

**Minutes
State Board of Social Services**

**Central Regional Office
1604 Santa Rosa Road
Richmond, Virginia 23229**

April 18, 2012

Attending: Bela Sood (Chair), Robert Spadaccini (Vice Chair), Ray Johnson, Trudy Brisendienne, Heidi Metcalf Little, Barbara Manuel, Willie Greene, Sr., Allen Wilson, Commissioner Martin Brown

Absent: Michelle Larkin

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 9:37a.m., Ms. Aradhana (Bela) Sood presiding.

Welcome and Introductions

Chair Sood welcomed members and guests in attendance.

Agenda Review

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

Information Items

Prevention Program

Gary Cullen, Prevention Program Manager/Family Services Division, provided an overview of the Prevention Program and how they are advocating voluntary partnerships for the program across the state as well as collaboration for resources. Mr. Cullen also answered questions from the Board.

SNAP Diet

Rose Mastracco, SNAP Manager/Benefits Program Division, provided an overview and status of the SNAP Diet and nutrition program statewide.

Cathy Pemberton, Director, Powhatan DSS, provided information on the SNAP application process and benefit levels.

Appointment of Nominating Committee

Appointed to the committee were Ms. Brisendine, Ms. Metcalf Little, and Mr. Johnson. A proposed slate of officers will be presented to the Board in June 2012.

Public Comment

The following individuals addressed the Board with concerns regarding the VMET:

Barbara Nichols

Ivan Banks
EuRonda Green
Valerie Martin
Paula Williams
Jacquelin Harris

Virginia League of Social Services Executives

Ms. Susan Clark, VLSSE President, addressed the Board and announced that this would be the last board meeting that she would attend as President of the VLSSE and that she has been with the League through many Commissioner appointments. She thanked Commissioner Brown, DSS staff and the Board for allowing her the opportunity to speak about the VLSSE's goals and concerns.

Virginia Community Action Partnerships

Jim Schuyler, Director, provided an overview on the Virginia Community Action Partnership's statewide Project Discovery, which has recently come in at 50% of its' funding level and the operational consequences that would impact the project if it loses funding due to state budget restrictions.

Recognition of "Sweet 15"

Chair Sood and Commissioner Brown commended local departments on their excellence in administering benefits and child welfare services. Recognition awards in Benefit Programs were given to the following local departments: Appomattox, Essex, Middlesex, Nottoway, Norton, Buckingham, Carroll, Patrick, Pulaski, Scott, Chesapeake, Shenandoah Valley, Roanoke County, Suffolk and Albemarle. Recognition awards in child welfare were given to the following local departments: Middlesex, Norton, King William, Greene, Galax, Montgomery, Fredericksburg, Giles, Rockbridge/Buena Vista/Lexington, Gloucester, Hampton, Shenandoah Valley, Roanoke County, Lynchburg and Chesapeake.

Regulatory Update

Ms. Clark provided an update on regulatory actions since the February 2012 meeting.

Action Items

Minutes

ON MOTION DULY MADE (Mr. Spadaccini) and seconded, moved to approve the February 2012 minutes as amended. Motion approved with all in favor.

22VAC40-72, Standards for Licensed Assisted Living Facilities Standards

On motion duly made (Ms. Metcalf-Little) and seconded, moved to approve the Notice of Intended Regulatory Action for 22VAC40-72, for publication in the Virginia Register subject to approval under Executive Order Number 14 (2010). Motion approved with all in favor.

Mr. Spadaccini recognized the work that has already been done by the Division of Licensing Programs (DOLP) regarding this regulatory action, specifically in relation to use of regulatory advisory panels. He requested that, prior to Board taking action on the proposed regulation, members be given an opportunity to participate in a work group to preview the proposed regulation. Ms. Brisendine also recommended that the proposed regulation be reviewed by the Board prior to the meeting at which a vote will be taken. Ms. Clark agreed to provide the Board with a timeline for completing the proposed

action and to work with DOLP to schedule a discussion of the proposed regulation in conjunction with the October 2012 meeting.

Board Member comments:

Ms. Manuel, Ms. Metcalf-Little and Mr. Johnson thanked the Board and DSS.

Mr. Spadaccini gave get well wishes to Pat Rengnerth and thanked the Board.

Mr. Greene commended Commissioner Brown and his staff on the job that they are doing and he thanked Ms. Susan Clark.

Ms. Brisendine mentioned the committee on child fatalities and that she recently participated in a related meeting in Northern Virginia, in which they discussed whether the child fatalities resulting from abuse/neglect could have been prevented. She indicated that DSS should have a mechanism for sharing what they have learned with others. Ms. Brisendine referenced a recent state-by-state report on disclosure of child abuse and neglect fatalities in which Virginia received a B-.

Commissioner Brown's closing remarks re-emphasized the partnership between child welfare, local DSS staff and state staff. He recognized staff in the field as well as state staff who are leading this effort.

Chair Sood announced that this is her 7th year on the Board and she thanked DSS for allowing Board members to ask questions and providing them with data and information that is very helpful. She also mentioned that the staff has been a wonderful support to the Board and it is all for the right cause. She extended her thanks to Alicia Graham, who took minutes for the Board in the absence of Ms. Rengnerth.

Meeting adjourned at 2:48p.m.