

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

**Department of Social Services
Central Regional Office
1604 Santa Rosa Road
Richmond, VA 23229**

December 13, 2017

Attending: Dr. Danny Avula (Chair), Mr. Kent Willis (Vice Chair) Ms. Veronica Washington (Secretary), Mr. William Boone, Mr. John Kines, Mr. Clyde Santana, Dr. Andrew Heck; Ms. Lou Ali, Ms. Joan Brennan, and Ms. Mona Malik.

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

Meeting called to order at 10:00am – Dr. Avula

Review of Agenda – Ms. Karin Clark, Regulatory Coordinator

Comments from the Commissioner – Ms. Margaret Ross Schultze

Commissioner Schultze introduced VDSS staff, Grace Creasey and Trevor Hensley. She announced Jack Frazier's retirement and introduced Dottie Wells, new Deputy Commissioner of Operations. Ms. Wells thanked the Commissioner and she gave brief remarks.

Commissioner Schultze highlighted the 2018 Agency Legislative Proposals. She reflected on the works of the agency and shared highlights from the divisions of Research and Planning; Community and Volunteer Services; General Services; Benefit Programs; Licensing and Organizational Development.

The Commissioner provided updates on the following four major agency projects:

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

Commissioner Schultze shared that she will not seek reappointment and that this would be her final State Board meeting. She thanked everyone for all they do and their hard work.

Child Care & Early Childhood Development – Barb Newlin gave a presentation on the Child Care Subsidy Program. Handouts were provided.

Regulatory Update – Karin Clark, Regulatory Coordinator

Ms. Clark provided the status update on 22VAC40-72 highlighted on page 1 of the Report and 22VAC40-221 highlighted on page 4.

COMMENT PERIOD

Comment from the Public

Grace Creasey – Virginia Council for Private Education

Ms. Creasey shared her comments on the proposed child care program regulations. She asked for consideration to further revise the language.

Kim Hulcher – Virginia Child Care Association

Ms. Hulcher shared her concerns about the newly proposed child care regulations.

Tawana Bryant – Association of Minority Owned Assisted Living Facilities

Ms. Bryant asked for a 30-day extension on the 30-day final adoption comment period. She spoke on the differences in regulations and cost between assisted living facilities.

Linwood Russell

Mr. Russell shared his concerns about the health, safety and well-being associated with assisted living facilities. He also shared his concerns about the assisted living facilities regulations.

Carla Groff – Bedford Adult Day Center

Ms. Groff shared her comments on the proposed adult day health care regulations.

There were no comments from local boards and directors of social services.

There were no comments from boards and directors of community action agencies.

Comment from the Virginia League of Social Service Executives – Cathy Pemberton, President

Ms. Pemberton provided updates and concerns from VLSSE League. She was pleased at the information received on the Butler Institute study. She was pleased with the Child and Family Services review and she is also pleased with the transcription services used at the local agencies. Ms. Pemberton is extremely concerned about the children's health insurance program. She encouraged membership to write their senators and congressmen to express their concerns and aggravations. Powhatan County sponsored a Baby Box event in response to two child fatalities caused by co-sleeping.

Ms. Pemberton thanked the Commissioner and wished her well.

Comment from the Virginia Community Action Partnership – Jim Schuyler, Executive Director

Mr. Schuyler shared information about the workforce development program SWIFTStart. SWIFTStart collaborates with programs within New River Community Action, as well as other programs in the service area.

State Board of Social Services Investigation Procedures – Ellen Malenke provided an overview of the investigation procedures. The Board voted on the investigation committee will consist of Kent Willis, John Kines, Joan Brennan and Andrew Heck. The Board voted to review documents from 2013 – 2016. Documents will include information related to the seven members during this time frame. It was agreed that the committee would review documents and present recommendations to the full Board.

On Motion Duly Made, (Ms. Ali), second (Mr. Santana) with all in favor.

ACTION ITEMS

- 1. Approve October 2017 meeting minutes**
On Motion Duly Made, (Mr. Willis), second (Dr. Heck). Motion approved, with Ms. Malik abstaining.
- 2. 22VAC40-661, Child Care Program - Proposed**
On Motion Duly Made, (Ms. Malik), second (Mr. Boone), motion approved with all in favor.
- 3. 22VAC40-60, Standards & Regulations for Licensed Adult Day Care Centers – Final**
On Motion Duly Made, (Mr. Santana), second (Mr. Willis), motion to approve the regulation with the option for Board members to work with VDSS to make changes to come back to the Board at a future date.
- 4. 22VAC40-111, Standards for Licensed Family Day Homes – Final**
On Motion Duly Made, (Ms. Boyd), second (Ms. Ali), motion approved with all in favor.
- 5. 22VAC40-211, Resource, Foster & Adoptive Family Home Approval Standards – Final**
On Motion Duly Made, (Ms. Ali), second (Ms. Malik), motion approved with all in favor.
- 6. 22VAC40-411, General Relief Program - NOIRA**
On Motion Duly Made, (Ms. Washington), second (Ms. Boyd), motion approved with all in favor.

Board Member Requests for Future Information

Dr. Avula asked members for closing comments and suggestions for future meeting topics. Members provided reflective comments on the meeting in general. They shared their reflective comments about Commissioner Schultze and wished her well. Mr. Boone would like to know the department's assessment of how many local departments require negative drug screenings before parents could visit their children with supervised visits. Ms. Washington asked Lynchburg to be considered for an upcoming meeting. She would like a report on how kinship care moves forward and what it entails.

Meeting adjourned at 3:39pm.

State Board of Social Services Investigation Procedures - Ellen Malenke, Joan Brennan, John Kines, Suzanne Adcock, Kent Willis, and Andrew Heck met at the conclusion of the State Board meeting. Mr. Willis nominated Mr. Kines as presiding officer for notices and the subpoena stages of the investigation. Ms. Malenke will assist in drafting subpoenas. The group shared ideas on when and where to meeting and where to send the subpoenas. The group agreed to meet prior to the next State Board meeting.