

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

**Powhatan Volunteer Rescue Squad Reception Building
3920 Marion Harland Lane
Powhatan, Virginia 23139**

**Wednesday, August 14, 2013
9:00 A.M.**

Attending: Mr. Robert Spadaccini, Sr. (Chair), Mr. Willie Greene (Vice Chair), Mr. Thomas C. Atwood (Secretary), Ms. Heidi Metcalf-Little, Dr. Jack Knapp

Absent: Dr. Bela Sood, Ms. Trudy Brisendine, Ms. Lisa Robertson, Reverend Dr. Ray Johnson, Mr. William C. Henderson

Also in Attendance: Commissioner Margaret Ross Schultze, Ms. Michelle L’Hommedieu (Assistant Attorney General)

Meeting called to order at 9:00 a.m. – Mr. Robert Spadaccini, Chair

Mr. Spadaccini welcomed Board members, Powhatan County Administrator Mr. Pat Wailer, and other guests. He thanked Catherine Pemberton, Powhatan Department of Social Services Director, for hosting the meeting.

Powhatan County Welcome – Ms. Pat Weiler, Powhatan County Administrator

Mr. Weiler welcomed the Board and thanked them for allowing Powhatan County to host this meeting.

Powhatan County Welcome – Mr. Barry Hodge, Chairman of the Board of Supervisors, Powhatan County

Mr. Hodge expressed his experience with Powhatan DSS and the quality of service and competency of the staff. He welcomed the Board and thanked them for allowing the opportunity to have the forum in Powhatan County.

Powhatan County Welcome – Mr. Carson Tucker, Chair, Powhatan Social Services Board

Mr. Tucker welcomed the Board to Powhatan County.

Powhatan County Department of Social Services – Ms. Catherine Pemberton, Director

Ms. Pemberton introduced herself and gave a brief description of her career history with social services. She introduced her team and asked staff members to stand, introduce themselves and indicate their program areas.

Following the introductions of Powhatan DSS staff members, Mr. Spadaccini shared some of their outstanding accomplishments, including reduction of children in foster care, Comprehensive Services Act, community action, and creation of the Powhatan Domestic Violence Program. He expressed to the staff of Powhatan DSS gratitude for their important

work. Mr. Spadaccini noted that it is practice to present a commending resolution to the hosting local department. However, there being no quorum of the Board, such a resolution could not be adopted. Board will approve the resolution for Powhatan DSS at the October meeting and it will be forwarded to Ms. Pemberton.

Commissioner Schultze thanked Ms. Pemberton for the work that is being done by her agency and for always being supportive when needed.

Review of Agenda – Mrs. Karin Clark, Regulatory Coordinator

Ms. Clark provided a brief overview of the agenda.

Virginia Adopts - Mr. Ryan Kelly on behalf of his wife, Honorable Janet Kelly, Secretary of the Commonwealth

Mr. Kelly, whom with his wife, Honorable Janet Kelly, was asked by Governor McDonnell to head up the Virginia Adopts Campaign. Mr. Kelly thanked the Board for inviting them to Powhatan for this meeting. He shared with the Board that he and his wife are currently going through the adoption process themselves. Mr. Kelly stated that Virginia Adopts is being approached like an actual campaign, with \$1.5 million dollars going towards the project. The campaign was launched in May and has since been taken across the Commonwealth to several locations. A new spotlight is now shining on this issue, with a tremendous social media campaign running on Twitter and Face Book, helping to link potential adoptive parents to waiting children. Mr. Kelly asked Board members to spread the word in their communities.

Comments from Commissioner of Social Services

Commissioner Schultze noted that the agency met the standard work participation rate for the federal government, and therefore avoided penalty. She thanked the local partners for achieving that goal.

This week federal partners are evaluating the agency for the Title IV-E Program. This is a secondary review and there should be a good sense as to the status by the end of the week.

Commissioner Schultze updated the Board on the Three Branch Institute, sponsored by the National Governors Association. She attended a related event in Philadelphia, where state work plans and collaborations were discussed. The Virginia team came back energized to begin accomplishing goals.

The Department of Medical Assistance Services (DMAS) is transitioning children into managed care over the next year. Some of the benefits for children in foster care being enrolled in managed care include primary care providers who will manage each child's health care and refer the child to other providers when necessary, and increased access to credentialed physicians and other providers. If DMAS was not doing managed care, VDSS would need to find ways to provide these services for children in foster care to comply with federal requirements on improving the health and behavioral health of children in foster care. DMAS has also contracted with Magellan as Behavioral Health Administrator for behavioral health services, including for children in foster care.

Organizational Development Update, Donna Douglas, Deputy Commissioner/ Organizational Development

Ms. Douglas provided a PowerPoint presentation on “Change: Organizational Change Management.” She told a story about change using three main threads and individually introduced Mr. Rod Gordon, Director, Essex County DSS, and Ms. Tiffany Gordon, Assistant Director, York- Poquoson DSS. Each speaker discussed change from the perspective of their experience in their local departments.

Ms. Douglas introduced members of the Organizational Development Team. Commissioner Schultze rounded out the presentation by reading a letter she received from Alexis Zoss, Director of Virginia Beach DSS.

COMMENT PERIOD

Comments from the Public

Ms. Eva Scott

Concerned citizen regarding new regulation for child day centers as it relates to transportation for non-ambulatory children. She indicated that this would mean they will have to hire seven new staff. This would cause tuitions to go up and most parents would not be able to afford it. Mr. Spadaccini addressed Ms. Scott’s concerns and stated that the regulation is for the entire state and that there is a mixture of small, medium and large facilities that this regulation affects.

Comment from Boards and Directors of Community Action Agencies

Mr. Randy Philips, Southeast RCAP

Mr. Phillips briefed on what his agency does in terms of whom and how they benefit communities. He stated that they go around the state to various localities to talk about their new partner initiative, “Aging in Place” which allows those affected to remain at home comfortably. Their priority is eliminating barriers and making the home safer. Mr. Spadaccini asked if they were able to bill Medicare for any of the renovations. Mr. Philips responded that they are not, yet.

Comment from the Virginia League of Social Services Executives

Ms. Catherine Pemberton, Virginia League of Social Services Executives

Ms. Pemberton spoke on behalf of Carl Ayers, President of the Virginia League of Social Services Executives regarding MAGI and social worker title changes. She also stated that there are concerns about the high number of reversals in Child Protective Services appeals in her locality and inquired about possible policy solutions. Deputy Commissioner McWhinney commented that there is a process set up between the CPS Unit and Appeals and Fair Hearings, where Rita Katzman reviews appeals to determine whether it is a training or some other issue.

Comment from the Virginia Community Action Partnership

Mr. Jim Schuyler, Director

Mr. Schuyler updated on federal funding for community action organizations in Virginia. They are at level funding and he believes they have done a good job of lobbying, but they have been told to look at other sources for funding for community action organizations. Organizational performance standards have been submitted to the National Community Action Services. Mr. Schuyler complimented Fran Inge,

Director, Volunteerism and Community Service, for doing an extraordinary job in assuming Mark Grigsby's responsibilities .

REGULATORY UPDATE

Ms. Karin Clark, Regulatory Coordinator

Ms. Clark briefed the Board on status changes since their June 2013 meeting.

Mr. Spadaccini expressed concern regarding a family that wants to adopt a child not in the system, which could be very expensive for the adoptive family. He inquired about addressing this in regulation. Mr. McWhinney referenced earlier comments of Ryan Kelly, noting that he and his wife adopted a child that was not in the system. How it ties into regulation is something requiring a closer look to determine. He stated that it relates to adoption subsidy in terms of financing.

Dr. Knapp asked Ms. Clark about 22VAC 40-185, Standards for Licensed Child Day Centers, relative to when Board might take the next action. Ms. Clark indicated that the proposed regulation is in the Governor's Office and that December would be the soonest Board could act.

Commissioner Schultze thanked Ms. Clark for the regulatory update and for keeping track of all regulations and status.

Overview and Tour of Powhatan DSS

Ms. Pemberton provided a presentation on Powhatan DSS. She began with a description of what goes on at her agency (via PowerPoint presentation). Powhatan DSS provides the following to the public: family services, benefits programs, domestic violence, community action and Comprehensive Services Act. She noted that Powhatan has three correctional centers. Ms. Pemberton discussed the role of her agency during an emergency, adding that collaborating with local partners in such an event is critical.

The Women's Club of Powhatan provides a clothes closet which funds a domestic violence program. The Coalition of Churches provides cash or services, home repairs, handicapped ramps, etc. The Christmas Mother is an independent organization and DSS does the screenings. The Free Clinic of Powhatan is located in the DSS building. Deep Meadow Community Advisory Board addresses issues affecting the offender population.

Board Member Comments

Dr. Knapp stated that he appreciated the report that Ms. Tiffany Gordon made as well as the way that they work with families to keep children out of foster care. That should be a goal of the Board. He also stated that he had heard the story briefly about the Kelly's and that this has been an excellent meeting for him. He thanked the folks at Powhatan and for the reception that they gave the Board.

Mr. Greene thanked Powhatan also. He said that it's been great and he enjoyed the stories regarding families and adoption. He talked about how his family took in children back in the day.

Mr. Atwood reiterated thanks to Powhatan. He is looking forward to getting into the permanency regulation and would like to see momentum continue with the adoption initiative into the next administration.

Mr. Spadaccini thanked Ms. Pemberton, Ms. Graham, and Ms. L'Hommedieu. He stated that the Department is kind enough to arrange for lodging and stressed the importance of members responding to related staff inquiries in a timely manner. He indicated that Ms. Deborah White had resigned from the Board.

Commissioner Schultze stated that Mr. McWhinney has indicated that conversions to modernization have to be done manually and that we'll get the Board more information on that. She also mentioned that the proposed meeting dates for 2014 will be presented at the October Board meeting and asked that members bring a calendar.

At 4:23pm, Mr. Spadaccini (Chair) announced that the meeting was adjourned.