

Family and Children's Trust Fund (FACT)
Child Abuse and Neglect Committee Minutes

The meeting began at 10:05 am on Thursday, May 8th and included Betty Wade Coyle, Hayley Mathews, Rita Katzman, Maribel Lauber, Nicole Poulin, Deborah Eves, Melissa O'Neill, Susan Heck, John Oliver, Jeanine Harper, and Anne Atkinson. Ms Coyle, Committee Chair, welcomed Maribel Lauber as the new representative from the Virginia Department of Education. Ms. Lauber introduced herself and shared information with the rest of the committee about her background.

Ms. Mathews, FACT Executive Director, updated the committee on the 2013 FACT Report and Issue Brief and informed members that the topic for the 2014 Issue Brief will focus on the impact of domestic violence on children. She shared that Rebecca Hjelm recently began as a P14 contract employee with the Virginia Department of Social Services (VDSS) and has taken over the development of the publications in place of Communitas Consulting. She has identified business intelligence software that will assist FACT stakeholders in utilizing the locality-specific family violence information, which is housed on FACT's website, in a more comprehensive way. Ms. Mathews reported that FACT hopes to be able to roll out the use of the new software by early 2015.

Ms. Rita Katman provided an overview of CPS-related legislation from the 2014 General Assembly session. An overview document was sent to the committee in advance of the meeting, but Ms. Katzman had an opportunity to provide additional information as it pertains to the CPS program. During her presentation, a suggestion was made by committee member Anne Atkinson for VDSS' Division of Family Services guidance manual to clearly differentiate between law, regulation, guidance, and best practice. The way the manual is currently outlined does not clearly delineate between what is required in practice versus what is a suggested practice. The committee agreed this recommendation should be taken to the FACT Board for consideration to be sent to Commissioner Schultze.

Ms. Deborah Eves, a program specialist with VDSS' Division of Family Services, and Ms. Rita Katzman provided background on the goals section of the 2015-2019 Child and Family Services Plan and the 2014 CAPTA Plan. Committee members provided feedback on various components of the drafts. Ms. Katzman provided additional context for some of the elements outlined in the drafts. The feedback was collected and will be communicated back to the Division of Family Services management for consideration in the plans.

The committee ran out of time to conduct formal updates from each of the committee members, but the next meeting agenda will be sure to include time for other committee members to report out on related work within his/her organizations/networks.

The remaining 2014 meeting dates include August 14, 2014 and November 13, 2014. The meeting ended at 1:03 pm.