

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

August 17, 2026

Attending: Matthew Melvin (Chair), Coke Stewart (Vice Chair), Mike Flynn, Zach Clinton, Tony Whittingham, Cassandra Willis, and LaChanda Lee.

Also in Attendance: Duke Storen (Commissioner) and Ellen Fulmer (Assistant Attorney General)

Meeting called to order at 10:00am – Mr. Melvin

Comments from the Commissioner – Commissioner Duke Storen provided an overview of current agency priorities.

COMMENT PERIOD

Wendy Little – Ms. Little expressed concern about the cuts to programs such as Medicaid and SNAP.

Amanda Banes – Ms. Banes shared her concerns about the systematic failures within the Child Protective Service system.

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

Comment from the Virginia Community Action Partnership – Erik Johnston, Executive Director, thanked the Commissioner and the team at DSS for including the CAA in the critical work of HR1. He's also grateful for the Governor, Secretary, DSS and General Assembly for the increase in TANF Formula Funds that helped deal with the census updates and making sure they have strong capacity across the state. He also shared details on recent federal updates and state funding.

Comment from the Virginia League of Social Service Executives – Andy Crawford, President and Director Bedford County DSS. Mr. Crawford shared the League does support the changes to the HR manual chapters 1 and 4. The League is focused on Senate Bill 640 regarding centralized intake and the administrative funding study. He expressed his appreciation for the minimum salary changes that the General Assembly enacted as of July 1. They will now move to the next phase of trying to figure out how to advocate for a salary change because it impacted Family Service Specialist I and II.

ACTION ITEMS

1. June 2026 Meeting Minutes

On Motion Duly Made, (Zach Clinton), second (Mike Flynn), motion approved the minutes with one abstaining (Coke Stewart).

2. **Administrative/HR Manual for Local Departments of Social Services Chapter 1, *Equal Opportunity & Accessibility* Chapter 4, *Leave & Related Areas***
On Motion Duly Made, (Coke Stewart), second (Mike Flynn), motion approved with all in favor.
3. **22VAC40-73, Standards for Licensed Assisted Living Facilities – Final Regulation**
On Motion Duly Made, (Coke Stewart), second (Zach Clinton), motion approved with all in favor.
4. **22VAC40-141, Minimum Standards for Licensed Independent Homes - Fast Track Regulation**
On Motion Duly Made, (Coke Stewart), second (Zach Clinton), motion approved with all in favor.
5. **22VAC40-73, Standards for Licensed Assisted Living Facilities - Exempt Regulation**
On Motion Duly Made, (Mike Flynn), second (Coke Stewart), motion approved with all in favor.
6. **22VAC40-191, Background Checks for Child Welfare Agencies - Exempt Regulation**
On Motion Duly Made, (Mike Flynn), second (Zach Clinton), motion approved with all in favor.
7. **22VAC40-211, Foster & Adoptive Family Home Standards - Exempt Regulation**
On Motion Duly Made, (Coke Stewart), second (Zach Clinton), motion approved with all in favor.
8. **22VAC40-411, General Relief Program - Exempt Regulation**
On Motion Duly Made, (Mike Flynn), second (Zach Clinton), motion approved with all in favor.
9. **22VAC40-705, Child Protective Services - Exempt Regulation**
This regulation is still in process and will be on the October agenda.
10. **22VAC40-680, Virginia Energy Assistance Program-Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)**
On Motion Duly Made, (Mike Flynn), second (Zach Clinton), motion approved with all in favor.

SNAP Payment Accuracy – Commissioner Storen provided an update on the SNAP Payment Accuracy.

Senate Bill 640 Social Services Task Force – Mr. Melvin asked the Board members to let him know if there is any interest in participating in the Senate Bill 640 Social Services Task Force.

Meeting adjourned at 12:19pm