

Child Abuse and Neglect Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

June 15th 10am-12pm

Microsoft Teams

Participation:

Committee Members Present: Jeanine Harper, Co- Chair, Greater Richmond SCAN; Ron Brown, Families Forward Virginia; Melissa O'Neill, Department of Criminal Justice Services, CASA; Laurie Crawford, VDSS; Katharine Hunter, Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services; Ian Danielsen, FACT Board Member; Maria Altonen, Virginia Department of Health; Jennifer Gillyard, FACT Board Member; Keisha Bagby-Bailey, VDSS; Frank Somerville, JDR Judge (retired)- arrived 10:20am; Carol Wilson, Office of Children's Services – arrived 10:47am

Committee Members Absent: Theresa Orr, Police Department (retired); Eric Reynolds, Office of the Children's Ombudsman; Season Roberts, Co-Chair, FACT Board Member; Anya Shaffer, Department of Criminal Justice Services; Stephenie Howard, Norfolk State University; Betty Wade Coyle, Prevent Child Abuse Hampton Roads;

Other Attendees: Nicole Poulin, FACT; Rachel Miller, Citizen Review Panel (CRP) Coordinator; Carley Landsen, VDSS; Patrick Bridge, VDSS; Taylor Hohle, FACT

Meeting called to order by Jeanine Harper at 10:04 AM

All motions were passed unanimously unless otherwise noted.

Approval of Minutes, Jeanine Harper

- **A motion to approve the minutes from the March 2026 Child Abuse & Neglect Advisory Committee meeting was made by Jeanine Harper and seconded by Katharine Hunter.**

FACT Updates, Nicole Poulin, Executive Director

- This year is FACT's 40th anniversary. A celebration event will be hosted in October, and all Committee members will be invited to attend.
- APSAC State Section membership opportunity – the FACT Board has approved funding for CAN Committee members and Board members to join APSAC to participate in meetings and access resources. Contact Nicole Poulin to access membership information.
- Problematic Sexual Behavior Project – the train-the-trainer program was completed in January. The Board of Trustees will be considering additional funding for evaluation and adjustment of the training over the next two years.
- FACT will be releasing a large Request for Proposals related to the prevention and treatment of family violence across the lifespan, totaling \$1.5 million. The goal is to have up to 70% of the funding support programs who have experienced budget cuts.
- The CAN Child Fatality Workgroup will continue to meet in the upcoming fiscal year. The group will start meeting in the summer.

VDSS Updates and Discussion on Issues Outlined in the 2025 CAN CAPTA Report, Keisha Bagby-Bailey, In-Home Services Program Manager, and Carley Lansden, Child Fatality Investigation Specialist

- In-Home Services, Keisha Bagby-Bailey
 - At the closing of a Child Protective Services case, a risk assessment is conducted. The goal is for all high and very high risk assessments to be opened to in-home services.

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- There has been a specific focus on opening high/very high assessments that involve children ages 0-3 years old. During the last year, 41% of those cases have been opened to in-home services.
- Roundtables are being hosted by VDSS to discuss family engagement with localities.
- Parental Child Safety Placement Program – established in 2024 by the General Assembly: <https://law.lis.virginia.gov/vacode/title63.2/chapter15/section63.2-1532/>
 - Provides an opportunity for families to have their children placed with fictive kin for up to 90 days to work on the safety issue. Once the safety issue has been resolved, the child transitions back home. This is intended to be a pre-court intervention that families can participate in.
 - Since the start of the program, 32% of children who were entered into an agreement have returned home. About 8% have entered foster care. 26% have ended in some type of court intervention. 6% ended in alternate living situations, typically the child is put in custody of the fictive kin.
- Update from the Virginia Department of Health Summit on Perinatal Substance Use, *Carley Lansden*
 - Carley provided some takeaways from the Summit.
 - Strength in Peers: <https://strengthenpeers.org/> hosted a panel at the summit discussing harm reduction and recovery services.
 - Discussion from the Committee
 - The Committee discussed foster care and reunification efforts that may conflict with recovery timelines.
 - There was discussion on the Community Services Boards (CSBs) role once Child Protective Services or foster care are no longer involved.
- Updates from the Citizen Review Panel Conference, *Rachel Miller*
 - Rachel provided key takeaways from the recent National Citizen Review Panel conference in San Diego. Committee Co-chairs will be meeting with conference attendees to discuss any opportunities to incorporate insights into the CRPs in Virginia.

Update from the Office of Trauma and Resilience Policy (OTRP) at VDSS. *Laurie Crawford*

- An issue brief on Best Practices on Lived-Experience Experts will be released soon.
 - This will be accompanied by a legislative proposal to codify lived-experience experts and compensation.
- The Trauma-Informed Care Workgroup will be reconvened soon through the Secretary of Health and Human Resources.
- Workforce snapshot
 - 60% average annual turnover rate in 2025 for entry-level Family Services Specialist I. This is up from the 40% average over 2022-2024. Benefits worker turnover is also increasing.
 - Workforce Support Infrastructure Proposals - Community Resiliency Model (CRM), Peer Support Line, Critical Incident Response, Feedback/Evaluation
 - In Collaboration with Local Training and Development to provide monthly CRM workshops for local department staff.
 - A CRM pilot in 5 local departments
 - Curriculum and training are being developed on Critical Incident CRM and CRM guides.

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Update from Local Training and Development at VDSS, *Patrick Bridge*

- Patrick provided updates on the training academy: Virginia START
 - The first component that will be rolled out is called Universal Core. This is intended to provide a common foundation for *all* employees. The included elements:
 - Orientation to VDSS
 - Core Systems Navigation
 - Confidentiality & Fraud
 - Documentation & CQI
 - Foundations of Engagement
 - Understanding Families
 - Professional Growth
 - Personal Effectiveness

Next Steps, *Jeanine Harper*

- Once the new co-chairs have been selected for the upcoming Fiscal Year, a scheduling poll for meeting dates will be sent out.

Meeting was adjourned at 12:00 PM.