

Child Abuse and Neglect Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

September 21st 10am-1pm

Families Forward, 8100 Three Chopt Road

Participation:

Committee Members Present: Ian Danielsen, Co-Chair, FACT Board Member; Ron Brown, Families Forward Virginia; Jeanine Harper, Co-Chair, Greater Richmond SCAN; Anya Shaffer, Department of Criminal Justice Services; Carol Wilson, Office of Children's Services; Katharine Hunter, Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services; Keisha Bagby-Bailey, VDSS

Committee Members Participating Virtually: Betty Wade Coyle, Prevent Child Abuse Hampton Roads (retired); Stephenie Howard, Norfolk State University

Committee Members Absent: Melissa O'Neill, Department of Criminal Justice Services, CASA; Theresa Orr, Police Department (retired); Jennifer Gillyard, FACT Board Member; Frank Somerville, JDR Judge (retired); Laurie Crawford, VDSS; Maria Altonen, Virginia Department of Health; Eric Reynolds, Office of the Children's Ombudsman

Other Attendees: Nicole Poulin, FACT; Taylor Hohle, FACT (virtual); Rachel Miller, Citizen Review Panel (CRP) Coordinator; Denise Johnson, VDSS; Lauren Weidner, VDSS

Meeting called to order by Ian Danielsen at 10:06 AM

A quorum was not present, so no motions occurred.

Updates from the Citizen Review Panel Conference, Rachel Miller

- Rachel attended the National Citizen Review Panel (CRP) Conference earlier this year. In the June meeting, the Committee was provided with an overview of the conference and the sessions.
- As a follow-up to the conference, the Virginia Department of Social Services (VDSS) has been approved to compensate two members of lived experience for the Safety CRP.
 - VDSS has contacted SPEAK OUT and the Parent Advisory Counsel to select members to join.
- As part of the conference attendees were provided with contact information for other states. Rachel will be reaching out to other coordinators across the U.S. to learn more about their CRPs. A discussion was held on what information to ask the coordinators.
 - How are CRPs staffed in other states?
 - What activities are other CRPs involved in? How do they function?
- Rachel can provide an orientation on CRPs, from a national perspective, for the Committee at a future meeting.
- There was a discussion on mandated reporting and the current online portal.

Update from the Office of the Children's Ombudsman, Ian Danielsen

- The OCO annual report for Fiscal Year (FY) 2026 will be released in early October.
 - There was an 83% increase in complaints compared to FY25
 - Almost all the 120 departments were involved in the complaints
 - 64 notifications of child fatalities
- The OCO is participating in the legislative workgroup on substance exposed infants.

- The Commission on Youth is looking into extending the OCO's coverage to include juvenile justice involved youth.
- The OCO currently has a job opening for a data analyst position.

VDSS Updates on Child Welfare Information System (CWIS) & Family First Prevention Services Implementation, Denise Johnson & Lauren Weidner

- CWIS Updates, *Denise Johnson*
 - Changes to update CWIS were funded in 2019. The Request for Proposals (RFP) was briefly put out and then rescinded for changes.
 - The new RFP is currently out and due in mid-October. The new system will likely not be live for another two years after vendor selection to allow time for development.
 - Prior to the RFP, research was conducted on what local agencies need from a new system. As part of the evaluation process, one front line worker from each region will be included to preview the proposed systems.
 - There was discussion on the types of data that will be collected and ways that data can be shared out.
- Family First Prevention Services Implementation, *Lauren Weidner*
 - The second five-year prevention plan was approved a few weeks ago. Five evidence-based services have been added to the plan.
 - Additional funding is needed to train providers in the new services.
 - There was discussion on what data will be gathered on outcomes of these services.
 - Changing definition of candidates for prevention services to include more than current in-home cases.

FACT Updates, Nicole Poulin, Executive Director

- Nicole is participating on three legislative workgroups focused on substance-exposed infants, child custody, and child protective services response.
- FACT is coordinating first state section for Association of Professionals Solving the Abuse of Children (APSAC). The group meets on the second Tuesday of the month as a learning collaborative. Any Committee member who is interested in joining should contact Nicole.
- FACT currently has ad hoc grants, up to \$5000, available for the prevention and treatment of family violence. A \$1.5 million RFP will be released this Fiscal Year for organizations that have, or anticipate having, impacts due to federal budget cuts.
- A 40th Anniversary Celebration event will be held on October 1st at the Virginia Museum of History and Culture. Committee member Betty Wade Coyle will be honored with a Lifetime Achievement award. All Committee members are invited to attend.
- The Child Fatality Workgroup will be reconvening in the next few months to review cases that are not sent to the OCO or the regional child fatality teams.
- In this fiscal year, FACT will be working on and releasing an issue brief on abuse of older adults with a focus on facilities.

Committee Member Updates:

- A new Victims of Crime Act solicitation will be coming out in the next few months.
- Norfolk State School of Social Work will be hosting some professional development opportunities in the upcoming months.
- Based on recommendations from the regional Child Fatality Review Teams, VDSS will be creating social media advertisements with parents who have lost their children.
- VDSS finished their first set of roundtable discussions in the regions on practices for in-home services.

Next Steps, Ian Danielsen

- The next meeting will be held virtually on December 7th 10am-12pm.

Meeting was adjourned at 12:27 PM