

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 10:05 am on Thursday, December 4th. The meeting included Hayley Mathews, Rita Katzman, John Oliver, Melissa O'Neill, Katharine Hunter, Anya Shaffer, Jeanine Harper, and Cedric Moore. Ms. Coyle also welcomed Alex Kamberis, Assistant Director of the Division of Family Services at VDSS.

The committee reviewed the draft minutes from the meeting that took place on August 14, 2014. ON MOTION DULY MADE (Ms. Katzman) and seconded (Mr. Oliver) moved to approve the minutes as presented.

Following committee member introductions and a review of the agenda, Ms. Mathews updated the committee on FACT's recent work. She provided an update on changes that can be expected in the 2014 FACT Report, the 2014 Issue Brief, and the upcoming launch of the data portal and website. She also shared examples of some of the data dashboards that will be made available when the portal goes live later in January.

Mr. Kamberis provided a presentation to the committee on child welfare data for FY14. He specifically highlighted CPS and foster care information and answered a number of questions regarding some of the outcome measure that were presented. In addition, he provided information on new federal legislation, H.R. 4980 – Preventing Sex Trafficking and Strengthening Families Act. The legislation will impact reporting requirements for victims of sex trafficking and runaway youth and impacts a number of program requirements regarding permanency, youth empowerment and adoption.

Rita Katzman provided updates on the state child fatality review team, the status of the new domestic violence chapter for VDSS' Division of Family Services Guidance manual, and potential hot topics that might be debated during the 2015 General Assembly session.

Jeanine Harper informed the group that the Greater Richmond Trauma Informed Care Network recently sponsored a webinar on a screening tool for child welfare workers, which staff from Henrico DSS and Chesterfield DSS are currently evaluating. The network is also looking at trauma certification, trauma-informed supervision, a curriculum re-design with VCU's School of Social Work.

Anya Shaffer reported on recent Rape Prevention and Education staffing changes and recent funding changes from the CDC. The RFP for RPE money for primary prevention of sexual violence should be released very soon in order for contracts to begin over the winter.

Katharine Hunter reported that the new Commissioner for the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services is in the process of reorganizing the entire agency around specific teams. Part C of Early Intervention has already been moved to the Office of Intellectual and Developmental disability.

Melissa O'Neill announced that the report on the Homelessness Task Force will be coming out soon, which does highlight aspects of the impact of trauma. The annual CASA conference just took place, with approximately 275 people in attendance.

The committee agreed to continue its focus primarily on foster care diversion and trauma. The next meeting will include an update on the promotion of FACT's Issue Brief, an update on the Safe Sleep initiative, and an update on the Greater Richmond Trauma Informed Care Network.

The next meeting is scheduled to take place on Monday, March 2nd from 1:00 to 4:00 in Richmond. The meeting ended at 12:54 pm.