

Minutes
State Board of Social Services
VDSS- 7 N. 8th Street
Richmond, Virginia
January 29, 2004

Present

Debra Andrews, Chairman
Robert Spadaccini
Carol Ann Coryell
Julie Christopher, Vice Chair
Danny Brown
Maggi Luca, Secretary

Absent

Jean Cobbs-Death in family
Phillip Jones-Work Related

Call to Order

The January 29, 2004 meeting of the VA State Board of Social Services was called to order at 9:00 a.m., Chairman Debra Andrews presiding.

Welcome & Introductions

Chairman Andrews announced that Mamie Locke had resigned from the Board to serve as Senator. Ms. Rengnerth was asked to handle arrangements for presentation of a gift of appreciation at the Board's February meeting.

Condolences were expressed for Jean Cobbs whose husband passed away last night.

Mr. Jones would not be in attendance today due to work conflict.

Ray Goodwin will retire on March 25 following 42 + years with Social Services. Members voiced their regrets, and wished him well. Ms. Rengnerth was asked to handle arrangements for presentation of a gift of appreciation at the Board's February meeting.

Ms. Coryell advised she will not be attending the February meeting as she is working in Russia on behalf of the State Department.

Regulatory Update

As of January 29, 2004, the Department of Social Services has 89 regulations in place. 62 of the 89 are currently in process.

Of those, 89, 38 are in the process of being repealed (28 of the repeals relate to old AFDC regulations that will be replaced by the new TANF regulation).

Of those 89, 12 are in the process of being amended.

12 additional new regulations are in the process of being promulgated.

That totals 101 regulations and proposed regulations.

Mr. Martin advised there are five regulations currently in public comment:

22 VAC 40-80, General Procedures and Information for Licensure, public comment on proposed regulation ends March 26, 2004

22 VAC 40-141, Minimum Standards for Independent Foster Homes, public comment on proposed regulation ends March 26, 2004

22 VAC 40-293, Locality Groupings, public comment on proposed regulation ends March 26, 2004

22 VAC 40-740, Adult Protective Services, public comment on proposed regulation ends March 25, 2004

22 VAC 42-11 and 22 VAC 42-10, Standards for Interagency Regulation of Children's Residential Facilities, public comment on Notice of Intended Regulatory Action ends February 25, 2004

Four regulatory actions were published on December 29, 2003:

22 VAC 40-250, Agency Placement Adoptions – AREVA, final amendments, effective February 1, 2004

22 VAC 40-260, Agency Placement Adoptions – Subsidy, final amendments, effective February 1, 2004

22 VAC 40-270, Agency Placement Adoptions – Appeals, final repeal effective February 1, 2004

22 VAC 40-675, Personnel Policies for Local Departments of Social Services, final new regulation, effective February 1, 2004

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Two regulatory actions that will be published on February 9:

22 VAC 15-20, General Procedures and Information for Licensure, public comment on proposed repeal ends April 9, 2004 (not yet available, to be published on February 9)

22 VAC 40-191 and 22 VAC 40-190, Background Checks for Child Welfare Agencies, final amendments effective April 1, 2004 (not yet available, to be published on February 9)

Public Comments

None

BPRO Resolution

On behalf of the Benefit Programs Organization, Karen Serum requested the Board approve a Resolution identifying February as Eligibility Worker Month.

ON MOTION DULY MADE (Mr. Spadaccini) and seconded (Ms. Coryell) moved to approve the Resolution recognizing February as Eligibility Worker Month. Motion carried with all in favor.

Deviation Request

Phyllis Sisk, Acting Human Resource Management Director advised that the cities of Waynesboro and Staunton and the County of Augusta are interested in combining their social services departments into one agency. Currently, the Staunton and Augusta localities have a Department of Social Services agency which has been a cooperative relationship between the two local governments since the 1930s. Waynesboro has operated its own Department of Social Services since the mid 1940s.

In order to combine their social services department, staff from Waynesboro will have to be merged with staff from Staunton/Augusta. The latter currently has State Board approval to deviate from the state Compensation and Classification Plans, Waynesboro does not. Consequently, the department is recommending that the Waynesboro Department of Social Services be given approval to deviate from the state Compensation and Classification Plans.

Discussion:

Mr. Spadaccini referred to page 2 of the attached letter from Director Brunty requesting one-time additional administrative funds to assist in moving and furnishing a new location since consideration had been given to other localities in the past.

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Mike Gump, Budget Director addressed this question by advising that administration costs are capped and fully allocated each year. Funds would only be available if another locality did not fully spend theirs. He also advised that there would be no loss of funds as they are working under three separate Boards and agreements. There is also no immediate reduction in staff noted.

ON MOTION DULY MADE (Mr. Spadaccini) and seconded (Ms. Coryell) moved to approve Waynesboro Department of Social Services to deviate from the State Compensation and Classification Plans and combine the cities of Waynesboro and Staunton and the County of Augusta into one agency. Motion carried with all in favor.

Approval of Local Salary Range Maximum(s) with Contingency

Ms. Sisk advised the department had received compensation plans from numerous local departments of social services who have one or more employees whose salaries will exceed the State's reimbursable salary range maximums for their respective classifications at some point during the fiscal year.

Included in the requests:

Clarke, Culpeper, Fredericksburg, Fluvanna, Madison, Page, Rappahannock, Shenandoah, Warren, Caroline, Dinwiddie, Essex, Goochland, Greensville/Emporia, Hopewell, King George, King and Queen, Northumberland, Powhatan, Richmond County, Sussex, Surry, Westmoreland, Buchanan, Carroll, Lee, Montgomery, Pulaski, Russell, Smyth, Tazewell, Washington, Wythe, Accomack, Northampton, Southampton, York-Poquoson, Appomattox, Amelia, Amherst, Bedford, Botetourt, Campbell, Charlotte, Craig, Prince Edward, Halifax, Henry-Martinsville, Mecklenburg, and Nelson.

Discussion:

Mr. Brown asked if the salary listed is above state guidelines. Ms. Sisk advised it was not listed as the funds will come from local dollars only with the authority of their local board.

Mr. Spadaccini noted that most of the requests have directors at the top of the salary and expressed his hope they would continue to serve in their capacity.

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ON MOTION DULY MADE (Mr. Spadaccini) and seconded (Ms. Luca) moved to approve the request for Clark, Culpeper, Fredericksburg, Madison, Page, Rappahannock, Shenandoah, Warren, Caroline, Dinwiddie, Essex, Goochland, Greensville/Emporia, Hopewell, King George, King and Queen, Northumberland, Powhatan, Richmond County, Sussex, Surry, Westmoreland, Buchanan, Carroll, Lee, Montgomery, Pulaski, Russell, Smyth, Tazewell, Washington, Wythe, Accomack, Northampton, Southampton, York-Poquoson, Appomattox, Amelia, Bedford, Botetourt, Campbell, Charlotte, Craig, Prince Edward, Halifax, Henry-Martinsville, Mecklenburg, and Nelson to approval local salary range maximums(s) with Contingency that the maximum shall be paid wholly from the funds of such county or city and any federal funds that are available and appropriate for use. Motion carried with all in favor.

Governor's Budget Review

Mike Gump, on behalf of David Mitchell, provided a high level summary of actions taken in the 2004 Governor's Budget Bill. A handout was provided to each member and is an official part of these minutes housed in the home office.

VA League of Social Service Executives

Ben Owen, President of VLSSE acknowledged the Leagues appreciation to Mr. Goodwin for his assistance throughout these many years.

He reviewed the League's Legislative Agenda and their commitment to work with the Administration and General Assembly to ensure local departments are making the maximum use of state, local and federal funds to administer the programs in an efficient manner, to meet the delivery of mandated services.

Priorities include increasing public social service impact on the Commonwealth's economic robustness, encourage localities to operate human services program more efficiently and effectively, and increase the state financial support for local social services.

Guiding Principles for the 2004 General Assembly Budget and Legislation Actions on Local Social Services:

Safety Net: The state should assure protection of the Commonwealth's safety net for the State's most vulnerable citizens.

Infrastructure: The state should enable local departments of social services infrastructure addressing Information Technology sufficient for the delivery of benefits and services.

Commitments: The state should honor funding commitments to local government for social services and programs.

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Prevention: The state should make provisions for prevention programs that will serve our children and families to provide safety, stability and permanency.

TANF: The State should provide funding for mandated programs to permit the TANF Block Grant to support those expenditures that enable cash assistance, employment, child care and fiscal impacts of TANF reauthorization.

A copy of this presentation booklet is attached to the original minutes housed in the home office.

Child Protective Services Briefing Paper

Donna Clements, VCU, MSW Intern provided a very informative presentation on Child Protective Services. The document is used to educate Virginia legislators about child abuse and neglect, the role of Child Protective Services in alleged family and out of family abuse and neglect situations, the recently enacted statewide Differential Response System and the appeal process. The brief contains references to the Virginia Code and the information was derived directly from Virginia policy.

Members and staff applauded Ms. Clements efforts in developing this brochure. It will also be useful in future orientation of new Board members.

Commissioner's Comments

Commissioner Jones discussed the retirement of Ray Goodwin, advising that Mr. Goodwin is planning to return to work (after a month) as a P-14. He stated that Mr. Goodwin is a tremendous resource to all of us and looks forward to continuing to working with him. Mr. Jones voiced his desire that the Department, League and Board come together to recognize Mr. Goodwin's achievements to the citizens of the Commonwealth.

Workforce Development/VIEW

Janine Sewell, Director of Fredericksburg DSS and Duke Storen, Director of Benefit Programs provided a presentation to the Board on Workforce Development/View.

Overview – Background

Temporary Assistance for Needy Families has four goals. They are to provide assistance to needy families, end dependence of needy families by promoting job preparation, work and marriage; reduce and prevent out-of-wedlock pregnancies, and encourage the formation and maintenance of two-parent families.

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VIEW – Overview

Assists TANF cash assistance participants in finding and retain employment through assessment, screening, case management; job search assistance; work activities; support services; job retention services; agreement of Personal Responsibility; 24-month time limit; work requirement; and participants earn up to the poverty limit.

Next Steps

Enhancing employer incentives:

- Revising the full employment program
- Greater utilization of the WOTC and WtW tax Credit
- Developing sectoral and career ladder initiatives
- Earned Income Tax Credit utilization
- Expanding the use of post-employment supports
- Industry-verified skill attainment of participants

Improving up-front assessments and screening:

- Better career planning
- More consistent use of assessments and screening tools for job readiness, substance abuse, and mental health issues, etc.

Maximizing local resources:

- Agreements with local Workforce Investment Boards
- Access to the DRS purchase of service system
- Operating a single workforce program – merging of FSET and VIEW
- Coordinating job development with other workforce providers

Balancing the TANF budget

Developing pilot initiatives around universal engagement, workforce integration, and comprehensive up-front assessment and case management.

Ms. Christopher asked if the bill passes regarding the TANF reauthorization, are systems in place that will prevent people from falling through the cracks. Mr. Storen advised it had not been articulated how services would be delivered at the local level.

Ms. Andrews questioned the history of this bill. It was stated that Delegate Hogan felt there wasn't enough coordination. His goal is better coordination of benefits and better use of dollars.

A complete copy of this presentation is attached to the original minutes housed in the home office.

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ON MOTION DULY MADE (Mr. Brown) and seconded (Ms. Christopher) moved to approve the minutes from the October meeting as presented. Motion carried with all in favor.

Old Business

Bylaws- Allen Wilson reviewed updates to the Bylaws that were requested at a previous meeting.

Mr. Spadaccini asked the rationale for removing the Order of Business.

Ms. Coryell stated that it was her understanding that only the time for Public Comment was to be addressed.

It was the consensus of the members present that only two changes would be approved.

ON MOTION DULY MADE (Ms. Christopher) and seconded (Mr. Spadaccini) moved to accept changes to the Bylaws to do away with the Finance Subcommittee and to change the Review of Future Meeting schedule to October since the Board did not meet in September. Motion carried with all in favor.

Future Meeting Schedule

The April Meeting will be held in Northern Virginia area. Fredericksburg and Prince William were discussed as being possible meeting sites. (Ms. Luca spoke directly with Prince William DSS about the meeting taking place there. Ms. Coryell was in agreement.)

Rolling Agenda

Members are to contact Ms. Rengnerth if they want a specific presentation to be added to the Board meeting agenda.

Subcommittee Reports

Ms. Christopher advised the Day Care Council had been extremely busy and mentioned that its Chair, Gail Johnson had been interviewed on television.

Ms. Christopher had also attended the Strategic Planning Meeting and Child Welfare Advisory Group that is handling the Review at the federal level. A summary from the state will be forthcoming.

She advised there is a concern over information being or not being in the OASIS system. The state is zeroing in on this before federal review.

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Board Comments

Mr. Spadaccini and other members voiced their regrets on the passing of Alfred Cobbs. He also voiced his regrets that he was unable to attend the VLSSE reception on Tuesday.

Mr. Spadaccini and other members referenced a letter from Mr. Minor regarding raising the Adult Care fee. Mr. Spadaccini stated he took offense to passages in the letter that stated the Board had taken action in the past only to pacify this section of industry. He reiterated that the Board can set the rate but the General Assembly hold the "purse strings". He further took exception to the passage that referred to Mr. Goodwin not trying to get the rate increased.

Mr. Spadaccini advised he would reply to this correspondence; however, Ms. Cooper felt an official letter from Chairman Andrews would be more appropriate. It was decided that Ms. Andrews would handle the letter following discussion at the February Meeting on this "white paper".

Ms. Luca thanked the League for the lovely reception. She further thanked Mr. Goodwin for all his hard work for the department.

Mr. Brown reiterated his sympathy to Ms. Cobbs. He stated that he couldn't say enough nice things about the work Mr. Goodwin had done for the department and citizens of the Commonwealth.

Ms. Christopher advised she would also miss Mr. Goodwin.

Without further business, and ON MOTION DULY MADE (Mr. Spadaccini) and seconded, moved to adjourn the meeting at 1:30 p.m. Motion carried with all in favor.

Submitted by Pat Rengnerth
Approved February 2004