



SOCIAL SERVICES ADVISORY BOARD

Department of Human Services
 Friday, January 4, 2019
 8:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.

Notes

SSAB Board Members		Human Services Staff Present
Name	Present	
		Gailyn Thomas
Norma Brumage	Yes	Elizabeth Batista-Boone
Andy Richmond	Yes	Deidra Bolden
Susan Campbell	Yes	Sharon Jones
Robin Foreman-Wheeler	Yes	Pete Withers
Angela Kellam	Yes	Fay Ward
Jalana McCasland	Yes	Theresa Jordan
Martha McClees	Yes	Al Steward
Donna Morris	Yes	Jenny Bond
Lucynthia Rawls		Shanna Gaines
		Jessica Mumma
		Andrea Lowe
		Dayna Bandy
		Timothy Brown

Call to Order:

- The Social Services Advisory Board was called to order by the Board Chair, Mr. Andrew Richmond, at 8:32 a.m.

Approval of Board Minutes:

- A motion was made to approve the December 7, 2018 minutes; a unanimous vote carried the motion forward for approval. Minutes docketed

Public Comment:

- None

Old Business:

- None

Matters of the Chair

- Virginian-Pilot Editorial Board article: “Crisis in Virginia’s Foster Care System”
Article reviewed followed by a briefing on the local status by Al Steward, Child Welfare Administrator and Jennifer Bond, Child Welfare Human

Services Supervisor II– (handouts: VDSS “people helping people” Virginia’s Foster Care System presentation; current and proposed Org Chart for Child Welfare; Stats and graphs for the week of 12/17/18)

For the past year the Regional Offices conducted a Foster Care study, interviews were conducted with local agencies including Virginia Beach, stake holders, and children. The Goal was Safety and Wellbeing of Children and Permanency. Nationally Virginia does rank low in permanency (where the focus is on systems and practices). AI Attended a meeting with The Social Services Board and Local Directors, this PowerPoint touches on the highlights of the JLARC Report provided and what can we address now? (see PowerPoint Handout).

- *Foster and Futures update – by Jenny Bond – As of 7/1/17 Youths over 18 can choose their own placement, return to a relative, get married, live with a friend, as long as they meet working requirements and/or educational programs. They are eligible for a monthly stipend, Medicaid, and we provide them with opportunities for self-sufficiency; as well as prepare them for separation.*
- *Review of current and proposed Child Welfare Org Charts – Currently Reorganizing Child Welfare, the goal is to become evidence based and work on practices to keep children with their families. We are working on certifying staff on evidence based practice with Temple University (a nationally recognized credentialing) in providing training on “Strength based family work” to workers and “Strength based leadership” for supervisors. Will identify Team for families; integrate services with Mental Health and Behavioral Health.*

Questions brought up by the Chair include, “What are we doing locally to address some of the problems identified?” and “What should be done in response to the article?”

Locally we are doing the following:

- *More enforcement, guidance and rules from the State*
- *Performance improvement plan with the Feds on permanency*
- *Local legislative work with our courts*
- *Do better job of showing our diligent efforts*
- *Better teaming in the system*
- *Filling vacancies*

Need to find ways to:

- *Greater partnership with local universities in preparing folks for Child Welfare system*
- *Establish shorter career track for Social Workers*
- *How to attract and retain workers*
- *How to bring more resources from private providers*

Next Steps

- *Work with the State,*
- *1st quarter of 2019 the State will provided their data to Local Boards then that can be presented to Local City Council (AI)*
- *Create a report for next meeting (AI, Gailyn)on where we stand*
- *Respond to the Pilot with a letter that reflects the improvement in the work being done - - Department can craft list of items in the areas we are excelling in and any improvement plans to send to the editor (Angela)*
- *Kinship placement training for staff in Arizona coming up*
- *Craft list of items the Department wants to report on and have Board sign off on it – excelling in some areas and continuing to work on some - coup*
- *Andrea to work with AI on a brief of items we are currently working on (Jenny to send link to positive article done on one of our foster homes to be included in the brief) – have this done early next week and send to the board for review before sending to the Pilot*

Matters of the Director/Deputy Director/Staff

- Disclosure Statements - Virginia Conflict of Interest and Ethics Advisory Council – Financial Disclosure Statement and Informal Guide to Completing the Financial Disclosure Statement (handouts for review) – Gailyn Thomas – due early next month.
- Children Services' Act Division Updates – Dayna Bandy and Timothy Brown
 - i. Power Point on the Strategic Plan Progress Report for Children Services' Act (CSA)/ Office of Program Support (OPS)/ Community Policy Management Team (CPMT)
 - Creating a Quick Reference Resource Guide (paper copy – will be added to SharePoint at a later date) – suggestion from member (Angela) to make the electronic version a searchable PDF
 - Developing manuals
 - Created a CSA Provider Directory – currently have 90 providers
- HRC Updates – Elizabeth Batista-Boone (handout) – Handout includes data on the numbers of registrants through the Visitor Management System by program areas – duplicated count. Will have data from the referral system utilized by DHNP soon. Announcements include the Point-in-Time count 01/23/19 (volunteers counting homeless individuals and recording locations) and Homeless Connect - ...
- Financial Reports
 - i. Fay Ward, Financial Administrator – See handout – Figures June through November 2018
 - ii. Theresa Jordan, Accountant – CSA Report
 - State Budget increase
 - Will have report on Performance Measures next meeting

New Business:

- None

Adjournment:

- The meeting was adjourned by Chairman A. Richmond.