

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

**Department of Social Services  
Central Regional Office  
1604 Santa Rosa Road  
Henrico, VA 23219**

**April 15, 2015**

**Attending:** Mr. Willie Greene, Sr. (Chair), Mrs. Joanne Webster (Secretary), Dr. Danny Avula, Ms. Lou Ali, Dr. Jack Knapp, Ms. Mona Malik, Mr. Clyde Santana, Mr. Kent Willis

**Absent:** Ms. Sheila Copping, Mr. William Henderson, Mr. Darrell Jordan, Jr.

**Also in Attendance:** Ms. Margaret Ross Schultze (Commissioner), Mr. Allen Wilson (Sr. Assistant Attorney General).

**Meeting called to order at 10:04** – Mr. Willie Greene, Sr.

**Review of Agenda** – Ms. Karin Clark, Regulatory Coordinator

Commissioner Schultze announced the upcoming retirement of Deputy Commissioner Paul McWhinney, noting his successful career and that he will be missed. Mr. McWhinney briefly addressed members, thanking them for their service to the Commonwealth.

**Office of Research and Planning Overview** – Jeff Price, Director

Mr. Price introduced himself and gave a bio. The division consists of eight Research and Planning staff and nine Data Warehouse staff. The division supports agency wide planning and performance management (quarterly meetings are held with Secretary Hazel), program and policy evaluation, program management reports, mandated reporting, requests for data and analysis, data warehouse operation and data management. The Commissioner noted the Division of Research and Planning serves a major part in four major focus areas of the agency. Dr. Avula asked Mr. Price to send him the bi-weekly report on Medicaid applications.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**Appoint Nominating Committee** – Mr. Willie Greene, Sr.

Chairman Greene appointed Dr. Knapp, Mr. Santana and Ms. Ali to serve as the Nominating Committee for new officers, with Dr. Knapp to chair. Election of new officers will take place at the June meeting.

## **COMMENT PERIOD**

### ***Comment from the Public***

Jeff Caruso – Virginia Catholic Conference

Mr. Caruso commented on the Administrative Human Resources Manual for LDSS Chapter 4 regarding the definition of spouse to replace “Husband and wife” with gender neutral language. Mr. Caruso referenced SB1211 and HB1600 from the 2015 General Assembly session and urged the Board to wait on the decision of the U.S. Supreme Court before approving the updated policy. He thanked the Board for the opportunity to speak.

Natalie Wyman – The Family Foundation

Ms. Wyman agreed with Mr. Caruso and recommended the Board oppose the change and wait on the decision from the Supreme Court.

### ***Comment from the VA League of Social Services Executives – Cathy Pemberton, President***

Ms. Pemberton introduced herself and informed the Board that April is National Child Abuse Prevention month, during which most localities choose a day they wear blue or a ribbon for awareness. Ms. Pemberton updated members on the SFY 2014 child protective services accountability system report, which can be found on the public website at: <http://www.dss.virginia.gov/geninfo/reports/children/cps/accountability.cgi> .

### ***Comment from Virginia Community Action Partnership – Jim Schuyler, Director***

Mr. Schuyler apologized for missing the last Board meeting. CSBG represents core funding for each of their agencies. On January 26, the federal Office of Community Services released an Information Memorandum providing for the establishment of the organizational standards for CAA’s. The State will be required to establish and report in implementation for these standards by FY2016. For the first time in a number of years, the Obama Administration proposed level funding for CSBG in its FY2016 budget. The state office has the strongest and most effective staff in CSBG history, with particular strengths in performance management, development of measurable outcomes and comprehensive community needs assessment. In light of April 15, (last day to file Federal taxes), Mr. Schuyler reported this as another successful year of free income tax preparation for people eligible for EITC – Earned Income Tax Credit. Twenty-four coalitions participated in the Virginia CASH campaign throughout the Commonwealth.

## **ACTION ITEMS**

- 1. Approve March 2015 Minutes**  
***On Motion Duly Made***, (Dr. Avula), second (Mr. Willis), motion approved with all in favor.
- 2. Administrative / Human Resources for LDSS – Chapter 4 –**

***Dr. Knapp moved to table this item. There being no second, the motion failed. Dr. Knapp moved for staff to prepare a NOIRA, to allow for public comment. There being no second, the motion failed.***

***On motion Duly Made***, (Ms. Ali), second (Mr. Willis), motion approved with a roll call vote of 6-1, with Dr. Knapp casting the dissenting vote.

### **Board Member Comments**

Dr. Avula appreciated the presentation from Mr. Price with the Office of Research and Planning and the later start time of the meeting.

Mrs. Webster noted appreciation for Dr. Knapp's research regarding action item #2. She also enjoyed the presentation from Mr. Price.

Ms. Malik thought the Office of Research and Planning presentation was very interesting and appreciated the later start time of the meeting.

Mr. Santana appreciated Ms. Pemberton's comments about April being Child Abuse month and in the future would like advance notice so he can help raise awareness.

Mr. Willis liked the later start time, thought the meeting was productive and is pleased about the provisions in reference to the HR Manual.

Dr. Knapp asked the Commissioner about 22VAC40-185 being pulled back and would like to know how to appeal it. After years of work by many individuals in putting this regulation together, he hopes that proposed 22VAC40-185 will be used as a base for the next attempt to amend. Commissioner responded that it would be used as such, that it would not be a complete rewrite. She informed Dr. Knapp the regulation is still in the Governor's office and there are numerous changes that need to be made. Dr. Knapp congratulated Mr. McWhinney on his upcoming retirement.

Ms. Ali applauded the members who attended the two days meeting, but appreciates the one day meetings. She appreciated Ms. Pemberton's comments and Mr. Price's presentation and has learned information that she can share with the City of Richmond.

### **Chairs Comments**

Mr. Greene enjoyed Ms. Pemberton's comments in reference to Child Abuse awareness month and Mr. Price's presentation. Even when members agree to disagree, he appreciates that members still get along after the meetings. The Board meeting in June will be in Farmville, which will be a two-day meeting. The meeting will be hosted by a Community Action Agency (STEPS).

**Adjournment 12:03 pm**

**Dr. Knapp convened the Nominating Committee upon adjournment.**