

## Child Abuse and Neglect Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

December 5th, 2024, 1PM-3PM

### Microsoft Teams

#### Participation

**Committee Members Present:** Ginny Powell, Co-Chair, FACT Board Member; Jeanine Harper, Co-Chair, Greater Richmond SCAN; Ron Brown, Families Forward Virginia; Eric Reynolds, Office of the Children's Ombudsman; Melissa O'Neill, Department of Criminal Justice Services, CASA; Katharine Hunter, Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services; Kristen Pritchard, Sexual and Domestic Violence Action Alliance; Kirby Baughn, Department of Social Services; Anya Shaffer, Department of Criminal Justice Services; Frank Somerville, JDR Judge (retired); Abigail Wescott, FACT Board Member (arrived 1:12pm); Betty Wade Coyle, Prevent Child Abuse Hampton Roads (arrived 1:20pm); Sephenie Howard, Norfolk State University (arrived 1:30pm)

**Committee Members Absent:** Beverly Crowder, FACT Board Member; Maria Altonen, Department of Health; Carol Wilson, Office of Children's Services

**Other Attendees:** Laurie Crawford, VDSS; Rachel Miller, CRP Coordinator VDSS; Nicole Poulin, FACT; Taylor Hohle, FACT; Michelle L'Hommedieu, Assistant Attorney General

#### Meeting called to order by Ginny Powell at 1:01 PM

All motions were passed unanimously unless otherwise noted.

#### Updates from the Office of the Children's Ombudsman (OCO), *Eric Reynolds*

- Annual report has been released.  
<https://www.oco.virginia.gov/media/governorvirginiagov/oco/reports/annual-reports/2024-Annual-Report-of-the-Office-of-the-Children's-Ombudsman-WEB.pdf>
- Getting ready for General Assembly session – the annual report provides information on what may be requested during session.
- Making connections with different groups and agencies working in the field to improve the fields of prevention and protection. The Office has been working with Virginia Department of Health (VDH) recently on child fatality work. VDH is restarting their work on Plans of Safe Care for substance exposed infants after pausing due to Covid-19.
- The Office has gotten some complaints recently about local agencies, some with several families having issues at the same agency.
- VDSS has great upcoming work with the new training academy and the trauma-informed practice work through the Office of Trauma and Resilience Policy.
- Hosted a webinar in collaboration with Virginia Department of Social Services (VDSS) for Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA), judges, lawyers and local DSS workers to discuss the kinship legislation that passed last General Assembly and what it will look like in practice.
- VDSS is sending Eric to Austin, Texas to attend a meeting on mandated reporting laws.
- Virginia Commonwealth University Center for Evidence Based Partnerships issued a Needs and Gaps Analysis report. <https://www.cep-va.org/cepva-projects> There is a team of researchers looking to fund a project focused on which prevention efforts across Virginia are currently working. FACT Executive Director Poulin mentioned a potential webinar to learn more about this project next year.

#### FACT Updates, *Nicole Poulin*

- Continuing to work on child fatality review processes report – the goal of the report is to have a central document that describes the various efforts in the Commonwealth focused on child fatality review. There will also be highlights on the current available data on reviews and fatalities.

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- Melissa O'Neill mentioned that the courts gather data by calendar year and may be helpful for data comparison.
- Staff now have access to OASIS to view child fatality cases. A committee will be convened in early 2025 to develop a protocol on reviewing these cases. If interested in this work, please reach out to Executive Director Poulin.
- Problematic Sexual Behavior Project has started Phase II. This phase is focused on building a train-the-trainer program to pilot with multidisciplinary teams on how to respond to these cases (inappropriate sexual behavior from one child to another – focused on children 12 years old and younger) in their communities.
- The FACT Board has invested funding in developing a state plan for child sexual assault prevention. Consultant Hayley Matthews has convened a workgroup to assist and coordinate this effort. The plan will feature a framework for working with these cases, with the potential for expansion to more detailed work on specifics identified within the plan.
- In the process of hiring consultants to work on public relations work and social media for FACT.

### **VDSS Updates, VDSS Family Services Staff**

- Family First & In Home Services, *Kirby Baughn*
  - First implemented in July 2021 – started with three Evidence Based Programs and have expanded to eight.
    - Multisystemic Therapy
    - Functional Family Therapy
    - Parent-Child Interaction Therapy
    - Brief Strategic Family Therapy
    - Family Check-Up
    - Homebuilders
    - High Fidelity Wraparound
    - Motivational Interviewing
  - Kinship Navigator Expansion
    - Creating a kinship navigator workgroup.
    - Received Opioid Abatement Funding last federal fiscal year and using funds this year to do a community kinship service needs assessment.
    - Submitting to add Kinship Navigator Model to IV-E reimbursable services.
  - Evidence Based Practices (EBP) Outreach and Education
    - Provide training to LDSS on EBPs - training all LDSS In-Home staff on Motivational Interviewing with over 400 workers currently trained.
    - Looking to expand EBP providers available – focused on providers who provide Homebuilders and Family Check-Up which do not receive Medicaid funding.
  - Candidacy Definition
    - Looking to expand candidacy eligibility outside of the child welfare system for EBP prevention efforts.
  - Implement Home Visiting program
    - Working to add home visiting models to eligible IV-E reimbursable services.
  - Family First Workgroup
    - Creating a workgroup to assist evolving and expanding EBPs and supporting families.
  - There was discussion on service gaps identified and potential strategies for non-Medicaid covered EBPs as a tool for expansion.

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- In-Home service case counts have decreased overall since fiscal year (FY) 2023 but have been gradually increasing each quarter of FY 2024. The percentage of cases that have been open for over one year has increased (17.7% in Quarter 4 FY2024 compared to 14.6% in Q1 in FY2023).
- There was discussion on which of these cases, and how many, have been opened via a family assessment versus an investigation. This is information that can be provided in the future as part of outcome measures.
- **Child Fatality Review Teams, *Brandi Peterson***
  - Wrapped up first year after the new restructuring for the regional teams. A report is being developed.
    - Have found that the restructure has helped with consistency across the state compared to previous structure with Practice Consultants each having their own way of operating.
    - Working on surveying the review team members on the restructuring process.
  - Annual recommendations from all the regional teams have been sent to Child Fatality Investigation Specialist.

### **Approval of Minutes, *Ginny Powell***

- **A motion to approve the minutes from the September 2024 Child Abuse & Neglect Advisory Committee meeting was made by Ron Brown and seconded by Betty Wade Coyle.**

### **Committee Member Updates**

- Kristen Pritchard shared that the CDC just released a Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report that includes information about intimate partner violence during pregnancy:  
[https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/73/wr/mm7348a1.htm?s\\_cid=mm7348a1\\_w](https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/73/wr/mm7348a1.htm?s_cid=mm7348a1_w)

### **Next Steps, *Ginny Powell***

- The next meeting will be held in-person on February 25<sup>th</sup>, 1-4pm.

**Meeting was adjourned at 2:59PM**