

MINUTES, VA FAMILY AND CHILDREN'S TRUST FUND  
(VA-FACT) Sustainability Strategic Planning Meeting  
March 31, 2023

CA Human Services: 4108 E Parham Rd, Richmond, VA 23228

**Participation:**

Trustees Present: Linda Wilkinson (Chair), Tyler Hart, Linda Gilliam, Season Roberts (Vice Chair), Virginia (Ginny) Powell, Linda Gilliam, Tarina Keene, Beverly Crowder, Abigail Wescott (Secretary), Cindy Han, Tavares Floyd, Gena Boyle (VDSS Deputy Commissioner)

Trustees Absent: Tiffany Garner (Treasurer)

Trustees Virtually Present: Allison Lawrence (joining from Richmond), Cherie Short (joining from Alexandria), Maureen Coffey (joining from Alexandria), Dominique Marsalek (joining from Alexandria)

Staff/Guests Present: Nicole Poulin (Executive Director), Taylor Hohle (Senior Research Associate – calling in) and Michelle L'Hommedieu (Office of Attorney General - FACT Counsel), Lisa Specter-Dunaway (FACT Contractor), Claire Gastanaga (FACT Contractor)

**Opening:** Chairperson Wilkinson called the meeting to order at 9:38 AM

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Strategic Planning for Sustainability: Lisa Specter-Dunaway facilitated the conversation.

- The current structure of FACT does not allow FACT to function to the best of its ability. This meeting is to determine how FACT wants to function and how to best accomplish those goals.
- There was discussion around the complexity of FACT's staff funding compared to FACT's budget. VDSS provides administrative support to FACT in terms of staff, IT support, and procurement assistance. VDSS allocates approximately \$255,000 annually to support the administrative costs for FACT. The Citizen Review Panel is tasked with reviewing the Department of Social Services which can be perceived as a conflict of interest when the Executive Director directly reports to a DSS Deputy Commissioner.
- Trustees were asked to create two newspaper headlines on sticky notes. The prompts were: "In three years, what will the newspaper headline say for FACT's accomplishments? What about 10 years?"
  - There were themes of FACT becoming separate from DSS and fully funded and also themes of becoming a leading voice for families and children at the statewide/national level. There was also a theme of trauma-informed care.
- The group reviewed the current child and family well-being state ecosystem (document developed by Lisa). The ecosystem was divided into the following areas:
  - Funder: State agencies, Office of Children's Services, Families Forward, FACT, and Action Alliance
  - Public Education & Awareness: State agencies, Families Forward, Area Agencies on Aging, Voices, Action Alliance, FACT
  - Systems Reform: FACT, Families Forward, Voices, Action Alliance, Area Agencies on Aging, state agencies
  - Professional Development: FACT, Families Forward, Early Impact, state agencies, Action Alliance, Office of Children's Services
  - Research: FACT, Ombudsman, Office of the Chief Medical Examiner, Voices, Commission on Youth, Action Alliance, Office of Children's Services, VCU

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Gerontology, state agencies

- Accountability: FACT, Ombudsman, Office of the Chief Medical Examiner, Families Forward, Voices, Action Alliance, Commission on Youth, Office on Children's Services, state agencies
- Advocacy: Voices, Families Forward, Ombudsman, FACT, Commission on Youth, Area Agencies on Aging, Action Alliance, state agencies

FACT currently fits into all of these categories. State agencies and the Action Alliance are the other entities that fit into all categories. There was discussion among Trustees about ensuring that FACT does not over-commit to multiple areas.

- Trustees were tasked with writing down activities that FACT currently does for each category. There was discussion around whether FACT does fit into all of these categories and which categories feel the most important to the mission.
- Due to FACT's vast legislation to address prevention and treatment across the lifespan and the flexibility of funding, there are multiple avenues that the Board could choose to move forward. There was a brief review of previous grants that FACT has awarded in the past.
- There was discussion around whether FACT is interested in systems work and/or services work. This determination will help reveal the pillars of FACT's future work. There was discussion around the definition of system reform.
- There was discussion around the limitations of having such limited staff and the requirement to comply with state procurement laws in order to spend money, in particular the lack of capacity in VDSS Procurement Staff to support those processes for FACT.
- There was discussion around FACT's current approach to address the lifespan. A potential change could include a multi-generational approach to helping children which would include the entire family. Currently there are not a lot of agencies focused on older adults which places FACT in a unique position to address violence among the aged.

Next Steps:

- After this meeting, the Sustainability Committee will meet in May to discuss how to move forward. They will then bring recommendations to the June Board meeting.
- Phase two of this work is to work with contractor Claire Gastanaga to create a Change Management Plan to execute the Board's decisions.
- Claire informed Trustees about the current landscape of the General Assembly based on redistricting. This creates a window of opportunity for the Board to act on the structural changes they are seeking.
- Lisa will provide a synthesis of the information that was discussed today, as well as information obtained during the stakeholder interviews.

Adjournment/Wrap up: Chairperson Wilkinson concluded the meeting at 3:45 PM. The next Board of Trustees meeting will be held virtually on June 9<sup>th</sup> 10am-1pm.

Respectfully submitted,

*Taylor Hohle*

Taylor Hohle, Senior Research  
Associate