

**DRAFT MINUTES, VA FAMILY AND CHILDREN’S TRUST FUND
(VA-FACT) Board of Trustees Meeting, March 11, 2021**

Participation:

Trustees Present: Allison Lawrence (Vice Chair), Jennifer Gillyard (Secretary), Judy Kurtz (Treasurer), Carter Batey, Gena Berger (Chief Deputy Commissioner, Commissioner’s Designee), Yvonne Bibbs, Beverly Crowder, Tavares Floyd, Tiffany Garner, Linda Gilliam, Dominique Marsalek, and Season Roberts .

Trustees Absent: Tarina Keene, Kay Kovacs, Virginia (Ginny) Powell, Mary Riley (Chair) and Linda Wilkinson

Staff Present: Nicole Poulin (Executive Director), Michelle L’Hommedieu (Attorney)

Opening: Vice Chairperson Lawrence called the meeting to order at 1:00 PM via an electronic conference system.

Decisions and Actions: The following actions were approved by the Board unanimously unless otherwise noted.

Minutes: The minutes of the December 2020 Board meeting were approved with no corrections. Trustee Floyd made a motion to accept the minutes, seconded by Trustee Gilliam, with no objections or abstentions.

Staff Report: The full report of the Executive Director was provided in the [meeting packet](#). Highlights included:

- We are funding 10 TICNS (\$5,000 each). We anticipated 10 TICNS and only have three. Phase II closes in mid-April. The Grants committee is working with the Executive Director to determine whether or not the request for applications should be extended.
- Second quarter reports and invoices for local community grants have been reviewed and processed. All have come in except for one due to personnel issues; this is our smallest grant awardee.
- The Department of Juvenile Justice Emergency Fund initiative is having some challenges fundraising the \$5,000 for FACT to match; Trustee Roberts is working with them on this matter.
- We continue to work with the development of a federal grant application called Thriving Families, Safer Children which provides technical assistance to states in partnership with the US Children’s Bureau, Casey Family Programs, Annie E Casey Foundation and Prevent Child Abuse America. FACT is a partner since Virginia was selected as a partner.
- Motions to be consider:
 - First Motion is to support FACT in signing on to a letter developed to Campaign for Trauma Policy and Programs focused on increasing funding support for trauma programs. The letter will be directed to Senator Kaine requesting him to convene the HELP (Health Education Labor and Pension) oversight committee to examine a new WHO report on ACEDS. Per the report, billions are being lost due to ACEDS going unaddressed. Trustee Gillyard made a motion to support FACT as a signatory, seconded by Trustee Kurtz with no objections or abstentions.

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- Second Motion is for FACT to allocate \$10K from the reserve fund for the Executive Director to work with the Exec committee to hire an outside consultant to perform research and development for FACT; recommending an outside consultant will prevent any conflict of interest. FACT is the model of children's trusts for VA. However, in other jurisdictions, children's trusts operate like a nonprofit and some are within DSS agencies while others are a mix of both. There are many different models for children's trusts; the impartial consultant would do an analysis and provide models for the Trustees to consider as well as determine any needed legislative or administrative changes for sustainability. If the motion is approved, updates will be provided to Trustees in June 2021. This would support FACT's efforts around advocacy and enable FACT to fundraise and have more decision making power in how we spend our dollars versus going through the state procurement system which has posed barriers and is not sustainable. This process may take up to a year since any change from the current model will require a statutory change. Trustee Marsalek made a motion to support hiring a consultant to create a sustainability plan for FACT for \$10K, seconded by Trustee Garner with no objections or abstentions.

CAN Committee: Updates provided by Executive Director Poulin on behalf of Trustee Powell and is outlined in Board's meeting packet. Key issues included:

- First Motion Requested: Voices for Virginia's Children presented on the Ombudsman Program to CAN. The Ombudsman would serve as an impartial entity who oversees and investigates any complaints or concerns related to local departments of child welfare services. Both Voices for Virginia's Children and Families Forward are requesting FACT sign on to a letter requesting the Governor to expedite the process for creating this program.
 - Motion made by Trustee Kurtz to approve FACT as a signatory on the letter to the Governor, seconded by Trustee Floyd, with no objections or abstentions.
- Second Motion Requested: CAN serves as an advisory board as well as a citizen review committee for FACT. In the latter capacity, CAN analyzes and makes recommendations related to child welfare and DSS' role as it relates to child welfare matters. There are five topics that CAN would like to examine in the upcoming year which requires FACT's approval:
 1. DSS' response (policy, guidance and practices) towards families once the pandemic ends
 2. Role of DSS on child-on-child sexual abuse cases
 3. Addressing equity and issues of systemic racism in child welfare
 4. Changes in response and data collection for diversion cases
 5. The ongoing challenges of the DSS State Hotline response
 - Motion made by Trustee Floyd to approve the five categories for CAN to examine, seconded by Trustee Marsalek, with no objections or abstentions.

Discussions: The following reports and discussions did not conclude with formal proposals for action. However, they do highlight areas of substantive discussion on which the Board may

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want to act in the future.

Chair's Report: Vice Chairperson Lawrence provided the report in lieu of Chair Riley. The Vice Chairperson announced that since FACT is required to elect officers annually, the Chair will be reaching out to trustees for persons to volunteer to be appointed to the nomination committee. The nomination committee will be responsible for creating a slate of officers. Motions on both the nominating committee participants and the slate of officers will be voted on in June by the full body of trustees.

FACT needs to rethink outreach around a legislative package. We did not have the success we wanted in securing additional funding in the state budget for FACT.

We are in the 35th Anniversary Year for FACT. Over the next few months Vice Chairperson Lawrence will be looking for participants to support a celebratory event in the Fall.

VDSS Report: Chief Deputy Commissioner Gena Berger provided Trustees with updates from the December meeting and the Governor's budget as it related to FACT's priorities. The Governor will review and sign legislation by March 31st. *Due to the extensiveness of this report, see the [PowerPoint](#) attached to these minutes.*

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer Kurtz gave a financial update. Kurtz reported on the budget for FY2021, profit and loss comparisons and balance sheets. The budget captured finances as of March 9th. Our income tax check-off revenue has increased and income from our license plate program has decreased. Individual contributions demonstrate that we have not had 100% board participation. Kurtz encouraged if persons have the financial means to please contribute to FACT's goal of a \$5,000 from collective trustee contributions by the end of the fiscal year.

Grants Committee: No Update. See Staff Report notes and full report in meeting packet for current approved projects supported by the FACT grant committee.

Adjournment/Wrap up: Vice Chairperson Lawrence thanked all attendees. Trustee Gillyard made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Trustee Floyd. Meeting concluded at 2:50 PM. The next meeting is June 14th from 1 – 2:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer Gillyard, FACT Secretary