

Family and Children's Trust Fund (FACT)



Child Abuse and Neglect Committee

Charge

The Child Abuse and Neglect Committee (Committee) shall be one of the citizen review panels required under the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (CAPTA), 42 U.S.C. §§ 5101-5116i.

Functions:

- Make recommendations to the FACT Board of Trustees, the Virginia Department of Social Services, the Board of Social Services, the Governor, and any other appropriate individual or agency on matters concerning the prevention of child abuse and neglect, family violence, and the treatment of abused and neglected children and their families that impact children in Virginia
- Communicate with the Departments of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services, Criminal Justice Services, Education, Health, and Juvenile Justice, the Attorney General and the Governor regarding promising and best practices related to efforts to prevent and treat child abuse and neglect and violence within families
- Review regulations, guidance, and practices of state and local Child Protective Services, compliance with such regulations, guidance, and practices, and make recommendations for change when necessary
- Increase understanding, responsibility and investment in child protection across Virginia and advocate for needed resources to achieve the goals of protecting children, promoting child well-being, and strengthening families

Resource Persons: The FACT Executive Director shall provide support for the Committee. The Committee can request additional staff resources and support from the Virginia Department of Social Services to fulfill specific requests, as necessary and practical.

Meeting Frequency: The Committee will meet at least quarterly, as required under CAPTA.

Reporting: After each meeting, a report from the Committee will be made to the FACT Board of Trustees as a regular agenda item at each FACT Board meeting. The Committee will annually prepare a report containing a summary of the Committee's activities and recommendations to improve child protective services at the State and local levels in Virginia. This report will be submitted to the Virginia Department of Social Services, which will have six (6) months to provide a written response to the Committee that complies with 42 U.S.C. § 5106a(c)(6).

Membership: The Committee will be co-chaired by a FACT Board Member and a citizen member. Total Committee membership shall not exceed 20 members. The FACT Board Member Co-Chair shall be appointed annually by the FACT Board Chair. The citizen Co-Chair shall be selected by the Committee, with advice and recommendations from the FACT Executive Director and the VDSS Child Protective Services Program Manager.

The Committee's membership should include at least two FACT Board members as well as a designated representative from each of Virginia's state, child-serving agencies:

- Department of Education

- Department of Juvenile Justice
- Department of Social Services
- Department of Criminal Justice Services
- Department of Health
- Department of Behavioral Health & Developmental Services
- The Virginia League of Social Services Executives
- Office of the Children's Ombudsman
- Office of Children's Services

Such agencies may designate more than one representative as a Committee member. Additional members may include child welfare professionals from around the state from both the public and private sectors.

A member will serve until notifying the FACT Board Chair, the Committee Co-Chairs, and the FACT Executive Director that the member will no longer be serving as a Committee member. The FACT Board and the Committee Co-Chairs may jointly determine that a Committee member should no longer serve and should be replaced on the Committee. The FACT Board Chair, the Committee Co-Chairs, the FACT Executive Director, and the VDSS Child Protective Services Program Manager may propose changes to the Committee membership when necessary.

The current Committee Members are reflected in Appendix A, attached hereto and incorporated by reference. Appendix A shall be updated whenever there is a change in Committee members.

Committee Charge – November 2013, Revised December 2018, Revised June 2023