

VA FAMILY AND CHILDREN'S TRUST FUND

(VA-FACT) Board of Trustees Sustainability Committee Meeting, May 23rd, 2023

In-person Meeting: Henrico County Tuckahoe Library & Microsoft Teams

Participation:

Trustees Present: Linda Wilkinson (Committee Chair), Season Roberts, Ginny Powell, Tyler Hart, Cherie Short (virtually attending from Alexandria, VA), Tavares Floyd, Allison Lawrence

Staff Present (attending virtually): Nicole Poulin (Executive Director) and Taylor Hohle (Senior Research Associate)

Others Present: Lisa Specter-Dunaway and Claire Gastañaga

Opening: Chairperson Wilkinson called the meeting to order at 12:26PM

- Chairperson Wilkinson provided an overview of the meeting agenda.
- The purpose of this meeting is to solidify recommendations for the Board of Trustees at the upcoming Board meeting on June 9th.

Review of Draft Strategic Plan: Lisa Specter-Dunaway

- Prior to the meeting, Lisa provided a draft strategic plan to the committee for review. The committee discussed the following proposed goals from the draft.
 - Continue focus on systemic/macro level issues that prevent, reduce and treat family violence across the lifespan.
 - Raise awareness of the importance of and distinction between primary, secondary and tertiary prevention efforts related to family violence across the lifespan.
 - Prioritize issues identified by the Child Abuse and Neglect Advisory Committee.
 - Support and promote efforts to collect and utilize accurate data to evaluate the impact of current practices to recommend and implement effective policies and practices.
 - Support efforts that assess, prioritize and promote work implementing trauma-informed policies and practices.
 - Increase efforts to educate policymakers on ways to prevent and treat family violence.
 - Position FACT as a subject matter expert and seek opportunities to provide input on studies, policies, and proposed legislation.
 - Identify formal opportunities to educate policymakers including other state-appointed boards and commissions, legislative advisory groups, and commissioners.
 - Increase the use of advisory letters, in concert with issue briefs, for other agencies within the Health and Human Resources secretariat and across agencies outside of the secretariat that support children and families.
 - Leverage resources to deepen impact.

- Coordinate with organizations that have complementary missions.
 - Facilitate Trustee efforts to personally educate their local and state officials.
 - Identify ways to deepen impact of ad-hoc grants, increasing capacity of organizations and service providers would like to know more about this; what kind of capacity are we wanting to increase?
 - Focus grant funding opportunities on systems/macro level work primary prevention
 - To Be Determined depending on board decision as to desired structure through the Change Management Planning Process. (THIS WILL BE REVISED ONCE THE DECISION IS MADE ABOUT STRUCTURE)
 - Secure necessary legislative changes.
 - Utilize the new/modified structure to increase Board capacity to secure private and public funds to support its work.
 - Increase staff capacity to support work.
 - Modify funding processes based on requirements of new structure as needed.
- There was discussion around how to operationalize these goals in order to assess the outcomes of the goals.
 - Trustee Wilkinson provided an example of language to rephrase the goal towards a more operationalized outcome. “Family violence prevention, reduction, treatment will be the focus for state and local policy decisions.”
 - There was additional discussion about focusing on FACT grants within the goals due to its clear outcome objectives. Executive Director Poulin offered an example of “70% of FACT funding will be put towards projects that address systemic issues associated with family violence across the lifespan.”
 - Trustee Short suggested a focus on outputs for resources that are allocated. Within the strategic plan, there could be mention of FACT taking a temporary strategy while dealing with procurement challenges and that the Grants Committee, Sustainability Committee, and staff will continue to reassess the outputs.
- Suggestions on goal language:
 - FACT will focus on systemic level strategies, at the state and local level, that prevent, reduce, and treat family violence across the lifespan.
 - FACT will educate all relevant stakeholders on ways to prevent and treat family violence,
 - FACT will grow and leverage resources to address prevention, reduction, and treatment of family violence.
 - 70% of funding received will be allocated towards systemic level issues (added to Goal 3d)
 - FACT will seek changes in its governance, finances, and operational structures to enhance its effectiveness.

Review and Discussion of Draft Preliminary Report Re: Governance and Funding

Changes: Claire Gastañaga

- Prior to the committee meeting, Claire provided a draft change proposal that reviewed various options for FACT's structure and governance moving forward. The following is a highlight of the three options and Claire's insight provided in the draft.
 - FACT transfers to a private entity entirely, such as a 501c3.
 - This is not a feasible outcome at this time due to the heavy legislative lift that would be required and the administrative and staffing support provided is essential to operation.
 - FACT stays state-embedded in the Department of Social Services.
 - Not an ideal solution as there are small changes that could be made to remedy current challenges but this solution does not address the conflict of FACT's mission while also operating under VDSS.
 - FACT transfers to an Independent State Agency with Greater Board Authority.
 - An additional 501(c) 3 could be created that would permit fundraising and spending outside the state procurement process
 - Claire has drafted language for this type of legislative proposal that the Board could use with a patron. It would not mean rewriting the Code of Virginia, but rather small tweaks in the language to increase the Board's authority to hire/fire employees, be reimbursed for their travel expenses, and to create an accompanying 501(c) 3 if wanted.
- Additionally, under Virginia's current procurement law, the FACT Board can adopt a purchasing procedure that will allow flexibility in spending up to \$80,000 which would significantly decrease the challenges associated with providing grants through the State procurement process.
- There was discussion around the security of staff funding for both option two and three. A parallel budget amendment would be needed to transfer the current staffing funds from VDSS to FACT.

Trustee Floyd made a motion for the committee to recommend to the FACT Board that FACT transfer to an independent state agency with greater Board authority. The motion was approved by members; Trustee Short abstained from the vote.

Meeting adjourned at 2:05pm