

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

June 16, 2021

Attending: Ms. Lou Ali (Chair), Mr. Clyde Santana (Vice Chair), Mr. William Boone (Secretary), Ms. Mona Malik, Mr. John Kines, Ms. Megan Miloser, Mr. Kent Willis, Dr. Danny Avula, Ms. Jennifer Slack, and Dr. Andrew Heck.

Also in Attendance: Mr. Duke Storen (Commissioner) and Ms. Ellen Malenke (Assistant Attorney General).

Meeting called to order at 10:02am – Lou Ali

Ms. Ali acknowledged this is the last board meeting for Dr. Avula and Dr. Heck. She thanked them both for service and commitment.

Review of Agenda – Karin Clark, Regulatory Coordinator

Comments from the Commissioner – Duke Storen

Commissioner Storen thanked everyone for participating in the virtual board meeting. He acknowledged the passing of Board member MaryAnn Boyd. He also acknowledged Dr. Avula and Dr. Heck and thanked them for their service and commitment to Virginia. He provided local, state, and federal updates.

Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Initiatives – Necole Simmonds provided an overview of the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion initiatives at VDSS.

VDSS Strategic Plan – Gena Berger provided an overview of the VDSS strategic plan.

COMMENT PERIOD

There were no comments from the public.

There were no comments from boards and directors of community action agencies.

Comment from the Virginia League of Social Service Executives – Andy Crawford, President

Mr. Crawford expressed the League is excited about the new and upcoming processes from the state. The League is working with the state to educate the local agencies on the strategic plan. He shared local agencies are working on reopening the agencies. He expressed his appreciation to the Commissioner and Roland Rivera for working with them on advocating the need to increase the bandwidth for the local departments.

ACTION ITEMS

1. Approved April 2021 Meeting Minutes

Mr. Willis requested that the April minutes be amended to add him as attending the April meeting. ***On Motion Duly Made***, (Mr. Kines), second (Mr. Santana), motion to approve the minutes as amended with all in favor.

2. State Compensation Schedule, Occupational Title and Pay Structure for Local Departments of Social Services

On Motion Duly Made, (Mr. Santana), second (Mr. Boone), motion approved with all in favor.

3. State Board of Social Services Updated Bylaws

On Motion Duly Made, (Mr. Willis), second (Ms. Malik), motion approved with all in favor.

4. Report from Nominating Committee/Elect New Officers (7/1/2021-6/30/2022)

Kent Willis provided the report on behalf of the committee. Nominated were: Clyde Santana for Chair; Mona Malik for Vice Chair; and John Kines for Secretary. On Motion Duly Made, (Ms. Slack), second (Dr. Avula), motion approved with all in favor.

Dr. Heck thanked the Board and expressed he is proud to serve the Board the past four years. He encouraged the Board to continue to represent the interests of older adults in assisted living facilities. He is enlightened about the work of the agency for children, families, and older adults in Virginia.

Dr. Avula expressed that he is grateful to have served on the Board for eight years. He shared that, because of his serving on the Board, he is a better advocate for children and families and a better health director.

Board Member Requests for Future Information

Mr. Boone asked the Commissioner to continue with the virtual Board meetings for the benefit of local staff and the public in western Virginia, after the state of emergency is lifted on June 30.

Meeting adjourned at 11:30am