

# DRAFT MINUTES, VA FAMILY AND CHILDREN'S TRUST FUND (VA-FACT) Board of Trustees Meeting, December 4th, 2023

## Participation:

Trustees Present: Virginia (Ginny) Powell, Beverly Crowder (left at 12:07pm), Cindy Han, Tyler Hart, Linda Wilkinson (Chair), Allison Lawrence, Gena Boyle (VDSS Deputy Commissioner), Cherie Short, Tiffany Garner (Treasurer), Tarina Keene, Season Roberts (Vice Chair), Abigail Wescott (Secretary) (arrived at 10:08am), Tavares Floyd (arrived at 10:14am)

Trustees Absent: Maureen Coffey, Dominique Marsalek, Linda Gilliam

Staff/Guests Present: Nicole Poulin (Executive Director), Taylor Hohle (Senior Research Associate) and Michelle L'Hommedieu (Office of Attorney General - FACT Counsel), Max Berckmueller (VDSS Fellow)

**Opening:** Chairperson Wilkinson called the meeting to order at 10:03AM. A quorum was present.

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

## Minutes Approval:

- Chairperson Wilkinson opened the floor for comments and corrections on the previous Board minutes from September 27th, 2023. A spelling correction was made and Chairperson Wilkinson requested to add the dollar amounts for the ad hoc grants awarded.
- **A motion was made by Trustee Powell to approve the minutes as amended. Trustee Crowder seconded.**

Mission Moment: A [video](#) discussing elder abuse within assisted living facilities was shared and discussed. This topic will be discussed in the next issue brief.

Chair's Report: Chairperson Wilkinson provided the report.

- Chairperson Wilkinson encouraged Board members to think of individuals who may be interested in joining the FACT Board next year. There are five upcoming vacancies. The [application can be found here](#). Additionally, VDSS will be reaching out to Board members via email to update annual forms.
- There was a reminder as we approach the end of the year to consider making a contribution to FACT as a Board member.

Sustainability Committee Report: Chairperson Wilkinson provided the report.

- The Sustainability Committee Ad Hoc Workgroup reached out to Delegates Sam Rasoul (D) and Bobby Orrock (R) to copatron the House bill regarding the sustainability changes reviewed at the last Board meeting. Additionally, on the Senate side, Senator Ryan McDougale's office has been contacted seems supportive and Senator Ghazala Hashmi has agreed to co-patron the proposed code changes if Senator McDougale (R) will be the chief patron on them.
- The next steps are for the bills to be forwards to legislative services – once there are bill

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numbers, the board will be notified about the process so they can reach out to their legislators.

- Chairperson Wilkinson and Executive Director Poulin met with Margaret Hancock, the Executive Director of Virginia Commission for the Arts (VCA) to learn about that program's operations. VCA is the smallest, independent state agency in the Commonwealth. While their mission and purpose are different from FACT's, the structure of the organization is similar to what FACT could be if it were to reach the goal outlined in the current strategic plan of becoming an independent state agency.

### VDSS Report: VDSS Deputy Commissioner Gena Boyle provided the update.

- The governor's budget comes out December 20th. The VDSS budget presentation from last Board meeting [can be found here](#).
- The Office of Trauma and Resilience Policy (OTRP) is working on a research project around vicarious trauma for VDSS employees. A preview of findings was presented to the Child Abuse and Neglect Committee and [can be found here](#).
- Providing ongoing support for five Trauma Informed Community Networks (TICNs) to become trauma-informed healing organizations: New River Valley Child Advocacy Center, Crater Health District, Greater Richmond Stop Child Abuse Now (GRSCAN), United Way of Southwest VA, United Way of Peninsula
  - And supporting GRSCAN in statewide awareness campaign that will be focused on Resilience Week in May
- Trustee Short requested updated information on hotline vacancies and differences between APS and CPS call volume.
  - Annually, APS calls make up 22 percent (approximately 13,000 calls) of the total hotline call volume.

### Child Abuse & Neglect (CAN) Committee Report: Trustee Powell provided the committee update.

- The CAN Committee received a similar presentation that was given by Laura Aparicio and Mia Crockett last Board meeting on TANF funding [and crafted a letter that was sent to Governor Youngkin](#) to support home visiting in his budget proposal.
  - There was also discussion at the CAN meeting about other forms of funding that are reaching a critical point. The Committee discussed crafting an informational document on these funding crises to educate Board and committee members.
- The CAN Committee also received presentations on VDSS workforce development and retention, preliminary data from the Office of the Children's Ombudsman annual report, and VDSS Family First implementation. The minutes from the previous CAN Committee meeting (11/16/2023) and copies of these presentations [can be found here](#).

### Treasurer's Report: Trustee Garner provided the update.

- At the last Board meeting, an ad hoc workgroup was developed to review the financial reporting procedures and to provide recommendations back to the Board for future auditing. This workgroup will be meeting next week. Trustee Roberts offered to join the workgroup.
- There was discussion about the ability to invest FACT's reserve funds. Previously, the Board did not feel there was enough money to do this; however, with the increase in income this is a possibility.
  - **There was a motion made by Trustee Hart to add to the ad hoc workgroup's charge to**

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**review the code section (Code 63.2-2103) on the Board's authority for investing and provide a recommendation to the Board. Trustee Garner seconded.**

Editorial & Planning (E&P) Committee Report: Executive Director Poulin provided the update for Committee Chair Gilliam.

- The issue brief on [Abuse Against People with Disabilities](#) has been released! Please share this far and wide in your networks and you can also let them know about the connection to the LEAP [Certified Center for Abuse Prevention and Safety \(C-CAPS\) project](#).
- The committee will start meeting early next year to work out a timeline for the remaining briefs in the series: caretaker abuse within nursing homes/assisted living facilities, the impact of domestic violence for incarcerated women, child trafficking, and immigrant populations.

Staff Updates: Executive Director Poulin provided updates.

- Staff are developing a research brief on child fatality review processes across Virginia and the U.S. based on the interest of the Child Abuse and Neglect Committee.
- Executive Director Poulin provided an update on the LEAP C-CAPS train-the-trainer that she attended. The cohort of trainers wanted to share their gratitude to the FACT Board for the funding!
- FACT has new promotional items, including water bottles, that can be distributed at conferences. Executive Director Poulin recently attended/exhibited at the Virginia Victim Assistance Network conference in Virginia Beach.
- Staff is currently working with procurement to prepare the launch of the next phase of the Problematic Sexual Behavior Project focused on a train-the-trainer model. Executive Director Poulin will be attending a similar training process through the Department of Criminal Justice Services (DCJS) to gain insight into the model.
- Trustee Wescott and Executive Director Poulin will be meeting in the new year to discuss potential projects for the Grants Committee.

Board Announcements:

- Trustee Short provided an update on her research on the statewide hotline. On a Thursday afternoon, she waited 32 minutes for the call to be answered. There are over 280 calls per week that are dropped due to wait times.
- There was discussion on the impacts of casinos and potential partnerships/projects to address these impacts while receiving funding.
- Chairperson Wilkinson congratulated Trustee Roberts on her recent appointment to the Fort Monroe Board of Trustees!

Adjournment/Wrap up: The next Board meeting will be March 15<sup>th</sup>, 2024 at 10:30-3:30, in-person. Chairperson Wilkinson concluded the meeting at 12:18 PM.

Respectfully submitted,  
*Taylor Hohle*  
Taylor Hohle, Senior Research  
Associate