



**Advisory Committee to the
Court Appointed Special Advocate
and Children's Justice Act Programs**

AGENDA

In-Person Committee Meeting

Henrico Training Center

7701 E Parham Rd, Richmond, VA 23228

April 22, 2022

10:00 AM – 12:00 PM

- 1. Welcome and Introduction of Guests**
- 2. Review and approval of October 29, 2021 Minutes**
- 3. Approval of Revised By-laws**
- 4. Update of General Assembly Bills of Interest**
- 5. CASA Program Update**
- 6. CJA Program Update**
 - Child Death Investigation Protocol Discussion: *How to institutionalize?*
 - Advisory Committee Member Presentations on Three Year Plan Recommendations 3 & 4
- 7. Citizen Review Panel:**
 - 2022 CRP Recommendations
- 8. Adjournment**

CASA/CJA Advisory Committee Citizen Review Panel 2022 Recommendations

DRAFT

Prevention/FFPSA

The Virginia Department of Social Services (VDSS) should continue to focus prevention efforts to support families in ways that provide support and enhance permanency while ensuring safety and well-being of the child. This includes providing services to prevent removal, and services to support adoptive and kinship families. VDSS should seek to implement evidence-based practices and services and then work toward enhancing a robust and qualified workforce. Services should include respite for all members of the family including siblings in the home. Primary and secondary prevention efforts should focus on avoiding penetration into and continued need for tertiary services.

System Improvement

The Virginia Department of Social Services continues to focus on Family Engagement practices as a cornerstone of the child welfare system. In order to implement Family Engagement practices effectively, more trained workers are needed. The Department of Social Services has experienced the impacts of a reduced workforce due to the pandemic and fiscal constraints.

The Virginia Department of Social Services should encourage local Departments of Social Services to improve communication and collaboration across jurisdictions when investigating child abuse and neglect.

The Virginia Department of Social Services should encourage local Departments of Social Services to improve cross systems collaboration to support thorough investigations of child abuse and neglect.

Data indicate^{ds} a reduction in the number of child abuse and neglect complaints in the Commonwealth. The Virginia Department of Social Services should continue to study if the reduction in complaints equate^{ds} to a reduction in harm to children.

The pandemic presented numerous challenges, especially for frontline workers. The Virginia Department of Social Services should examine the preparedness for the COVID19 pandemic and begin planning for the next pandemic that will inevitably strike. Included in this planning should be helping teachers and other mandated reporters to identify child abuse and neglect in a virtual environment.

The In-Home services practices align CPS ongoing practice, prevention services and the implementation of the Families First Prevention and Safe Families Act. The Advisory

[Committee requests data and information on the path to permanency for children and families involved in Alternate Living Arrangements.](#)

Diversity, Equity and Inclusion in Child Welfare

The Virginia Department of Social Services should ensure equity in its response to child welfare including examination of data through an equity lens. The examination of child welfare practice should include practice implications for children and caregivers of color, children and caregivers that identify as LGBTQ, and children and caregivers with disabilities.

VDSS should ensure voices with lived experience are included in decision-making and policy considerations, with special consideration given to parents and caregivers.

2022 GENERAL ASSEMBLY SESSION CHILD WELFARE BILLS

Bill Number	Patron(s)	Committee	Topic	Summary	Status
HB16 SB63 (Companion bill)	Fowler, Jr.	Courts of Justice	Safe Haven Bill	Increases from 14 days to 30 days the maximum age of an infant whom a parent may voluntarily deliver to a hospital or emergency medical services agency and claim an affirmative defense to prosecution for abuse or neglect if such prosecution is based solely upon the parent's having left the infant at such facility.	03/11/22 House: Enrolled Bill communicated to Governor on March 11, 2022
HB50	Fariss	Health, Welfare and Institutions	Safe haven bill	Provides an affirmative defense in certain criminal prosecutions and civil proceedings regarding child abuse or neglect to a parent who safely delivers his child within the first 30 days of the child's life to a newborn safety device located at a hospital that provides 24-hour emergency services or at an attended emergency medical services agency that employs emergency medical services personnel. The bill also provides civil and criminal immunity to such hospitals and emergency medical services agencies for injuries to children received through such newborn safety devices, provided that (i) the injuries are not the result of gross negligence or willful misconduct and (ii) the hospital or emergency medical services agency meets certain requirements regarding the establishment, functioning, and testing of the device.	03/22/22 House: Enrolled Bill communicated to Governor on March 22, 2022

2022 GENERAL ASSEMBLY SESSION CHILD WELFARE BILLS

HB 349	Tata	Health, Welfare and Institutions	Housing support for 18 - 21 for foster/DJJ youth not in Fostering Futures	Directs local departments of social services (local department) to provide housing support to any person who (i) is 18 years of age or older but less than 21 years of age, (ii) was in foster care under the custody of a local department (a) upon turning 18 years of age or (b) immediately prior to commitment to the Department of Juvenile Justice and is transitioning from such commitment to self-sufficiency, and (iii) declines to participate in the Fostering Futures program.	03/12/22 House: Continued to 2022 Sp. Sess. pursuant to HJR 455
HB 427	Herring	Health, Welfare and Institutions	CPMT Membership	Provides that the parent representative member of the community policy and management team and the family assessment and planning team shall be a caregiver of a child who has previously received child welfare, juvenile justice, special education, or behavioral health services, including a foster parent.	03/22/22 House: Enrolled Bill communicated to Governor on March 22, 2022 Note: This bill has an enactment clause directing the State Executive Council to inventory efforts to recruit and retain parent representatives on CMPTs and FAPTs and to compile a list of best practices for including and elevating parent voices, particularly those with lived experiences. The report is due by Nov. 1, 2022.
HB653	Wampler	Health, Welfare and Institutions	Foster Care and Kinship Care	Directs the Department of Social Services to establish and implement a collaborative local board placement program to increase kinship placements and the number of locally approved foster homes	03/12/22 House: Continued to 2022 Sp. Sess. 1 pursuant to HJR455

2022 GENERAL ASSEMBLY SESSION CHILD WELFARE BILLS

<p>HB717</p>	<p>Filler-Corn</p>	<p>Health, Welfare and Institutions</p>	<p>Unaccompanied Homeless youth access to housing</p>	<p>Provides that an unaccompanied homeless youth shall be deemed an adult for the purpose of consenting to housing, including emergency shelter, and other services and establishes requirements for providers of housing, including emergency shelter, and other services for unaccompanied homeless youths.</p>	<p>03/22/22 House: Enrolled Bill communicated to Governor on March 22, 2022</p> <p>Note: This bill has an enactment clause directing the Department of Social Services to establish a workgroup to develop recommendations regarding regulations adopted pursuant to this act.</p> <p>A second enactment clause directs the workgroup to develop recommendations for homeless youth to consent to medical care. A report is due by Dec. 1, 2022.</p>
<p>HB733</p>	<p>Bell</p>	<p>Courts of Justice</p>	<p>Juvenile Records</p>	<p>Provides that for the purpose of disclosing records, information, and statistical registries of the Department of Social Services, local departments of social services, and all child-welfare agencies concerning social services, a person having a legitimate interest in child-protective services records includes the staff of (i) a court services unit, (ii) the Department of Juvenile Justice, (iii) a local community services board, or (iv) the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services who are providing treatment, services, or care for a child who is the subject of such records for a purpose relevant to the provision of the treatment, services, or care when the local agencies have entered into a formal agreement with the Department of Juvenile Justice to provide coordinated services to such children.</p>	<p>03/09/22 House: Enrolled Bill communicated to Governor on March 9, 2022</p>

2022 GENERAL ASSEMBLY SESSION CHILD WELFARE BILLS

HB1334	Murphy	Health, Welfare and Institutions	Child Abuse and Neglect; Valid Compliant	Amends the definition of "abused or neglected child" to include a child who is sexually exploited or abused by an intimate partner of the child's parent or caretaker and allows a complaint of child abuse or neglect to be deemed valid by a local department of social services (local department) in such instances.	03/11/22 House: Enrolled Bill communicated to Governor on March 11, 2022
SB307 HB716 (companion bill)	Mason	Rehabilitation and Social Services	Kinship Foster Care	Requires local boards of social services (local boards), upon receiving a request from a child's relative to become a kinship foster parent, to provide the relative with an application to become a kinship foster parent within 15 days.	03/11/22 Senate: Enrolled Bill Communicated to Governor on March 11, 2022
SB396	Edwards	Judiciary	Foster Care, Court Review Best Interest of the Child	Provides that the court has the authority to review a foster care plan placement determination by a local board of social services.	03/11/22 Senate: Enrolled Bill Communicated to Governor on March 11, 2022 Note: This bill has two enactment clauses. The first requests the Committee on District Courts to study the J&DR court system to assess if appropriate attention is being given to child dependency hearings and to make recommendations as to whether a separate docket or court would result in better service to children and families involved in child dependency hearings. The Committee must complete its meetings by November 30, 2023 and a report must be submitted no later than the first day of the 2024 General Assembly. The second enactment clause directs the Office of the Children's Ombudsman to convene a workgroup to consider issues relating to the Commonwealth's model of

2022 GENERAL ASSEMBLY SESSION CHILD WELFARE BILLS

					court-appointed legal counsel in child dependency hearings. The group will make recommendations for legislative and budgetary changes by November 1, 2022.
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Advisory Committee to the Court Appointed Special Advocate and Children’s Justice Act Programs By-Laws

ARTICLE I

Name

The name of this Committee shall be the Advisory Committee to Court-Appointed Special Advocate and Children’s Justice Act Programs (Advisory Committee).

ARTICLE II

Purpose

Section 1.

The purpose of the Advisory Committee to the Court Appointed Special Advocate Program shall be to advise the Criminal Justice Services Board on all matters relating to the Court Appointed Special Advocate Program and the needs of the clients served by the program; to make recommendations as it may deem necessary and proper, and to carry out such responsibilities assigned to it under Chapter 1 of Title 9 of the Code of Virginia (Sections 9.1-151 through 9.1-157).

Section 2.

The Advisory Committee shall oversee the Children’s Justice Act Program, and in this capacity serve as the advisory body for the purposes of Virginia’s participation in this federal program for improving the investigation and judicial handling of child abuse pursuant to: Section 107 (c) (d) and (e) of Title I of the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (CAPTA) [U.S.C.42, 5106c] as amended by Public Law (P.L) 111-320 “The CAPTA Reauthorization Act of 2010”, which provides for a Task Force on Children’s Justice.

ARTICLE III

Members

Section 1.

Membership of the Advisory Committee to the Court-Appointed Special Advocate and Children’s Justice Act Programs is established by Section 9.1-151 of the Code of Virginia and Section 107 (c) of Title 1 of CAPTA.

Section 2.

The Criminal Justice Services Board (CJSB) shall appoint members to the Advisory Committee to the Court-Appointed Special Advocate and Children’s Justice Act Programs. However, the Executive Secretary of the Supreme Court of Virginia, the Commissioner of the

Virginia Department of Social Services (VDSS), the Commissioner of the Virginia Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services (DBHDS) and the Director of the Office of the Children’s Ombudsman or their designee may serve as ex officio members without appointment by the CJSB. Further, an individual experienced in working with homeless children and youth as defined in the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act required by the Children’s Justice Act may serve as an ex officio member without appointment by the CJSB.

Section 3.

Members of the Advisory Committee shall refrain from voting on any grant or contract which would have a direct financial impact upon the agency or organization which they serve, or the office they hold by virtue of employment, appointment, or election, or which would have a direct financial impact upon the political subdivision in which they serve by virtue of employment, appointment, or election.

Section 4.

If any member’s lack of attendance causes concern, DCJS staff may inform the Chairperson, who shall then call the absences to the attention of the member and may recommend to the committee whatever action he or she deems appropriate in the circumstances.

Section 5.

Members of the Advisory Committee may appoint a substitute if they will be unavoidably absent from a meeting. Such appointments should be made in writing to DCJS via e-mail, and received at least 24 hours in advance of each meeting which the members will be unable to attend when practicable. Substitutes attending meetings of the Advisory Committee and its subcommittees may participate in discussion; however, they shall not have voting privileges.

ARTICLE IV

Terms of Office

Section 1.

The Criminal Justice Services Board shall appoint Advisory Committee members for four-year terms of office.

Section 2.

Appointed members shall be limited to serving a maximum of two consecutive terms of office. However, the members representing the Executive Secretary of the Supreme Court of Virginia, the Commissioner of the Virginia Department of Social Services, the Commissioner of the Virginia Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services, and the McKinney-Vento Act representative, may serve without term limits.

ARTICLE V

Officers

Section 1.

The Advisory Committee shall elect a Chairperson from its membership biennially.

Section 2.

The Advisory Committee shall elect a Vice Chairperson from its membership biennially.

Section 3.

In even-numbered years, the Advisory Committee shall biennially elect officers at the last meeting of the year prior to July 1. Those elected shall take office effective July 1.

Section 4.

In the absence of the Chairperson, the Vice Chairperson shall preside at meetings. In the event of the absence of both the Chairperson and Vice Chairperson, the Chairperson shall appoint a Chairperson Pro Tempore and, if he does not, the quorum of members present at any meeting shall elect a Chairperson Pro Tempore to preside for the meeting.

Section 5.

In the event that the Chairperson or Vice Chairperson does not serve their full term, the Advisory Committee shall elect a new Chairperson or Vice Chairperson from its membership to fill the unexpired term.

ARTICLE VI

Meetings

Section 1.

The Advisory Committee shall schedule four regular meetings a year. The Chairperson shall fix the times and places of the meetings, either on his own motion or upon written request of any five members of the Committee. The annual schedule of meetings shall be set at the last meeting prior to September 1.

Section 2.

Special meetings may be called by the Chairperson or may be called at the request of any three members.

Section 3.

A majority of the Advisory Committee shall constitute a quorum to do business. Decisions may be made by the majority of those present and voting.

Section 4.

Whenever possible and practical, Advisory Committee meetings and such meetings of subcommittees of the Committee as may be necessary shall be scheduled for the same day, or on adjacent days, to save travel and lodging costs.

Section 5.

The Department of Criminal Justice Services staff shall be responsible for the recording and maintenance of minutes and records of the Advisory Committee and its subcommittees and perform such additional duties as shall be assigned by the Committee or its Chairperson. The Department of Criminal Justice Services shall provide staff support to the Advisory Committee.

Section 6.

Any materials or supporting documents associated with the upcoming meeting shall be provided in advance of the meeting when practicable.

ARTICLE VII

Committees

Section 1.

The Chairperson shall appoint such subcommittees as needed to carry out the work of the Advisory Committee.

Section 2.

Subcommittees shall make their reports to the Advisory Committee. Whenever possible and feasible, the written report shall be distributed to the Advisory Committee members prior to the meeting.

ARTICLE VIII

Parliamentary Authority

The Rules contained in the most current edition of Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised shall govern the Advisory Committee and its subcommittees in all cases to which they are applicable and in which they are not inconsistent with these bylaws and any special order the Advisory Committee may adopt.

ARTICLE IX

Amendments of Bylaws

These bylaws may be amended at any regular meeting of the Advisory Committee by a two-thirds vote of the members present, provided that the amendment has been submitted in

writing at the previous regular meeting and provided that the amendment is not in conflict with any applicable state and federal laws and regulations.

Revised:

Report to the CASA/CJA Advisory Committee

April 22, 2022 10 a.m. – 12 p.m.

Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) Programs

Prepared by: Melissa O'Neill, CASA Coordinator - DCJS

I. CASA Network State Leadership Team Updates

The State Leadership Team (SLT) met in January and March to continue to further goals of the Strategic Plan. The SLT focused this year on development and implementation of a CASA Network survey to assist in updating the strategic plan. The SLT will prepare a summary report of the survey for distribution to the CASA programs; this will be made available to the CASA/CJA Advisory Committee as well.

The following is a highlight of accomplishments of the SLT efforts during this reporting period.

A. Training Committee

DCJS continued to facilitate meetings for the Training Committee to update the pre-service training to adapt the Virginia Case Studies Curriculum so that it complies with NCASA/GAL requirements. Committee members are currently reviewing the draft document for consistency and additional revisions. The work is expected to continue throughout 2022.

B. Marketing Committee – Statewide Volunteer Recruitment Campaign

DCJS made available funding through the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) to CASA programs for the FY22 grant year. A total of \$1,040,000 was distributed to 25 programs who completed applications for the funds. In addition to the local program grants, the funding includes \$80,000 to Colonial CASA for a statewide volunteer recruitment initiative on behalf of the state network. The State Leadership Team (SLT) Marketing Committee is overseeing the volunteer recruitment project.

The Idea Center, a marketing and public relations firm located in Richmond, is the company implementing the campaign. The campaign will include the following components:

- **Virginia CASA Video:** Design, production and editing of a compelling Virginia CASA video (one full length video for informational and

promotional use and several 15-30 second videos for use as commercials and digital marketing spots).

- **Advertising Campaign:** Use Over the Top (OTT) marketing strategy, which uses market research to place ads in areas where CASA programs are operational. The ads run on TV streaming services.
- **Digital Marketing Campaign:** Include the newly developed videos. The campaign started in February and utilized NCASA/GAL assets until the new video is finished.

The Idea Center also included as a pro bono component an interactive data analytics dashboard. Preliminary data reports indicate the Digital Marketing Campaign is providing significant results in the first month.

II. Network Support Meetings

DCJS facilitated three CASA Network Support meetings using virtual technology during this past quarter. These meetings assist local programs with navigating program operations and management concerns and continue to be useful to the field.

DCJS facilitated a Network Meeting to facilitate support for the submission of the National CASA/GAL Local Program Standards Quality Assurance Self-Assessment. The Self-Assessments are due on April 30, 2022.

III. DCJS FY23 CASA Grants

DCJS facilitated the grant application process for the FY23 DCJS CASA grants. The grant applications were due on March 25, 2022. The total amount represented by these grant requests for local CASA programs is \$1,534,256 in state general funds and \$1,499,114 in federal VOCA funds for grant awards totaling \$3,033,370.

Report to the CASA/CJA Advisory Committee

April 22, 2022 10 a.m. – 12 p.m.

Children's Justice Act (CJA)

Prepared by: Jenna L. Foster, Children's Justice Act Coordinator - DCJS

I. Multidisciplinary Team (MDT) Statewide Survey

The CJA Coordinator, with support from the DCJS Data Research team, developed and disseminated a survey to identify successes, challenges, trends, and technical assistance needs. The survey was sent to a wide array of constituents and was in the field for three weeks. Once a formal report is prepared, it will be shared with the Virginia Department of Social Services (VDSS), Children's Advocacy Centers of Virginia (CACVA), and the Commonwealth's Attorney Services Council (CASC). DCJS will use this input to create a robust plan for future support for local and regional MDTs.

II. Child Death Investigation (CDI) Protocol

Over the last several months, there has been significant movement with the CDI protocol. VDSS has incorporated the protocol in the following ways: VDSS to include the protocol as guidance and a job aid in their internal *Fusion* system in late Summer; the protocol will be included as part of a mandatory training for all CPS investigators; and CPS investigators must be trained in CDI before being assigned a child death case to investigate. The CJA Coordinator is also working with the Law Enforcement division at DCJS to identify areas where the protocol can be incorporated into existing training content.

III. Trauma Summit to Include Child Welfare Topics

The CJA Coordinator is part of the DCJS planning team working to facilitate the 2022 Trauma Summit. Specific child-related topics are being solicited now in order to offer robust child welfare related content to constituents. There is a focus on self-care and vicarious trauma this year. The tentative date for the (virtual) Trauma Summit is the last week in June.

IV. Telemedicine Pilot Project

The pilot Telemedicine project through VCU has been extended until September 30, 2022. CJA anticipates creating guidance on this project to support future Telemedicine efforts in Virginia.

COURT APPOINTED SPECIAL ADVOCATE/CHILDREN'S JUSTICE ACT
PROGRAM ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Discussion Summary

October 29, 2021

A meeting of the Advisory Committee to the Court Appointed Special Advocate and Children's Justice Act programs was held virtually on January 28, 2022. The Committee met virtually pursuant to the current budget language which allows for meeting by electronic communications means without a quorum of the public body physically assembled at one location if the meeting is being held solely to receive presentations, updates or other forms of information gathering. The Advisory Committee shall not take any votes or make any formal recommendations.

Members Present

Regina Baker
Randy Bonds
Jackie Robinson Brock
Kim Barbarji
Robin Foster
Shardell Gerald
Allison Gilbreath
Shannon Hartung
Katharine Hunter
Judge Jerrauld Jones
Jennifer Newman for Sandy Karison
Jeannine Panzera
Pat Popp
Judge Thomas Sotelo, Chair
Ashley Thompson

Members Not Present

Giselle Pelaez

Staff Present

Jenna Foster (DCJS)
Laurel Marks (DCJS)
Melissa O'Neill (DCJS)
Shernae Valentine (Intern – DCJS)
Terry Willie-Surratt (DCJS)

Guests

Carly Lansden (Virginia Department of Social Services)
Jane Lissenden (Office of the Children's Ombudsman)
Eric Reynolds (Director, Office of the Children's Ombudsman)
Lora Smith (Virginia Department of Social Services)

- I. **Welcome and Introductions:** Judge Thomas Sotelo, Committee Chair, invited members to introduce themselves.
- II. **Presentation on by-laws revision:** Members received a copy of the proposed revised by-laws in advance of the meeting. The change includes the addition of the Director of the Office of the Children’s Ombudsman to the membership of the advisory committee. Members will vote on the change at the April meeting.
- III. **General Assembly Session: Presentation of Bills of Interest – DCJS and members of the committee reported on bills of interest introduced during the 2022 General Assembly session regarding the investigation, prosecution and judicial handling of child abuse cases.**
- IV. **Advisory Committee Member Presentations on Three Year Plan Recommendations 1 & 2**

Members reviewed the Three Year Plan Recommendations 1 and 2 and presented feedback based upon the specific discipline they represent on the committee. In addition to the input provided in the presentation of legislation above, members provided information on activities, trainings, strategies, gaps in services and policies relative to the plan recommendations Members were asked to share with DCJS what additional information they feel would be helpful for the next Three Year planning process in the fall.

V. **Child Protective Services/Citizen Review Panel**

The Committee received a written report from the Virginia Department of Social Services providing an update on the progress made on the 2021 Citizen Review Panel recommendations. Shannon Hartung provided additional information and updates from the Virginia Department of Social Services.

The Committee will make 2022 Citizen Review Panel Recommendations at the April meeting.

VI. **Adjournment**

Before adjournment, the Chair invited members to share updates, information and news from their respective agencies and disciplines.

Next meeting dates:

Friday, April 22, 2022

Friday, July 22, 2022

DRAFT

Pursuant to § 2.2-3707.1 of the Code of Virginia this DRAFT of the minutes of the Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) and Children’s Justice Act (CJA) Advisory Committee is available to the public. The public is cautioned that the information is provided in DRAFT form and is subject to change by the Advisory Committee prior to becoming final. Once the minutes have been finalized, they will be marked “FINAL” and made available to the public.

COURT APPOINTED SPECIAL ADVOCATE/CHILDREN’S JUSTICE ACT PROGRAM ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

October 29, 2021

A meeting of the Advisory Committee to the Court Appointed Special Advocate and Children’s Justice Act programs was held on October 29, 2021 at the Tuckahoe Library in Richmond Virginia.

Members Present

Regina Baker
Randy Bonds
Jackie Robinson Brock
Kim Barbarji
Allison Gilbreath
Katharine Hunter
Sandy Karison
Jeannine Panzera
Giselle Pelaez
Pat Popp
Judge Thomas Sotelo, Chair
Ashley Thompson

Members Not Present

Robin Foster
Shardell Gerald
Shannon Hartung
Judge Jerrauld Jones
Jennifer Newman

Staff Present

Jenna Foster (DCJS)
Laurel Marks (DCJS)
Melissa O’Neill (DCJS)
Shernae Valentine (Intern – DCJS)
Terry Willie-Surratt

Guest

Eric Reynolds (Director, Office of the
Children’s Ombudsman)
Jane Lissenden – (Office of the Children’s
Ombudsman)

Destiny Allen – (Office of the Children’s Ombudsman)
Lora Smith – (Virginia Department of Social Services)

- I. **Call to Order:** Judge Thomas Sotelo, Committee Chair, called the meeting to order at 10:05 AM. A verbal roll call was taken.
- II. **Approval of Minutes:** The committee received and reviewed the draft minutes of the July 30, 2021 meeting. Ashley Thompson made a motion to approve the minutes. Randy Bonds provided a second. Sandy Karison, Kim Barbarji, and Regina Baker abstained and the motion was approved.
- III. **Roundtable Discussion on 2022 Child Welfare Legislative Session** – Allison Gilbreath, Policy and Programs Director, Voices for Virginia’s Children provided the committee with a child welfare policy update for the upcoming 2022 general assembly session. Committee members were invited to share information on potential legislation of interest.
- IV. **CASA Program Update** - The committee was previously provided a written update regarding the Court Appointed Special Advocate Program.

The committee was provided with an update on the NCASA/GAL Highly Effective Standards Review Process (HESRP) report. DCJS received an initial report highlighting 15 areas requiring corrective action. A meeting was held with NCASA/GAL staff and DCJS to discuss the findings. A revised report was provided with only 4 corrective action requirements. NCASA/GAL staff recognized that publicly administered state organizations do not fit into the evaluation continuum established by the HESRP. DCJS was the first publicly administered state to be reviewed and NCASA/GAL realized the process simply does not fit our model. It remains unclear how NCASA/GAL will resolve the inequity between nonprofit and publicly administered state organizations with regard to the evaluative process. The original intent was for those state organizations that achieve a highly effective status to be eligible for funding and other incentives.

- V. **Children’s Justice Act Program Update** - The committee was previously provided a written update regarding the Children’s Justice Act Program. Jenna Foster highlighted areas of interest.

Grant Funded Child Welfare Programs: The CJA Coordinator shared with the committee that she is responsible for the monitoring of grants administered by DCJS that serve child victims, including: a grant to the Virginia Department of Social Services which provides funding to Children’s Advocacy Centers (CAC) across Virginia (this is pass-through funding); thirteen Victim Services Grant Program (VSGP) child victim grants; eighteen (18) American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) grants to CACs; and five ARPA grants to existing VSGP grantees.

Three Year Planning Process: In anticipation of the upcoming Three Year Plan revision in the fall of 2022, for each of the next three meetings, the committee will be reviewing two of the current recommendations. Members will consider specific questions and content from the discipline represented on the Advisory Committee. Guidance for these discussions will be sent with the agendas for the next three meetings.

VI. Remote Meeting Policy Review

Members were provided with a Remote Meeting Policy in advance of the meeting for review and approval. After discussion of the policy, Allison Gilbreath made a motion to approve the policy as written and Pat Popp seconded. The motion was approved.

VII. Child Protective Services/Citizen Review Panel

Lora Smith provided an update for Shannon Hartung from the Department of Social Services. A response regarding the Citizen Review Panel recommendations will be forthcoming and is expected in November. She summarized the work of both the Child Protective Services and the Protection and Prevention Program

The Child Protective Services Program at the Virginia Department of Services continues to undergo the performance audit by the Office of the State Inspector General (OSIG). The yearlong audit aims to improve the efficiency of CPS program and quality of services provided to the public.

The Protection and Prevention program completed several initiatives in preparation for the enactment of SB 1406 and HB 2312 legalizing recreational marijuana in the Commonwealth. Guidance has not changed and CPS will handle referrals related to this similar to alcohol use or prescription drug use in regards to lack of supervision or poisoning.

The department continues work to standardize and provide uniformity regarding work around child maltreatment fatalities and near-fatalities. Fatalities are reviewed that meet a mandatory criteria with the goal of identifying practice issues that point to the need for training or technical assistance, or highlight programmatic strengths, identifying the need for modification or enhancement of program guidance and identifying themes in which the state would do targeted prevention work around.

Members received information on the Mandated Reported website that launched last year as well as information on hotline reports received. There has been an increase in referrals since schools started.

VIII. New Business

Members provided updates, information and news from their respective agencies and disciplines.

IX. **Adjourn** – Ashley Thompson moved to adjourn the meeting and Pat Popp provided the second. The motion carried and the meeting adjourned at 11:57 AM.

Next meeting dates:

Friday, January 28, 2022

Friday, April 22, 2022

Friday, July 22, 2022