

**DRAFT MINUTES, VA FAMILY AND CHILDREN'S TRUST FUND
(VA-FACT) Board of Trustees Meeting, April 10th, 2024**

Participation:

Trustees Present: Virginia (Ginny) Powell, Tyler Hart – left at 1:00 PM, Linda Wilkinson (Chair) – left at 1:16 PM, Allison Lawrence, Tarina Keene, Season Roberts (Vice Chair), Tavares Floyd, Maureen Coffey, Tiffany Garner (Treasurer) – arrived 11:10 AM

Remote Participating Committee Members: Cherie Short

Committee Members Attending Virtually: Gena Boyle (VDSS Deputy Commissioner) – arrived 1:35 PM

Trustees Absent: Dominique Marsalek, Linda Gilliam, Beverly Crowder, Cindy Han, Abigail Wescott (Secretary)

Staff/Guests Present: Nicole Poulin (Executive Director), Michelle L'Hommedieu (Office of Attorney General - FACT Counsel), Ally Wright (Medical Society of Virginia Foundation), and Taylor Hohle (Senior Research Associate) joining virtually

Opening: Chairperson Wilkinson called the meeting to order at 10:48 AM. A quorum was present until 1:16 PM.

Decisions and Actions: The following actions were approved by the Board unanimously unless otherwise noted. All motions were completed prior to 1:16 PM, after there was no longer a quorum present.

Minutes Approval:

- Chairperson Wilkinson opened the floor for comments and corrections on the previous Board minutes from the December meeting. Michelle made a comment to ensure full link addresses are present for print versions in addition to the hyperlinks.
- **A motion was made by Trustee Floyd to approve the minutes as presented. Trustee Powell seconded.**

Remote Participation:

- Chairperson Wilkinson reported that Trustee Short requested to participate remotely due to residing more than 60 miles from the meeting location.
- **A motion was made by Trustee Hart to allow remote participation for Trustee Short. Trustee Coffey seconded.**

Chair's Report: Chairperson Wilkinson provided the report.

- Per FACT by-laws, the Board needs to establish a Nominating Committee to nominate officers for next fiscal year. The Committee is to be made up of 3 members, one of whom the Chair appoints. This Committee will need to meet in-person before the next Board Meeting on June 3rd to select a slate of officers to present to the Board.
 - **A motion was made by Trustee Hart to appoint a Nomination Committee consisting of Trustees Wilkinson, Roberts, and Floyd. The motion was seconded by Trustee Lawrence.**
- The legislation related to FACT administrative changes, Senate Bill 683, has been signed by Governor Youngkin and will go into effect July 1, 2024. Additional amendments were made in the House of Delegates subcommittee to change the appointment process. Six trustee positions will be appointed by the Governor, five positions appointed by the Speaker of the House, and four

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positions appointed by the Senate Committee on Rules.

- Five positions will be open at the end of this fiscal year. Those positions will now be filled by the House and Senate until the correct ratio is reached.
- There was discussion around planning an open house event to meet with legislators and other stakeholders.

Guest Presentation: Ally Wright from the Medical Society of Virginia Foundation gave the presentation. The slides from the presentation can be found here (<https://www.fact.virginia.gov/wp-content/uploads/2024/04/2024-VMAP-Overview-Presentation.pdf>).

- The presentation reviewed the current shortcomings of child mental health services in Virginia including professional shortages, lack of training, and
- The Virginia Mental Health Access Program (VMAP) is working to address these needs through provider education and a VMAP call line for primary care providers to offer consultation and care navigation assistance by region.
- In 2023, VMAP advocated for additional state funds to expand into early childhood mental health (under 6 years old). They also are starting an expansion to cover maternal mental health.

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

- The CAN Advisory Committee met on March 8, 2024, and discussed recommendations for 2024 FACT Report to the Virginia Department of Social Services to meet the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act requirements as one of Virginia's Citizen Review Panels.
 - The Committee is recommending that the report focus on the following three areas:
 - Family First implementation in Virginia. Designed to assess risk in child abuse and neglect cases and, as appropriate, (1) keep children in their homes with in-home services to parents; or (2) place children with other family or fictive kin who know and can support the child; or (3) when these options are not reasonable, place the child in foster care. Committee members want to learn more about how these policies and practices are being implemented in Virginia, and how children's safety and well-being is impacted.
 - The capacity and health of the child welfare workforce in Virginia, including the child abuse and neglect reporting hotline.
 - Child fatality review team efforts in Virginia, particularly at the regional level.
 - The report will focus on data related to these focus areas, with an emphasis on concrete cases and outcomes.
- VDSS will be convening a workgroup to provide input on what data to collect through the Department's new child welfare database system. A request was made to the FACT Board to send a letter to the Acting Commissioner of Virginia Department of Social Services requesting that the two co-chairs of the Child Abuse and Neglect Advisory Committee – Jeanine Harper and Virginia Powell – be included on the workgroup.
- **A motion was made by Trustee Floyd to accept the recommendations from the Child Abuse and Neglect Advisory Committee. Trustee Lawrence seconded.**

Grants Committee Report: Executive Director Poulin provided the update for Trustee Wescott.

- The Grants Committee recommends approval for five ad hoc grant requests that were submitted.
 - The Southside Trauma Informed Community Network requested \$3000 to provide food

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for participants at their "Beyond Adverse Childhood Experience: Exploring the Intersection of Trauma and Substance Use Disorder" summit. FACT has supported this event in the past.

- Virginia Coalition for the Prevention of Elder Abuse requested \$3000 for their 28th annual statewide conference in May 2024. FACT has previously supported this conference.
 - Triumph Over Trauma (I'm Just Me Movement) requested \$3000 to cover food costs for attendees at their one-day Trauma summit on May 15th.
 - Greater Augusta Coalition Against Adult Abuse requested \$3000 to support their upcoming day-long training on Adult Abuse, Neglect, and Financial Exploitation. FACT has previously supported this.
 - Virginia Sex Offender Treatment Association requested \$3000 to support their 2024 conference next week. FACT has supported this conference in the past.
 - **Trustee Lawrence made a motion to approve all five ad hoc grants recommended by the Grants Committee. Trustee Coffey seconded.**
- There was discussion around changing the application guidelines to ask for specific details on how they plan to utilize the funding. The Grants Committee will review potential changes to the application guidelines.
 - Previously the Board allocated \$60,000 (12 Emergency Fund awards) for Local Planning Group (LPG) within Virginia's Balance of State. Based on lack of engagement with the current applicant pool, Executive Director Poulin recommends modifying the Emergency Funds Project to expand the application pool to all programs across Virginia who offer both domestic violence and sexual violence services (about 56 programs).
 - There was discussion amongst Trustees about how to encourage smaller organizations to apply for the funding.
 - **Trustee Keene made a motion to modify the Emergency Funds Project to expand to additional organizations. Trustee Garner seconded. Trustee Floyd abstained.**

Staff Report: Executive Director Poulin provided the update.

- Staff are continuing to work on an analysis of child fatality review and recently completed a data agreement with Virginia Department of Health to review deaths under age 6.
- Virginia Department of Health has reimbursed FACT \$10,000 of the \$20,000 that FACT invested in the Partnership for People with Disabilities LEAP Project.
- The contract for the Problematic Sexual Behavior Project has been sent out for signature.
 - There was a discussion about potential strategies to promote FACT's work when grants have been funded.
- FACT's upcoming monthly Lunch & Learn will be on April 29th, 12:30-1:30 PM, focused on the annual report from the Office of the Children's Ombudsman.

Treasurer's Report: Trustee Garner provided the update.

- Trustee Garner presented the Balance Sheet to date, Profit and Loss statement comparison for the 3rd quarter of the fiscal year and the Profit and Loss statement comparison for the to last fiscal year.
- At the September Board meeting, Trustee Hart asked about the ability to invest some of FACT's funds in accounts such as stocks and bonds. Executive Director Poulin followed up with the Department of Treasury who informed her that FACT would be restricted to investments allowed in 2.2-4500 of the

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Code of Virginia. This code section allows bonds, but not stocks. FACT is already investing in bonds by participating in the Local Government Investment Pool (LGIP).

Editorial & Planning (E&P) Committee Report: Trustee Powell provided the update for Trustee Gilliam.

- The Editorial & Planning Committee met March 13, 2024 to discuss the next issue brief in the Special Populations series focused on abuse and neglect by caretakers of residents living in facilities such as nursing homes and assisted living. The group has identified and welcomed new members with subject matter expertise.
- The plan is to complete and publish the report by mid-July.

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

- Commissioner Avula has resigned from the Department of Social Services. Governor Youngkin has appointed James Williams, Deputy Secretary of Health and Human Services, as Acting Commissioner in the interim.
- This is Gena's last Board meeting after accepting a similar role at Kentucky's Department of Community Based Services.
- The deadline for Governor Youngkin to act on the General Assembly bills has passed. Some legislative highlights include:
 - New legislation was passed to provide more structure and formalization to the kinship care process.
 - There was a substantial financial increase for relative caregivers.
 - Two new positions at the Department of Social Services to assist with kin-first practices at the local level.
 - Additional funding for local departments who increase kinship care rates.
 - The federal government has created a permanent summer Electronic Benefits Transfer (EBT) program. Virginia put funding in the budget to start the program this summer. Eligibility includes children who qualify for free and reduced lunch at school and Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) households.
 - VDSS received funding to replace the CommonHelp portal, where individuals apply online for state assistance programs.
 - All Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) funded programs, including home visiting and domestic violence services, have maintained funding despite TANF budgeting concerns.
- Trustee Short asked for hotline specialist updates. The funding for positions requested was not included in the budget. The Governor's Chief Transformation Office is looking at all call centers in Virginia which may provide additional insight to the hotline.

Adjournment/Wrap up: The next Board meeting will be June 5th, 2024 at 10:00 AM -1:00 PM, held virtually. Vice Chair Roberts concluded the meeting at 2:10 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Taylor Hohle

Taylor Hohle, Senior Research Associate