

**DRAFT MINUTES, VA FAMILY AND CHILDREN'S TRUST FUND  
(VA-FACT) Board of Trustees Meeting, September 30, 2021**

**Participation:**

Trustees Present: Allison Lawrence (Chair), Judy Kurtz (Vice Chair), Jennifer Gillyard (Secretary), Dominique Marsalek (Treasurer), Gena Berger (Chief Deputy Commissioner, Commissioner's Designee), Yvonne Bibbs, Tavares Floyd, Tiffany Garner, and Linda Gilliam

Trustees Absent: Carter Batey, Beverly Crowder, Tarina Keene, Kay Kovacs, Virginia (Ginny) Powell, Season Roberts and Linda Wilkinson

Staff Present: Nicole Poulin (Executive Director), Taylor Davis (Senior Research Associate) and Michelle L'Hommedieu (Attorney)

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**Opening:** Chairperson Lawrence called the meeting to order at 10:20 AM

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

Minutes: Trustees needed additional materials to vote on the full minutes from the June 2021 Board meeting. A vote will be held during the next meeting pending a quorum.

Chair's Report: Chairperson Lawrence discussed FACT's 35<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. The Events Committee met over the last few months to plan for this event. FACT will be conducting a week-long virtual celebration, the week of November 8th- 12th.

Trustees will receive a virtual tool kit from Taylor in the next week that includes instructions on ways you can participate and help promote the events that will be hosted. We also plan on using this week as a fundraising opportunity for FACT so we hope everyone can participate.

Some of the activities we would like to conduct that week include:

- 2 or 3 lunch and learn events highlighting FACT's work and some of the issues we've been focused on
- Video testimonials from stakeholders, grantees, board members and other "friends of FACT" that can be shared on social media
- Announcing and promoting the FACT Resilient Communities Micro Awards- these would be small, \$350 awards made to any, established, recognized TICN that wants to access the funds to support their work. Feedback from the TICNS indicates they will use the money for a number of different projects such as: establishing a "resilience garden", a "mindfulness space", or support workshops or a community event in their locality.
- We would also like to use this week to recognize some longtime supporters of FACT and it's work at the state level by awarding them with FACT Recognition Awards (framed certificate). The proposed awardees for this are: Senator Jennifer McClellan, Delegate Paul Krizek, Senator George Barker- all of whom have introduced legislative actions to support FACT over the years. We would also like to award former Secretary Bill Hazel who was one of the first champions at the state level to promote the understanding of the impact of trauma and importance of trauma informed care in Virginia. We also want to acknowledge former Delegate Chris Peace who chaired the Appropriations committee.

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The Chair entertained a motion for the Executive Director to work with FACT's legal representative, Michelle, and the Grant's Committee to develop a short application process to approve \$350 micro awards for interested and established TICNs; the budget will account for 26 TICNS. Trustee Bibbs approved the motion and Trustee Berger seconded.

The Chair entertained a motion to approve FACT Awards for Senator Jennifer McClellan, Delegate Paul Krizek, Senator George Barker, former Secretary Bill Hazel and former Delegate Chris Peace. Trustee Gilliam approved the motion and Trustee Floyd seconded.

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer Marsalek gave a financial update. Marsalek reported on the revised budget proposed for FY 2022. The budget includes the approved Anniversary Micro Awards and a more accurate projection of the revenue from the license plate program, which we do not receive notice of until August or September for the previous fiscal year. The budget for FY 2022 was approved by Trustee Gilliam and seconded by Trustee Kurtz.

Grants Committee: We have one ad hoc proposal from the Virginia Victim Assistance Network for their annual conference in November. The request is for \$2,000 to support their annual statewide training in November 2021. FACT has supported this event many times. Executive Director Poulin reminded trustees they may attend these conferences with her to advertise FACT. Trustee Floyd approved the funding for the conference, seconded by Trustee Gillyard.

FACT's current larger community awards have moved into their second and final year of funding. They will be ending on July 30, 2022. We would like to have a Grants Committee Meeting after the October 13<sup>th</sup> Strategic Planning meeting to decide what recommendations to make to the Board regarding upcoming funding decisions. A sign-up sheet for this committee was passed around; previous members should re-sign if choosing to remain on the committee. Michelle reminded trustees when meetings need to be public or not.

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**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 want to act in the future.

CAN Committee: Executive Director Poulin provided updates for Trustee Powell. As an overview, the committee looks at child welfare issues and makes recommendations for VA DSS; the committee falls under FACT. Highlights included:

- The committee met earlier this month. They submitted a letter with recommendations to DSS, who should send a response back by December 2021.
- Last meeting, we approved sending a letter to fill the Ombudsman position, which was recently filled by Eric Reynolds. The Ombudsman is now a formal member of the CAN committee and will be looking at issues with child welfare including DSS'

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role with families. He will conduct investigations and present policy recommendations related to improving responses on cases.

- The committee continued a special project looking into improving protocols around child on child sexual abuse. Updates include:
  - Every state in the country is grappling with this issue which falls outside DSS' jurisdiction when the perpetrator is not a caregiver. The committee is looking into how states should respond outside of police as main responders.
  - Developed relationship with Department of Health who will have us work with an independent consultant to create state level guidance that will be made available for localities as well.
  - The committee held two panel discussions and a workgroup meeting and honed-in on problematic sexual behavior between pre-adolescent to older youth; the workgroup wants to focus on younger children first given the gap in response across jurisdiction.
  - Developed relationship with VA Children's Justice Act (CJA) contact who can support with training for child welfare professionals including the legal community through the National Association of Juvenile and Domestic Court Judges.
  - Developed relationship with a partner in Massachusetts who has national funding for CACs to develop certified counseling programs for families dealing with child on child sexual abuse. CACs are primarily getting these referrals from police departments and they are seeing more than one child who potentially needs intervention services.
  - Discussions also revealed the need for more therapists and social workers who specialize in child on child sexual abuse.

Editorial and Planning Committee: Trustee Gilliam provided an update. The current issue brief will focus on gender-based trauma through a conflict theory perspective. The first draft will be reviewed next week. The next issue brief will be focused on the specific trauma surrounding LGBTQIA+ populations.

Staff Report: The full report of the Executive Director was provided in the meeting packet. Highlights included:

- We wanted to fund 10 TICNS (\$5,000 each) for our Emergency Funds Project. We named 5 last year and 1 this year. The feedback has been positive. VA is providing a lot of rental assistance; we'll provide TICN contacts for that assistance so they will not need to use the emergency dollars to help with rent.
- There are a number of ongoing issues with our technology, website and donor site.
- Executive Director Poulin met with the VCU head on Gerontology project; they applied through DMAS for a 2<sup>nd</sup> extension of the program and if/when awarded they will come back to FACT and will probably want FACT to do a mini issue brief on increasing resiliency among nursing staff and participate in stakeholder feedback groups.
- FACT will have a vacancy in the Vice Chair position since this is Trustee Kurtz's last year.

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- Taylor demonstrated data on how well FACT has been doing with social media and what our engagement looks like.
- The Sustainability Planning meeting will be held October 13, 2021.
- FACT's newsletter "FACT's Family Fridge" will be quarterly
- Chair Lawrence requested that trustees promote their work with FACT through their networks.
- Trustees and Stakeholders may nominate a TICN:  
<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSf0WJxaFG0zXYFOskcVYsoYdqPevVLFJWCLURpWTrPNQA1KZw/viewform>

VDSS Report: Trustee Berger provided an update from the Special Session. Highlights included:

- General assembly approved money for the America Rescue Plan Act (ARPA)
- There were 2 buckets of funding
  - CBCAP/CAPTA and public benefit program funding.
  - Approximately one million in flex dollars (focused on educational campaign and mini grants) for states that will flow through DSS to TICNS (FACT will be a stakeholder and serve as part of the executive body to determine how these dollars should be disbursed).
- DSS asked for tweaks to language in budget to clarify legal terminology; they asked permission to roll over ARPA dollars from the fiscal year and are now just waiting for approvals.
- DSS will put forward ideas around prevention, etc.
- Families First went live in July 2021 and DSS is spending fed dollars on preventing children entering foster care by supporting evidence based services for parents/caretakers.
- The State has participated in the Afghan evacuation and refugee resettlement; DSS had an operations center at Dulles. We are trying to set up public assistance services for 1) repatriation efforts and 2) special immigrant visa holders trying to resettle families. We are looking at a multigenerational integration approach that includes child care and more services as we resettle refugees.
- We are estimating 3,000 to 5,000 refugees to be resettled in VA.
- Office of State Inspector General is doing an audit of child protective services in VA, we expect the same degree of concerns (high turnover, high cases) as was found in the previous report.

Adjournment/Wrap up: Chairperson Lawrence concluded the meeting at 12:30 PM. Our next meeting is the Sustainability Planning Meeting on October 13<sup>th</sup> all were strongly encouraged to be present as this is going to be a very important meeting for FACT's future. Nicole will send out reading materials at least a week before the meeting to review. The Grants Committee will be meeting after the Sustainability Meeting.

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Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer Gillyard, FACT Secretary