

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

**Stryker Municipal Complex, Meeting Room 127
412 N. Boundary Street
Williamsburg, Virginia 23185**

June 14, 2017

Attending: Mr. Darrell Jordan (Chair), Dr. Danny Avula (Vice Chair) Ms. Veronica Washington (Secretary), Ms. Lou Ali, Ms. MaryAnn Boyd, Ms. Joan Brennan, Mr. Willie Greene, Mr. John Kines, Mr. Clyde Santana.

Absent: Ms. Mona Malik and Mr. Kent Willis.

Also in Attendance: Ms. Margaret Ross Schultze (Commissioner), Ms. Ellen Malenke (Assistant Attorney General).

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

Mr. Jordan extended a special thank you to the City of Williamsburg for hosting the Board.

Welcome and Introductions – Mr. Peter Walentisch, Mr. Andrew Trivette, and Ms. Jo Ann Wilson-Harfst

Review of Agenda – Ms. Karin Clark, Regulatory Coordinator

Comments from the Commissioner – Ms. Margaret Ross Schultze

Commissioner Schultze thanked Peter Walentisch and his staff for the warm welcome and reception hosted by his staff.

Commissioner Schultze gave a reminder of the four major agency projects:

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

The Commissioner provided an update on agency project #2 – Safe & Quality Child Care in the Commonwealth. She referenced the two regulatory action items pertaining to child care, Standards for Licensed Child Day Centers and Child Care Program. Commissioner Schultze highlighted some of the major changes to the regulations. She also provided a handout that showed the number of closed child day centers.

Commissioner Schultze thanked Mr. Greene for his service to the Board.

Bridges Out of Poverty – Andrew Crawford gave a presentation titled *Bridges Out of Poverty: A Community Approach*. Handouts were provided.

COMMENT PERIOD

Kim Hulcher – Virginia Child Care Association

Ms. Hulcher is aware of newly proposed regulations to Action Items 5 and 6 and noted that VCCA supports all of the federal regulations and most of all of the Virginia subsidy and child licensing regulations, but has a few concerns they would like addressed. She requested that the Board amend the regulation prior to the vote. Ms. Hulcher provided a handout.

Jane Jones – Early Challenges Child Care Center

Ms. Jones expressed her concerns regarding Action Item 6.

Josie Webster – Virginia Council for Private Education

Ms. Webster expressed her concerns regarding Action Items 5 and 6.

Jack Merritt – Merit Education Inc.

Mr. Merritt shared his concerns about group care sizing, CPR first aid requirement, and the trainer requirements.

Mary Lou Nellis – Merit Education Inc.

Ms. Nellis shared her concerns as a teacher about how children feel about group sizing.

Angela Todd – Merit Education Inc.

Ms. Todd shared her concerns as a parent about group sizing and the allergy action plan.

Michael Fust – A Child’s Place & Virginia Child Care Association

Mr. Fust shared his concerns about the CPR first aid requirement.

Pattie Varner – Childcare Network

Ms. Varner shared her concerns about the CPR first aid requirement, finger printing, subsidy and absentee days.

Clark Andrs – River’s Bend Children’s Center

Mr. Andrs shared his concerns about subsidy and child licensing regulations.

Kim Gregory – Virginia Community College System

Ms. Gregory shared her support as well as concerns about the CPR certification requirement.

Grace Reef – Child Care Aware of VA

Ms. Reef gave her testimony on the proposed child care regulations. Ms. Reef provided a handout.

Emily Griffey – Voices for Virginia’s Children

Ms. Griffey shared her concerns about the proposed child care regulation. Ms. Griffey provided a handout

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 shared that benefit programs went into the new case management system and they are still working with the integrity of the data. They also continue to work on overdue Medicaid cases and they continue to work to make sure CPS and Foster Care staff have the training they need. Ms. Pemberton shared the League was happy to be included on the workgroup on Eligibility Performance Management and Eligibility Determination System. Ms. Pemberton attended a meeting at the Capitol hosted by Secretary Hazel with guest speaker Ted Howard of Democracy Collaborative.

Congregate Care in the Foster Care Program – Carl Ayers

Mr. Ayers gave a presentation titled *Foster Care Placements*. Handouts were provided.

Regulatory Update – Karin Clark, Regulatory Coordinator

Ms. Clark provided status updates on 22VAC 40-72, highlighted on page 1 of the Regulatory Status Report; 22VAC40-211 and 22VAC40-325, both highlighted on page 3; 22VAC40-601, highlighted on page 4; and 22VAC40-880, highlighted on page 5.

ACTION ITEMS

1. **Approve April 2017 Minutes**
On Motion Duly Made, (Ms. Washington), second (Mr. Kines), motion approved with all in favor.
2. **22VAC40-41, Neighborhood Assistance Tax Credit Program – Exempt Regulation**
On Motion Duly Made, (Mr. Santana), second (Ms. Ali), motion approved with all in favor.
3. **22VAC40-920, Appeals of Financial Sanctions for Local Departments of Social Services – Final Regulation**
On Motion Duly Made, (Ms. Ali), second (Mr. Greene), motion approved with all in favor.
4. **22VAC40-201, Permanency Services-Prevention, Foster Care, Adoption and Independent Living – Proposed Regulation**
On Motion Duly Made, (Mr. Kines), second (Ms. Brennan), motion approved with all in favor.
5. **22VAC40-185, Standards for Licensed Family Day Centers – Proposed Regulation**
On Motion Duly Made, (Ms. Brennan), second (Ms. Boyd), motion approved with all in favor.
6. **22VAC40-661, Child Care Program – Proposed Regulation**
On Motion Duly Made, (Mr. Santana), second (Ms. Brennan), motion approved with all in favor.

Election of New Officers – Ms. Ali

Darrell Jordan was elected for a second term as Board Chair; Kent Willis was elected as Vice Chair; and Veronica Washington was elected to serve again as Secretary. Ms. Ali noted if Mr. Jordan is not reappointed Dr. Avula will serve as Board Chair.

Recognition of Outgoing Member – Mr. Jordan

Mr. Jordan presented Mr. Greene with an engraved Revere Bowl to recognize his eight years of service to the Board. Mr. Greene thanked everyone and shared his appreciation of the Board and staff with a song.

Board Member Comments

Ms. Brennan was impressed with everything at the meeting. She thought the presentation on Bridges Out of Poverty was very enlightening. She thanked everyone for all their hard work and thanked the public for their comments.

Ms. Boyd thought the Bridges Out of Poverty presentation was excellent and she learned a lot. She learned a lot about adoptions from Carl Ayers and enjoyed his presentation. She thanked all the people who came out for public comment, and appreciated the meeting and thought the reception was fun.

Mr. Santana thanked the public for their comments and feel like the comments are a way to be able to see both sides. He encouraged the public to continue to share their comments.

Ms. Washington thanked Mr. Walentisch for the hearty welcome and she has a new appreciation for Williamsburg. She thanked the Commissioner for following up on the child care subsidy information. She was proud of the Bridges Out of Poverty presentation. She encouraged the public to keep voicing their opinion.

Mr. Jordan spoke about the recent shooting that took place in Alexandria, VA with the Congressional Baseball Team and was glad this Board and this meeting were as collaborative and respectful as it was. Mr. Jordan reminded the Board the importance to be able to remain civil and compromise.

Dr. Avula thought it was appropriate to have the Bridges Out of Poverty presentation before making decisions about policy. Dr. Avula was thankful for the hard work VDSS staff put into the process. He thinks it is important to take the public comments into consideration and try to incorporate input from parents of children who will be affected. Dr. Avula shared it has been a pleasure working with Mr. Greene.

Ms. Ali thanked Mr. Walentisch for his hospitality and she enjoyed her time in Williamsburg. She thought the meeting had a lot of great information and learned a lot from the Bridges Out of Poverty presentation. She was impressed with the dialog and deliberation relative to the changes in child care. Ms. Ali acknowledged Mr. Greene.

Mr. Greene thanked Williamsburg for hosting the reception and the meeting.

Adjourned at 4:20 pm