia's

current rate is 74%. Barriers to meeting these standards are lack of staff and lack of documentation. Some local agencies are doing very well meeting these standards. The agencies that are struggling are working with practice consultants and being monitored on a weekly basis.

- Hotline wait times are up again, from 8 to 12 minutes in recent weeks. There are a number of staff vacancies and two supervisors were out on leave.
- The on-line referral portal is currently open for all mandated reporters; the state hotline will continue to provide 24 hour service and local agencies are required to provide 24 hour coverage as well. Toolkits about the portal have been distributed. In the two months it's been available, approximately 200 referrals have come in. Physicians and counselors are the most common sources referral. This service is not available for APS referrals sources.
- The Structured Decision Making tool (SDM) validation project completed. SDM intake tool was released in August; the other tools will be released after the implementation of Families First and the In-Home redesigned. The first webinar on this was very successful with over 350 local staff participating.
- The work on child on child sexual abuse has been briefly paused due the staff vacancy of the VDSS Prevention Manager. That position is expected to be filled within the next month.
- VDSS collaborated with a number of federal partners to locate missing youth. VDSS provided data for a number of youth, 20 local agencies also participated. 29 youth were located, 11 arrests were made, and local agencies provided support for a number of located youth. The final report on this project should be out in coming months.

Division of Family Services Update: Elizabeth Lee, Assistant Director of Protection and Prevention Programs

- The division is shifting priorities to focus more on prevention.
- The position of In-Home Program Manager is currently in recruit.
- The In-Home practice model has been launched. It is a combination of different practice models previously implemented in various localities and provides best practice guidance, tools and supports focused on assisting families while addressing safety concerns for children. One of the goals of this model is work toward a more unified response across jurisdictions.
- In the next few months, there will be some significant changes to the Oasis data system to include more structured decision-making tools and focus more on family decision-making. These changes will help to manage the federal data collection changes required by Title IV funding for Families First.

Overview of data and practice related to child on child sexual abuse: Jenna Easton, State JPAI Coordinator, DJJ; Betsy Bell, K-12 Mental Health and Suicide Prevention Programs Coordinator, DCJS and Quyen Duong, Student Services Specialist, DOE

Jenna Easton:

- DJJ does not collect information on child on child sexual assault chargers. Community data collected indicates general sexual assault charges but the age of the victim is not included.
- There is data available on incidents that have occurred at the one juvenile correctional facility in Virginia. This information is available on their website.
- The response to this issue continues to vary from one locality to another.

Quyen Duong:

- Data on this topic is managed through the disciplinary data system.
- Rates vary significantly from locality to locality.
- Victims have the option of changing schools if they wish.
- DOE has issued new guidance on school responses and student conduct to incorporate more supportive interventions and less on punitive responses.
- Some schools provide prevention programs and the new Family Life Education curriculum includes components on healthy relationships.

Betsy Bell:

- Center for School and Campus Safety has data for one question asked about dating violence on the School Climate survey. This survey is administered in high schools, every other year. In the last survey, 11% of respondents indicated they had experienced some form of dating violence.
- The committee established review the survey is currently working on updating the questions and are open to considering recommendations.

Next Steps: Ginny Powell

- There were no program updates.
- Nicole will work on convening a Panel Discussion on the topic to child on child and move forward on developing statewide guidance.
- Nicole will send out a calendar survey to determine our next meeting date in March.

Meeting was adjourned at 2:25