

**Commonwealth of Virginia
State Board of Social Services**

**Department of Social Services
Central Regional Office
1604 Santa Rosa Road
Richmond, Virginia 23229**

December 9, 2015

Attending: Mr. Willie Greene, Sr. (Chair), Dr. Danny Avula (Vice Chair), Ms. Joanne Webster (Secretary), Ms. Sheila Coppage, Dr. Jack Knapp, Mr. Clyde Santana, Ms. Veronica Washington, Ms. Mona Malik.

Absent: Ms. Lou Ali, Mr. Darrell Jordan, Jr., Mr. Kent Willis

Also in Attendance: Ms. Margaret Ross Schultze (Commissioner), Ms. Jennifer Williamson (Sr. Assistant Attorney General).

Meeting called to order at 10:01 am – Mr. Willie Greene, Sr.

Review of Agenda – Ms. Karin Clark, Regulatory Coordinator

Comments from the Commissioner – Ms. Margaret Ross Schultze

- Asked the Board to notify Karin Clark of possible future agenda items and ideas. Previously, Dr. Avula asked for an update on the Adult Services/Adult Protective Services Program and the No Wrong Door Initiative administered by the Department for Aging and Rehabilitative Services (DARS); representatives from DARS have been asked to attend the February meeting to provide a presentation on the initiative.
- Spoke about the Syrian refugees and Paris attacks. Provided a hand-out from Kathy Cooper, Director of Office of Refugee Resettlement, which provides an overview of the refugee resettlement program.
- Commission on Parole Review had its final meeting on November 23, 2015. The Commission is working on finalizing the report and Commissioner Schultze will share with the Board if interested.
- Provided updates from the Governor's Agency Head Retreat held December 1, 2015.
- Legislative mandate to look at the State Executive Council (SEC), which is the oversight body of the Children's Services Act (CSA). There were concerns about the transparency of the policies and whether SEC should be a regulatory body.

Commissioner Schultze provided updates on the following four major agency projects:

1. Eligibility Modernization
2. Permanency for Children in Foster Care
3. Child Support Modernization
4. Safe & Quality Child Care in the Commonwealth

Adoption Program Update – Carl Ayers

Carl Ayers gave a presentation titled Adoption Program Update. His presentation covered data, initiatives, and other adoption-related information.

Regulatory Process Refresher – Karin Clark

Karin Clark provided a Regulatory Process Refresher, handouts were given.

COMMENT PERIOD

Comment from the Public

Kimberly Hulcher – The Virginia Child Care Association

Ms. Hulcher recognized the efforts of this Administration to be more transparent and indicated one of their goals is to work more closely with the Department of Social Services. Licensing standards should be more inclusive and not burdensome, so more providers are encouraged to become licensed. She spoke of the need to be mindful of group size, enforcement of standards and the challenges being experienced with the swipe machines.

Andy Crocker – Southeast Rural Community Assistance Project

Mr. Crocker spoke about the private well owners program and provided handouts to the Board.

There were no comments from Local Boards and Directors of Social Services.

There were no comments from Boards and Directors of Community Action Agencies.

Comments from the Virginia League of Social Services Executives – Cathy Pemberton

Ms. Pemberton spoke about the successes of the eligibility system. Ms. Pemberton shared they are pleased to support the department’s bill for fostering futures and also pleased to support the effort for more administrative funding for Family Services positions. Powhatan County Foster Care caseloads are down to 11 children from 17; three children were adopted in August.

Comments from the Virginia Community Action Partnership – Jim Schuyler

Mr. Schuyler shared that the focus at VACAP is on assembling data and stories for the Annual Report. The Annual Report is printed and distributed in January at the Annual Legislative Conference in Richmond. Mr. Schuyler shared stories of transformation in the lives of individuals and their communities.

Regulatory Update – Karin Clark, Regulatory Coordinator

There are 41 regulations; 7 current actions; 3 pending with Governor. Ms. Clark reviewed the changes highlighted on the status report handout.

ACTION ITEMS

1. **Approve October 2015 Minutes**
On Motion Duly Made, (Dr. Knapp), second (Dr. Avula), motion to approve the minutes as amended was approved, with all in favor.

2. **22VAC40-111, Standards for Licensed Family Day Homes – NOIRA**
On Motion Duly Made, (Dr. Knapp), second (Mr. Santana), motion approved with all in favor.

3. **22VAC40-185, Standards for Licensed Child Day Centers – NOIRA**
On Motion Duly Made, (Dr. Knapp), second (Ms. Coppage), motion approved with all in favor.
4. **22VAC40-295, Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (Exclusion Periods for Intentional Program Violations) – Withdrawal**
On Motion Duly Made, (Ms. Webster), second (Mr. Santana), motion approved, with Dr. Knapp and Ms. Washington voting in opposition.
5. **22VAC40-601, Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (Revised Guidelines for Counting Income Toward SNAP Eligibility) – Withdrawal**
On Motion Duly Made, (Ms. Webster), second (Mr. Santana), motion failed by unanimous vote.
6. **22VAC40-601, Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (Income Exclusion for Legally Obligated Child Support Payments) – NOIRA**
On Motion Duly Made, (Dr. Knapp), second (Mr. Santana), motion approved with all in favor.
7. **22VAC40-661, Child Care Program – NOIRA**
On Motion Duly Made, (Dr. Knapp), second (Ms. Coppage), motion approved with all in favor.
8. **22VAC40-675, Personnel Policies for Local Departments of Social Services – Fast Track**
On Motion Duly Made, (Dr. Knapp), second (Mr. Santana), motion approved with all in favor.
9. **22VAC40-80, General Procedures and Information for Licensure – Withdrawal**
On Motion Duly Made, (Dr. Knapp), second (Ms. Washington), motion approved with all in favor.

Board Member Comments

Mr. Santana thanked Carl Ayers and staff, felt good about the information provided.

Ms. Coppage thanked Karin Clark, stated she now understand regulations.

Mr. Greene stated Karin Clark did a wonderful job on the regulatory process.

Ms. Webster commended staff for all the work being done.

Dr. Knapp thanked Karin Clark for her explanation on the regulatory process and thanked Carl Ayers for his report on adoption.

Ms. Washington thanked Karin Clark for her review and thanked Carl Ayers for his presentation; thanked the Commissioner for the information on the big four.

Dr. Avula appreciated Dr. Knapp's comments.

Adjourned at 3:12pm