

Minutes
VA State Board of Social Services
VDSS-Central Region Office
1604 Santa Rosa Road
Henrico, VA 23294

December 14, 2011

Attending: Bela Sood, Robert Spadaccini, Michelle Larkin, Heidi Metcalf Little, Barbara Manuel, Ray Johnson, and Willie Greene, Sr.

Absent: Trudy Brisendine

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 9:02 a.m., Bela Sood presiding.

Welcome and Introductions

Chair Sood welcomed members and guests in attendance. Local directors were recognized. Members were advised that Terri Kiser Williams had submitted her resignation as a member.

Agenda Review

Karin Clark, Regulatory Coordinator in the Office of Legislative and Regulatory Affairs, reviewed the agenda.

By consensus, item number 5, 22 VAC 40-60, Standards and Regulations for Licensed Adult Day Care Centers, will be removed from the agenda as a Letter of Assurance is not available. This regulation will appear on the February agenda.

Information Items

Board Committees

Mr. Spadaccini advised the Board bylaws reference a committee structure that is no longer used. Consensus of the Board was to leave the structure in place and use the committees as needed.

[Update of LDSS HR Manual](#)

Amma Appiah, Sr. Policy Analyst in the Division of Human Resources, reviewed the process for updating the manual with members. Handouts were provided and are attached to the official minutes housed in the Home Office.

[Program Enrollment/Public Integrity Workgroup](#)

Deputy Commissioner Paul McWhinney spoke to the Board regarding an interview between several Virginia LDSS and a reporter last summer. This interview led to training improvements for eligibility workers that will be shared statewide.

Constituent Correspondence

Dr. Sood wants to be better educated on the process and elements related to answering a constituent's concern. In particular, she asked to look at whether policy is being applied, is it a good policy, and if yes, whether we are providing training and technical assistance to workers.

Staff advised that regional offices are working with local offices on responses. This may be in the form of a case review or a call sheet. The Division of Public Affairs was asked to provide stats on the type of calls received and if there is a recurring theme. This presentation will also include appeals case reversal numbers.

Energy Assistance Program

Tom Steinhauser provided an update on Low-Income Energy Assistance Program.

Commissioner Comments

Commissioner Martin D. Brown provided comment to the Board. A copy of his presentation is attached to the official minutes.

Working Lunch

Mr. Spadaccini discussed the approved meeting schedule for 2012 and the possibility for travel. Commissioner shared information staff gathered depicting that other Boards are meeting in the Richmond area due to the state of the economy. Commissioner is reviewing other means of keeping the Board informed without traveling statewide. Dr. Sood commented that we are facing the worst economical/fiscal disaster seen in the past 50 years. Perhaps travel can be discussed if there is a regional crisis and the Board feels the need to travel outside of Richmond.

Mr. Spadaccini asked about the possibility of developing a PSA around domestic violence that would be aired during October recognizing the month as Domestic Violence Awareness month. Ms. Larkin asked if Public Affairs could provide additional information on search engine optimization.

Dr. Sood asked for clarity on state versus federal regulations and whose opinion is used when counsels have opposing views. Mr. Wilson advised that the Code of Virginia is our starting point and the Board needs to rely on the Office of the Attorney General as its legal counsel.

Ms. Larkin questioned the consequences to clients when violations to a licensed facility cause it to close. Ms. Williams advised that Licensing staff assist residents in placement to other facilities.

Public Comment

Eddy Ayliff provided public comment.

Claire Gastanaga provided public comment.

Scott Price provided public comment.

Rita Dunaway provided public comment.

Jo Ellen Gaines provided public comment

Krystal Thompson provided public comment

Roland Winston provided public comment.

COLAGE provided public comment in the form of a letter.

T.R. Properties provided comment in the form of a letter.

Chris Hawn provided comment in the form of an email.

Austin R. Nimacks provided public comment.

Guy Kinman provided public comment.

Praedra Jackson provided public comment.

Lori Plumley provided public comment.

Jeff Caruso provided public comment.

Art Bennett provided public comment.
Teresa McDonough provided public comment.
Tawana Bryant provided public comment.
Dominique Pervall provided public comment.
Victoria Cobb provided public comment.

Comment from Local Boards and Directors of Social Services

Carl Ayers, Director of Floyd County, provided comment.

Comment from Boards and Directors of Community Action Agencies

None

Virginia League of Social Service Executives

Susan Clark provided an update to the Board.

Comment from VA Community Action Agency

Jim Schuyler provided an update to the Board.

Regulatory Update

Karin Clark, Regulatory Coordinator, shared a copy of the latest regulatory report with members. A copy is attached to the official minutes housed in the Home Office.

Action Items

Minutes

ON MOTION DULY MADE (Mr. Spadaccini) and seconded, moved to approve the October minutes with the following changes: capitalize "Bland" and remove an apostrophe. Motion approved with all in favor.

Recognition Awards

Local departments within the Central Region were honored with an award.

Recognition of Retiring Director

The Board honored Jane Clements with an Award of Recognition for her long and varied background in the Virginia Social Services System. Jane will retire after 41 years of service to the Commonwealth.

22VAC 40-131, Standards for Licensed Private Child Placing Agencies

ON MOTION DULY MADE (Mr. Spadaccini) and seconded, moved to set a new effective date of May 1, 2012 for the final regulation, for publication in the Virginia Register. Motion approved with all voting yes with the exception of Dr. Sood voting no. Motion approved.

22VAC40-470, Exemptions Applicable to Public Assistance Programs

ON MOTION DULY MADE (Mr. Spadaccini) and seconded, moved to approve the periodic review report for submission to the Department of Planning and Budget and the Secretary of Health and Human Resources as required by the provisions of Executive Order Number 14 (2010). Motion approved with all in favor.

22VAC40-685, Virginia Energy Assistance Program-Home Energy Assistance Program

ON MOTION DULY MADE (Mr. Spadaccini) and seconded, moved to approve the periodic review report for submission to the Department of Planning and Budget and the Secretary of Health and Human Resources as required by the provisions of Executive Order Number 14 (2010). Motion approved with all in favor.

22VAC40-910, General Provisions for Maintaining and Disclosing Confidential Information of Public Assistance, Child Support Enforcement and Social Services Records.

ON MOTION DULY MADE (Ms. Larkin) moved to approve the proposed fast track action to amend for publication in the Virginia Register, subject to approval under Executive Order Number 14 (2010) and approve the fiscal impact analysis of this action for distribution to local boards of social services, pursuant to 63.2-217 of the Code of Virginia. Motion approved with all in favor.

22VAC40-601, Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program

ON MOTION DULY MADE (Mr. Spadaccini) and seconded moved to table this regulation vote until February 2012 when a Letter of Assurance from the Office of the Attorney General is available. Motion approved with all in favor.

Board Member Comment

Mr. Spadaccini asked Dr. Sood to appoint a member to replace Ms. Kiser Williams on the Child Fatality Committee. Michelle Larkin will fill this position. Thanks to Jane Clements for hosting this meeting and for her service to the Commonwealth. Commissioner was asked to keep the Board advised of upcoming meetings within their respective areas so they can attend and show their support.

Ms. Manuel thanked Jane Clements for hosting the meeting and for her service to the Commonwealth.

Ms. Larkin thanked Jane Clements for her work to the Commonwealth. She thanked the department for their work in the area of fatherhood programs and also commented she would be interested in attending meetings when they are held in her area.

Ms. Little thanked the department for the updates.

Mr. Johnson said he was happy serving with his fellow members and reminded they are working toward meeting the best needs of the children.

Mr. Greene questioned the appeals process and the 50 percent over turn rate. Perhaps more training at the local level is needed.

Dr. Sood thanked the regional office for hosting the Board meeting and thanked Pat, Karin and Al for their support to the Board. She thanked the department for moving forward toward Best In Class during these difficult economical times.

Happy Holiday wishes to everyone.

Meeting adjourned at 3:35 pm

Submitted by Pat Rengnerth