

**MINUTES, VA FAMILY AND CHILDREN'S TRUST FUND
(VA-FACT) Board of Trustees Meeting, June 5th, 2024 – Microsoft Teams**

Participation:

Trustees Present: Linda Wilkinson (Chair), Virginia (Ginny) Powell, Tyler Hart, Linda Gilliam, Abigail Wescott, Season Roberts (Vice Chair), Cherie Short, Maureen Coffey, Cindy Han, Tiffany Garner, Tavares Floyd (joined 10:14am), Beverly Crowder (joined 10:35am)

Trustees Absent: Dominique Marsalek, Allison Lawrence, Tarina Keene, Ryan Kelly (Acting Deputy Commissioner of Policy and Administration, VDSS)

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

Opening: Chairperson Wilkinson called the meeting to order at 10:03 AM. 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 the April meeting. Chairperson Wilkinson made a correction in the participation section from "Committee Members" to "Trustees."
- **A motion was made by Trustee Hart to approve the minutes as amended. Trustee Powell seconded.**

Grants Committee Report: Trustee Wescott provided the report.

- The Grants Committee met on May 28th to discuss the following recommendations for Fiscal Year 2025 grant projects:
 1. Direct (Emergency) Assistance Funds Project - \$240,000 (47 mini contracts)
 - a. Sexual and Domestic Violence Programs – 20 awards of \$5000
 - b. Home Visiting Programs – 20 awards of \$5000
 - c. Skyward Pilot – 1 site at \$10,000 for two court service units
 - d. 2 Generation / Whole Family Community Action Pilot sites – 6 awards of \$5000
 2. Child Sexual Abuse Prevention - \$110,000 (10 mini contracts + 1 contractor)
 - a. One award of \$10,000 for consulting services to develop a state plan, in partnership with the FACT CAN Advisory Group for the prevention of child sexual assault.
 - b. Child Advocacy Centers (CACs) Prevention Programs – 10 awards of \$10,000
 3. Abuse Against People with Disabilities Prevention – 1 two-year award for \$200,000
 - a. The VCU Partnership for People with Disabilities awarded \$200,000 (two-year project) to expand the Leadership for Empowerment and Abuse Prevention (LEAP) program to Southwest (Roanoke) and Hampton Roads through a partnership with The Arc of Virginia. Both sites would employ part-time staff dedicated to the LEAP Project with support from the VCU Partnership.
- In addition to the three focus areas being recommended to support (Direct Emergency Assistance, Child Sexual Abuse Prevention and Preventing Abuse Against People with Disabilities) the Committee recommends that the Board modify our ad hoc support policy to increase the allowable award amount

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from \$3,000 to \$5,000 and expand eligibility of that funding from solely supporting statewide activities to also allow for support of local activities.

- There was discussion regarding increasing the benchmarks for training/webinars under the LEAP Project to yearly for the two-year contract.
- **A motion was made by Trustee Powell to accept the recommendations, as amended, from the Grants Committee for Fiscal Year 2025. Trustee Hart seconded.**
- The Children's Advocacy Centers of Virginia requested \$3000 in support for their annual conference in November. This is a statewide event that FACT has previously supported.
 - **A motion was made by Trustee Powell to approve the ad hoc request for the Children's Advocacy Centers of Virginia. Trustee Garner seconded.**

Nomination Committee Report: Chairperson Wilkinson provided the update.

- The Nomination Committee met on May 14th to discuss the officer slate. No Trustee had volunteered to serve as Treasurer at the time of the meeting, so the committee was unable to put forth a recommendation for Treasurer. The recommendations for officers are:
 - Season Roberts for Chair
 - Abigail Wescott for Vice Chair
 - Tarina Keene for Secretary
- Chairperson Wilkinson nominated Trustee Hart for the position of Treasurer.
- **A motion was made by Trustee Floyd to accept the officers recommended by the Nomination Committee with the addition of Tyler Hart as Treasurer. Seconded by Trustee Wescott.**

Treasurer's Report: Trustee Garner provided the update.

- Trustee Garner reviewed the previous profit/loss and balance statements for last quarter (January-March). The Board will receive a full Fiscal Year 2024 financial report during the September Board meeting.
 - Trustee Hart suggested aligning the profit/loss and budget categories to assist with clarity in the reports.
- Trustee Garner reviewed the proposed Fiscal Year 2025 budget. This includes the newly approved Grants Committee recommendations discussed above. In addition to traditional expenses, this budget includes increased costs to have an audit conducted (requested by Trustees in a previous meeting) and a contractor position to help with marketing efforts.
 - There was discussion about increased costs for the online donation portal compared to current rate of individual contributions.
 - **A motion was made by Trustee Powell to approve the Fiscal Year 2025 budget as presented. Trustee Gilliam seconded.**

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

- The CAN Advisory Committee met on May 23rd and received updates from the Office of the Children's Ombudsman and the Virginia Department of Social Services (VDSS).
- Two letters that were discussed and approved in prior Board of Trustee meetings have been sent.
 - The 2024 FACT Report to meet Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (CAPTA) requirements as one of Virginia's Citizen Review Panels has been submitted to Shannon Hartung at VDSS. www.fact.virginia.gov/wp-content/uploads/2024/05/CAPTA-2024-letter-to-DSS.pdf
 - As voted on during the last Board Meeting, a letter was sent to the Acting Commissioner of VDSS

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from the FACT Board requesting that the two co-chairs of the CAN Advisory Committee (Jeanine Harper and Virginia Powell) be included on the workgroup being convened to provide input on which outcome measures will be collected by the new data system being built for VDSS to collect information on child welfare services being provided by local DSSs.

https://www.fact.virginia.gov/wp-content/uploads/2024/05/Letter-of-Request-from-FACT_0524.pdf

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

- The Editorial & Planning Committee met to discuss the next issue brief focused on abuse within caretaker facilities. After discussion of the first draft, the Committee is seeking additional research which will delay the publication of the brief.

Staff Report: Executive Director Poulin provided the update.

- Gena Boyle and Danny Avula are no longer with VDSS due to other opportunities. James Williams is the Acting Commissioner and Ryan Kelly is acting in Gena's position.
- An annual report will be released this summer discussing the past fiscal year and will include impact statements from grantees and communities.
- Work is continuing on researching the issue of child fatalities. FACT has obtained data from the Virginia Department of Health to review trends in these cases. A report on this data and information surrounding child fatality processes in Virginia and nationally will be released this summer/fall.
- Executive Director Poulin discussed ongoing procurement challenges with the Problematic Sexual Behavior Project.
- FACT is now hosting monthly Lunch & Learns on various topics related to the CAN Advisory Committee and FACT's mission. Previous recordings can be found here: (Office of the Children's Ombudsman and Office of Trauma & Resilience Policy) <https://www.fact.virginia.gov/previous-lunch-learn-recordings/>
- There was discussion around the intersections of the opioid crisis and FACT's work, especially in regard to child fatality.

Adjournment/Wrap up: Chairperson Wilkinson concluded the meeting at 12:04 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Taylor Hohle

Taylor Hohle, Senior Research Associate