

Child Abuse and Neglect Committee Meeting Minutes

June 8, 2022

Remote Meeting

Meeting Attendees: Ginny Powell, FACT Board; Ellen White, JDR Judge (retired); Jeanine Harper, GRSCAN; Michelle L'Hommedieu, FACT Counsel; Beverly Crowder, FACT Board Member; Betty Wade Coyle; Melissa O'Neill, CASA-DCJS; Anya Shaffer, DCJS; Christy Clarke, VDSS State Hotline; Maria Altonen, VDH; Kristen Pritchard, VSDVAA; Katharine Hunter, DBHDS; Jenna Easton, DJJ; Stephanie Howard, Norfolk State University; Morgan Nelson, DFS; Jane Lissenden, Office of the Children's Ombudsman; Destiny Allen, Office of the Children's Ombudsman; Daniela Sanzetenea, Office of the Children's Ombudsman; Nicole Poulin, FACT; Taylor Hohle, FACT; Ali Faruk, Families Forward

Meeting called to order by Ginny Powell at 1:03 PM

Due to the virtual meeting venue, no votes were taken. All items that require a vote will be addressed at the next in-person meeting.

Update on the Office of the Children's Ombudsman, *Jane Lissenden*

- Officially launched on May 3rd
 - Website launched with online complaint form and resources page (www.oco.virginia.gov)
 - Planning to translate the website and resources into Spanish
- Added additional staff member (Investigative Analyst - Daniela Sanzetenea) and two interns
- Eric represents the OCO on the Safe and Sound Taskforce which seeks to end the practice of foster youth sleeping in local DSS offices, hotels, and emergency rooms.
- Putting together workgroup that was required by [SB 396](#), working to improve legal representation for parents and will be making recommendations prior to the 2023 General Assembly session
 - Currently the meetings are closed to the public but the next meeting will include discussion on what future meetings will look like

Update on Virginia Department of Health's RPE Projects, *Maria Altonen*

- Partnering with GRSCAN to support training and technical assistance to trauma-informed care networks across Virginia. They also provide community training.
- Partnering with Families Forward on a Darkness to Light train-the-trainer program and recently starting supporting the Circle of Parents program. Hoping to start a Circle of Parents program for parents of LGBTQ youth.
 - Contact Maria if you know anyone interested in becoming a Darkness to Light trainer (Maria.Altonen@vdh.virginia.gov)
- Partnering with VCU Child Protection Team who hosts ECHO series for clinicians around child abuse and neglect. Also supporting a Community Navigator to assist with

implementing SEEK (Safe Environment for Every Kid). SEEK is a screening done in a clinical setting for parents for children 0-5 done at different timepoints to identify potential need for intervention or resources.

VDSS Updates - VDSS Family Services Staff

- [CAPTA report was submitted to VDSS in May.](#)
- Working with VCU to finalize the measures for Family First evaluation
- Continuous Quality Improvement Series with local agencies that meets to focus on three areas, one of which being In-Home.
 - Routine data measures: Very high/High cases opened, entries to foster care from In-Home, Suite of tools (CANS, Service Plan, Risk reassessment), Current service plan (initial and renewal), Engagement (Timely FPM, CFTM), In-Home family visits, Recidivism
 - First meeting in January - In-depth data dive for high/very high risk referrals (focused on goal of 75% high/very high cases opened to in-home)
 - Second meeting in April - Discussed improving the use of Structured Decision Making tools and focused on Engagement, Decision Making, and Service Planning
- Candidacy determinations - Virginia Client Count
 - To be considered a “reasonable candidate” the youth needs to be at risk for foster care; however, for funding through Title IV-E, these are labeled separately as “Candidate for Foster Care” which has to certify that the child is receiving one the of the three evidence based programs (EBP) that are in the state plan.
 - January-March 2022: 750 children were “Candidates for Foster Care” that were receiving an EBP while 1,033 children were considered “Reasonable Candidates.”
- Title IV-E Prevention Services Spending Update
 - 28 LDSS have utilized IV-E Prevention funding for services over the past year.
 - Of these 28, the majority are in the Piedmont region with the least LDSS locations utilizes funding in the Eastern region
 - The top 5 LDSS locations utilizing funding were Fredericksburg, Amherst, Manassas, Appomattox, and Green
 - \$241,042 IV-E funding was spent on Evidence Based Practices over the past year.
 - \$8 Million each year that has been allocated
 - Currently the three approved EBPs are also covered through Medicaid so there may be an increase in spreading once additional EBPs are added that are *not* covered by Medicaid
- Evidence Based Programs
 - Current approved programs: Multisystemic Therapy, Family Functional Therapy, Parent-Child Interaction Therapy
 - Adding Motivational Interviewing, Brief Strategic Family Therapy, Home Builders, Family Check-Up, and High Fidelity Wraparound

- EBP Training RFA - Providers can apply for training and funding to become certified in one of the seven EBPs
- EBP specific trainings for LDSS planned for Summer 2022
- Five modules in Commonwealth Of Virginia Learning Center (COVLC - CWSE7000) on Family First
- Child and Family Service Reviews (CFSR) Data - Measurement Period 15 (November 2021 - April 2022)
 - Passed Program Improvement PIP
 - There were 10 items with federal oversight during this round
 - 91% of validated cases are having a prompt response time
 - There are 8 items without federal oversight that will be reviewed for round four
 - Met PIP goal for all items - ~10% increase from federal review
 - To pass an item in CFSR it has to be 90% or higher (except for Item 1 and Item 18 that have to be 95%) - in Measurement Period 15, this would have meant passing four items.
- Hotline updates, *Christy Clarke*
 - Centralized email address for state hotline leadership team: statehotlineleadership@dss.virginia.gov
 - Comparison Stats 2021-2022
 - Total number of calls has stayed stable except for an increase in April 2022.
 - The average wait time has increased from 10-12 minutes to ~25 minutes.
 - Mandated Reporter Portal reports have significantly increased from 2021 report numbers
 - Staff Updates
 - Currently have 9 Full Time Employees (FTE), 9 Part Time (P-14), 9 Contracted employees
 - Recently hired 3 P-14 employees who are completing the onboarding and hired a part-time contractor (20 hrs/wk) who has been cleared to start
 - Vacancies - 1 FTE (candidate selected), 1 part-time contractor, 3 FT contractors, and 2 P-14 employees.
 - There was discussion on the high wait times compared to other states and ideas around measuring caller satisfaction with the hotline

FACT Updates, *Nicole Poulin, Executive Director*

- Update on Problematic Sexual Behavior (PSB) partnership with Virginia Department of Health
 - A contract has been signed with Nancy Osleby to review best practices on PSB cases and produce a guidance document.
 - A workgroup has been established and will meet with Nancy throughout the rest of the year
- Final board meeting for the fiscal year is scheduled for next week. We are looking for a few new board members. Contact Nicole, nicole.poulin@dss.virginia.gov if you know someone interested in serving on the FACT Board

- FACT grants will likely be shifting to focus on smaller projects due to limitations with procurement and the development of FACT's strategic plan

Report Out

- DCJS has a conference coming up ([Trauma Response and the Criminal Justice System](#)) June 27 - July 1st which will be virtual and free.
- Families Forward recently hired a new Prevention Director, Ron Brown.

Next Steps, Ginny Powell

- A Doodle poll will be sent out to determine the next meeting date
- Items to carry over to next meeting
 - More information about the SEEK program
 - More from Christy on hotline data and information on call response

Meeting was adjourned at 2:48 PM