

Child Abuse and Neglect Committee Meeting Minutes

September 8, 2021

Remote Meeting

Meeting Attendees: Ginny Powell, FACT Board; Jeanine Harper, GRSCAN; Aaran Kelley; VDSS; Morgan Nelson, DFS; Shannon Hartung, VDSS; Taylor Davis, FACT; Kristen Pritchard, VSDVAA; Deanna Lavery, The Haven Shelters and Services; Ali Faruk, Families Forward; Betty Wade Coyle; Melissa O'Neill, CASA-DCJS; Quyen Duong, DOE; Jenna Easton, DJJ; Heather Board, VDH; Zandra Relaford, CSA; Eric Reynolds, Children's Ombudsman; Jane Liseenden, Children's Ombudsman; Beverly Crowder, AARP; Katharine Hunter, DBHDS; Stephenie Howard, Norfolk State University; Michelle L'Hommedieu; FACT Counsel; Nicole Poulin, FACT; Amy Strite, Voices for Virginia's Children

Meeting called to order by Ginny Powell at 2:03pm.

Virtual Committee Update: Because the CAN Advisory Committee is federally mandated for CAPTA, we are unable to take votes in a virtual meeting. No minutes will be reviewed or voted in this meeting and all voting matters will be moved to December. Send any potential edits of previous minutes to Nicole Poulin or Taylor Davis.

Children's Ombudsman Update: *Eric Reynolds*

- Created by the General Assembly in 2020, was funded but delayed due to COVID. Eric was appointed by the Governor in June 2021
- The office receives complaints and questions in regards to Child Protective Services, foster care, child abuse and neglect. They determine if there has been a violation of policy or law by the agency and then problem solve. Additionally they will look at systemic issues within agencies and the state. There was discussion of tracking trends over time, the office is looking at obtaining tracking software to look at these.
- Working on developing a website and hotline. Currently, people can contact the office by email and they have received 16 complaints so far.
- Statute to create the office was adapted from the Michigan model and Eric has been in contact with Michigan's office to help with the establishment of protocols.
- Hired Jane Lissenden as a Policy Advisor and an additional person who has yet to be announced. Full staff capacity will depend on number of complaints as they come in
- There will be an annual report to the Governor and the General Assembly, other states also look into child fatalities and posting redacted investigation reports so these may be something the office includes in future reports.

VDSS Prevention Update: *Morgan Nelson, Aaran Kelley, and Shannon Hartung*

- Please refer to slides here
- Reminder of the in-home services framework (initial contact, assessment, service planning, re-assessment, and case closure)

- Focused heavily on the federally recognized assessment tools to assess all family members and ongoing assessment throughout the case (first 30 days and then every 90 days thereafter)
- Child Safety Scenarios - Looking at when alternate living arrangements are happening, and if they are kinship focused first. Working with the whole family using those assessment tools to decide case closure
- Technical & Adaptive Changes - most technical changes have been implemented, moving more towards the adaptive pieces
 - Technical Changes
 - OASIS changes
 - Candidacy Determination
 - Case Types
 - Living Arrangements
 - Service Plan
 - Assessment Tools
 - Adaptive
 - Supporting child in home and community
 - Available and accessible services
 - Belief in importance of front end prevention
 - Family involvement with service planning
 - Valuing the CANS assessment
 - Supervision and coaching
 - Learning collaborative to take on the adaptive pieces will be modeled after work done in Child and Family Service Reviews PIP
 - Intro session at the end of September for directors and local agencies
- Case Type Flow Chart
 - Working on case opening in general and determining which cases are high to very high risk of entering foster care and should become in-home services cases versus which are low to moderate risk and can focus on family support
 - Encouraging local agencies to look at their current case openings and workloads, this is where the funding for 148 in-home positions for local agencies comes into play to help agencies prioritize those positions for case openings
- Outcomes (data from April-June 2021)
 - High and very high risk case opening to in-home (30%, goal is over 75%) - largest focus area currently, by the end of the month all five regional in-home specific practice consultants will be starting
 - 46 localities have under 25% of very high/high risk referrals opened to in-home/dual
 - 71 localities are 25-75%
 - 2 localities are over 75% (Surry and Greenville Emporia)
 - Case Connections: Quarter 4 totals for the State
 - 62% - Closed
 - 29% in-home (CPS)
 - 1% In-home (dual)

- 7% Foster Care
 - 1% Family Support
 - No case opened: Black youth overrepresented
 - Cases opened: White youth overrepresented generally, multi-race and Black youth more likely to be connected to foster care, intake or Prev/Supp case, Hispanic youth more likely to be connected to foster care, White youth more likely to be connected to an in-home case
 - In-home referral recidivism (4%)
 - In-home cases with Family Partnership Meeting (FPMs) in a month (4%, working to ensure that the reports are pulling the data correctly)
 - Length of time the case is open (13% open more than 12 months)
 - Risk reassessment completion (64%)
 - % of in-home cases with a Service Plan - Initial and Review (88%)
 - In-Home case contacts (84%)
- Family First Measures
 - In-Home
 - Number and percentage of in-home cases opened from high and very high risk referrals
 - Clients who are candidates for foster care and pregnant and parenting youth rates
 - Evidence Based Programs (EBPs)
 - Rates of referrals for EBPs
 - EBP types
 - Referral outcomes
 - Service Status
 - Waitlist Times
 - Completion Rates
 - Rates of no service available
 - Qualified Residential Treatment Program (QRTP)
 - Utilization rate
 - State assessment rates
 - Time in QRTP
 - Placements post-QRTP
- Partnership with VCU
 - Needs assessment (currently in progress)
 - Gaps Analysis
 - EBP evaluation (working building this moving forward)
- Discussion on interfacing with the courts and helping local agencies facilitate these conversations

FACT Updates & Update on Child on Child Sexual Abuse Prevention Project: *Nicole Poulin, FACT*

- Had the second panel discussion recently focused on criminal justice responses to child-on-child sexual abuse cases

- The child-on-child workgroup has decided to focus on problematic sexual behavior during this phase rather than older adolescents, dating violence, harassment, etc.
- After talking with Nancy Oglesby (consultant for this project), we are hoping to have some guidance in the first quarter of year.
- DCJS can potentially allocate some funding to help promote and do some training on the guidance document
- Connected to National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges, working to set up a meeting to discuss what we are doing in Virginia on this project
- FACT will be getting \$1 million in American Rescue Plan Act funds for the Trauma-Informed Community Networks. Might request for feedback in the next couple of months as this process is developed.
- FACT's 35th anniversary will be celebrated November 8th-12th, stay tuned for ways to connect and share
 - Soon, we will be asking individuals to submit videos on what FACT means to them. We highly encourage participation as this can help to increase awareness of the wonderful work FACT and the CAN committee does.

Next Steps: Ginny Powell

- Next meeting is in December 6th, 1:30-3:30pm, stay tuned for details on whether the meeting will be virtual or in-person
- Morgan will send out slides from presentation
- Review previous meeting minutes and send any corrections to Nicole and/or Taylor

Meeting was adjourned at 3:38 PM