

**DRAFT MINUTES, VA FAMILY AND CHILDREN'S TRUST FUND  
(VA-FACT) Board of Trustees Meeting, March 25, 2022**

**Participation:**

Trustees Present: Allison Lawrence (Chair), Judy Kurtz (Vice Chair), Jennifer Gillyard (Secretary), Gena Berger (Senior Deputy Commissioner, Commissioner's Designee), Maureen Coffey, Beverly Crowder, Tavares Floyd, Tiffany Garner, Tarina Keene, Virginia (Ginny) Powell, Season Roberts and Linda Wilkinson

Trustees Absent: Carter Batey, Linda Gilliam, Dominique Marsalek (Treasurer), and Yvonne Bibbs

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 10:14 AM

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

Minutes: Trustees reviewed the minutes from the December 2021 Board meeting. A motion to approve minutes was held; Trustee Powell made the motion and Trustee Garner seconded.

Chair's Report:

- Chairperson Lawrence thanked trustees who contributed to FACT in the last year because it demonstrates an extra level of commitment; it is important to reach 100 percent giving from the Board. She encouraged trustees to continue to reach out to friends and family within their networks for additional contributions and to seek new members who would be qualified to fill upcoming Board vacancies.
- At our last meeting, the Board discussed next steps to take in response to the recently completed Sustainability Report. Executive Director Poulin sent out a survey in January 2022 and the majority of trustee respondents indicated they were interested in creating a committee to develop a plan for how to move forward. Trustees wanting a seat on the committee may sign-up; the first meeting will occur in April or May.
- It is time to begin the selection process for next year's officers. Chairperson Lawrence encouraged everyone to review the by-laws for the requirements of the Nominating Committee process (Article IV, Section 6). The Nominating Committee requires 3 board members; volunteers included: Trustee Lawrence, Trustee Roberts and Trustee Wilkinson. A motion to approve the committee members was held; Trustee Kurtz made the motion and Trustee Powell seconded.

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

- FACT continues to work with the Department of Health to access \$10,000 in federal funds

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through an existing grant to prevent sexual violence; an MOA has been received. Monies will go towards FACT to develop a state and local guidance document for how localities will respond to cases of problematic sexual behavior involving children. A contractor who has extensive experience and understanding of these cases has been identified to research and develop the resource. This is anticipated to be a six-month long project that will start April 2022.

- FACT helped to research and coordinate state level plans to expand Family Resource Centers throughout VA via the Thriving Families/VDSS initiative.
- Executive Director Poulin met with the VDSS Division Director of Child Support Enforcement to discuss the legislative changes required to bring VA into compliance with federal mandates and to understand the federal opportunity to expand accessibility of support enforcement services to domestic violence survivors.
  - A motion was requested for FACT to develop and submit a letter of support for VDSS's application to increase access of Child Support Enforcement services to Domestic Violence Survivors. Motion was made by Trustee Floyd, seconded by Trustee Keene.
- TICN grants are moving along, we anticipate there will be some unspent funds by contractors due to challenges related to the pandemic, namely lack of in-person trainings and personnel turn over issues. Contractors have been requested to submit budget modifications by end of April.
- FACT intends to conduct coffee and chat learning sessions once a month.
- We anticipate that the data portal will be back on the FACT website in coming months.
- The agenda for the June meeting should include fundraising ideas to determine legalities of specific funding raising ideas and the relaunching of the Development Committee.
- Taylor demonstrated data on how well FACT has been doing with social media and what our engagement looks like. We reached over 28,900 users on Facebook and more people are opening the newsletter.
- Taylor is trying to make more graphic updates on the website and wants board members to send in photos to accompany their bios. Taylor also reminded board members to provide any bio updates and to continue to engage with FACT on social media platforms. The more people like posts the less we have to pay for outreach.

CAN Committee: Trustee Powell provided updates. As an overview, the Child Abuse and Neglect Committee is an advisory committee for the purpose of the CAPTA. It provides recommendations to the VDSS via letters; the committee falls under FACT.

- The Committee met on the 9th of this month to discuss the areas to focus on in this year's report. There are 7 areas in the report recommended for FACTS approval:
  1. Recruitment, compensation, and retention of child social workers welfare professionals. Most of the child welfare labor force is women, and many have left the field due to COVID concerns and to take care of family full-time. The pay is low and varies from one locality to another. We want to urge VDSS to consider creative ways to recruit.

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2. Continued review and discussion of in-home services and Family First implementation- prioritizing that children remain at home or with kin instead of in foster care.
3. Ongoing review and discussion to build and maintain fully staffed and responsive state hotline capacity. There are still too many hang-ups and the wait times to report child abuse are too long, fluctuating between 25-60 minutes. VDSS rolled out a portal for mandated reporters to submit a report online, but there is no structured way to address those reports (e.g., reporters are not called back in timely fashion). There is a lack of sufficient positions for the volume of calls and retention is poor.
4. Create ongoing relationship between the FACT Board/CAN Committee and regional child death review teams. Virginia has five fatality review teams and a Regional Committee that collect data and make recommendations and writes an annual report for VDSS. The committee fell apart under COVID. However, we do know the preliminary finding for cause of infant death is co-sleeping.
5. Continued discussion of child protection system in relevant cases of child-on-child sexual assault. We have funding from the Department of Health to hire contractor to develop guidance on handling these cases, we know that some of these cases involve CPS.
6. Continued discussion and review of trafficking cases involving children, particularly from a child protection/welfare/well-being perspective.
7. Receive more information on Virginia's Safe Haven laws to determine how they are being implemented, the challenges and implications. The new law goes from 14 to 30 days that you'll have protection from prosecution if an infant is left at a safe place and TPR would be assumed.

The Letter will feature three cross-cutting themes:

- Continue providing data already collected.
- Provide deeper dive with data that looks at outcomes, impacts, implications of policy and practice, child safety and well-being.
- Find ways to learn about what's happening in local communities in terms of the issues described above.

FACT trustees requested that Executive Director Poulin structure meetings, since we are now in-person again, to provide more details on some of the legislation and programs impacting the work of the board. A motion was requested for FACT to accept the recommendations of the areas of focus for this year's CAPTA Report. Motion was made by Trustee Wilkinson, seconded by Trustee Floyd and Kurtz.

Grants Committee: Trustee Kurtz provided the update. The Committee will be meeting after the Board meeting to discuss ideas for FACT's next round of Community Funding Awards. Our current contracts end on July 31, 2022. The goal is to have an RFP prepared for release in the fall for funding to begin Calendar Year 2023. FACT has one Ad Hoc proposal from the Virginia Coalition for the Prevention of Elder Abuse; this is an event that FACT has sponsored for many years. A motion was requested to approve the Ad Hoc Proposal for

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\$2,000 for the Virginia Coalition for the Prevention of Elder Abuse, Motion made by Trustee Powell and seconded by Trustee Berger.

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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.

VDSS Report: Trustee Berger provided an update, see attached PowerPoint. Highlights included:  
*Previous Update*

- The Governor will be announcing the budget on December 16<sup>th</sup>.
- 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.

*Update to Highlight:*

- The General Assembly adjourned without a budget leaving things to be debated between the House and Senate budget. The state is expecting to make a major investment in IT systems specifically for SACWIS (electronic state child welfare information system).
- An office of Trauma and Resiliency policy is being created within VDSS which should help with policy reviews and provide TA to organizations including a trauma-informed self-assessment for organization.
- The one million dollars is set to expire in June 2022. Therefore, VDSS will split the million in half. The first half million will go towards a statewide awareness campaign which a TICN would run. The activities should be related to COVID-19 relief. The remaining half million will be grants to local TICNs.
  - TICN funding is awaiting approval. The RFP for the awareness campaign for activities to be held during Resilience week in May 2022 remains under review. Nothing can be done until the budget is final so we may need to go into next fiscal year.
  - Regarding local grants for TICN, DBH is using ARPA money towards awareness and calling the campaign - LUV (Lift Up Virginia), therefore VDSS is connecting with them as to not duplicate efforts and they are providing monies to CSBs for local schools as well.

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer Kurtz provided a financial update for Trustee Marsalek. Krutz

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reported on the FY 2022 budget and reviewed the Balance Sheet and Profit and Loss statements.

Editorial and Planning Committee: Taylor provided the update for Trustee Gilliam. The issue brief on the specific trauma surrounding sexism and trauma has been released.

Adjournment/Wrap up: Chairperson Lawrence concluded the meeting at 12:15 PM with a reminder to seek out potential board members. Our next meeting is scheduled for June 14<sup>th</sup> and will take place at Deep Run Park.

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Respectfully submitted,  
*Jennifer Gillyard*  
Jennifer Gillyard, FACT Secretary