

Child Abuse and Neglect Committee Meeting Minutes

June 8, 2021

Remote Meeting

Meeting Attendees: Ginny Powell, FACT Board; Anya Shaffer; Kristen Pritchard, VSDVAA; Taylor Davis, FACT; Ellen White, VA Courts; Melissa O'Neill, CASA-DCJS; Jeanine Harper, GRSCAN; Morgan Nelson, DFS; Stephenie Howard, NOVA State University; Betty Wade Coyle; Jamia Crockett, Families Forward; Deanna Lavery, The Haven Shelters and Services; Ali Faruk, Families Forward; Quyen Duong, DOE; Katharine Hunter, DBHDS; Nicole Poulin, FACT; Beverly Crowder, AARP; Amy Strite, Voices for Virginia's Children; Michelle L'Hommedieu; FACT Counsel

Meeting called to order by Ginny Powell at 9:33am and introduced the meeting agenda and minutes. Betty Wade Coyle submitted a correction. Ellen White moved to approve the minutes as amended and Betty Wade Coyle seconded. Motion passed with all in favor and no abstentions.

There is no Child Protective Services (CPS) update this meeting but a larger update will occur next meeting

VDSS Prevention Update: *Morgan Nelson, Prevention Program Manager*

- Continue to be busy with in-home alignment in preparation for July 1st
- Working on new guidance that was released in April
- Aligning the Family and Assessment Planning Team (FAPT)/Multidisciplinary Team (MDT) process
 - There was a MDT Workgroup - Consisted of LDSS staff and CSA coordinators to work on how to align the MDT process with the current FAPT process. It was decided that LDSS can choose to involve FAPT (comprehensive or consultative) or an Alternate MDT. Alternative MDTs will be reviewed and approved to ensure they are meeting the requirements.
 - Discussion of how multiple meanings for the acronym "MDT" may be confusing for some.
- Evidence Based Services (EBS) Contracts - sent template contract out on May 3rd, most agencies already have methods in place.
- Partnering with VCU to do Needs and Gaps Analysis for EBS - Hosting a couple of listening sessions. Flyer will be sent out to the group.
- Passed all Program Improvement Plan (PIP) items except one which is "timely contact with the victim". All outcomes across the board have risen, taking that momentum and starting the Child and Family Outcome Learning Collaborative to look at Kin First Culture, IV-E Prevention Service, and Reduce Congregate Care Placements.

Update on [Virginia's Prevention Plan](#): *Ali Faruk, Director of Public Policy, Families Forward*

- Usually the reports on child abuse/trauma summarize what Virginia is currently doing and how funding is being spent but wanted a more forward looking, aspirational plan. Some key recommendations from the report include:
 - Oversight of children's services are scattered, there needs one oversight entity such as a Children's Cabinet
 - Needing more resources to implement the plan and provide more prevention services
 - Addressing poverty - economic security is a protective factor
 - Addressing systemic racism
 - Establishing a data trust on child welfare outcomes
- Approached the plan through the values of: equity, trauma-informed approach, a culturally responsive process, and prioritizing people with lived experiences.
- Goal: "All families, youth and children in the Commonwealth are safe, healthy and nurtured, and have equitable access to resources and opportunities to thrive in their communities"
 - Five objectives under this goal (each objective has specific key strategies identified in the report)
 - Well-being and economic stability
 - Person and family centered programs
 - Social norms
 - Collaboration
 - Infrastructure
- Discussion about how the plan talks about incarceration's role in prevention
- VDSS led earlier discussions but didn't get to engage individuals with lived experience so the second stage with Families Forward involves workgroups that include people with lived experience.
 - Next week will be the first session with workgroups on each of the five objectives. Each group will have five meetings, and each group includes about 20 people including folks with lived experience.
 - The information from these workgroups will be put into another report that will serve as an addendum to the plan
 - There was discussion on what types of lived experience do the people in these groups. The groups include people who have successfully transferred out of the foster care system and also people who have fallen through the cracks in the system. Families Forward reached out to affiliates to find people who have been touched by the system in some sort of way.
 - Discussion around how the original plan is more macro focused and these workgroups will look more deeply at how the plan should be implemented in a micro-focused way

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

- The emergency order that allows the Board to meeting virtually will likely be lifted soon so the September meeting may be in person

- Senior Research Associate position has been filled by Taylor Davis
- FACT Board allocated funding for micro-grant awards through the FACT Emergency Fund - \$5000 awards for Trauma Informed Community Networks (TICNs) to help families in need across Virginia. FACT is currently funding four projects.
- Working with contractor to do analysis for future organizational models for FACT - all organizational changes require legislative change so this will be a multi-year process
- Child-on-child sexual abuse project
 - Had a panel discussion on April 20th, recording will be sent out
 - VDH is supportive and FACT may be able to get funding to contract with someone to create guidance. A workgroup may be established this summer to prioritize different issues within the broad subject
 - Plans to potentially host another panel over the summer with a more heavy focus on law enforcement and court response

Update on National Citizen Review Panel Conference: *Betty Wade Coyle, Executive Director Emeritus, Champions for Children: Prevent Child Abuse Hampton Roads*

- Every state receiving Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (CAPTA) money is required to have Citizen Review Panels based on how much money they receive. Virginia has three: CASA, Child Fatality Review Team, CAN Committee.
- Each state handles these differently - some groups can lobby directly to legislators, a lot had youth and family representation, lots of states operate with Family Resource Centers
- Discussion on transparency in how much CAPTA funding Virginia is getting and where it is going
 - Families Forward was working with a consultant to do fiscal mapping of prevention funding - Ali will follow up on this project
 - Nicole will follow up to ask how much CAPTA and Community-Based Child Abuse Prevention (CBCAP) is received and where it is going prior to the next meeting

Community Updates

- Ellen White - Spring judicial conference was well attended and had many great presentations
- Discussion on courts/protective orders involvement in the new process for in-home cases
- Families Forward is hosting Delegate Jason Miyares for a discussion on abuse prevention and trauma informed care as a part of their community partners meeting

Next Steps: Ginny Powell

- Next meeting is in September

Meeting was adjourned at 11:26 AM