










Virginia Commission on Youth 2022 Legislative and Budget Updates

Workforce Development for Foster Care Youth/Young Adults

Adopted Recommendations	History and Current Status
<p><u>Recommendation</u> Direct the Virginia Department of Social Services, in cooperation with key stakeholders, to develop the iFoster Portal to include Virginia- and locality-specific resources that are available for individuals who are currently being served or have been served in the foster care system, as well as for professionals serving the foster care population. Resources include workforce development assistance, educational opportunities, housing and living stipends or discounts, financial supports, internship and employment opportunities, and other resources that are available in Virginia for those involved in the foster care system.</p>	<p>Member Amendment to Budget - Brewer: 345#4h ● Mason: 345#11s ●</p> <p>Current Status: In the House Budget only.</p> <p>Other action taken: Chair Brewer sent letter to update DSS Commissioner Danny Avula on March 1, 2022. ✓</p>
<p><u>Recommendation</u> Introduce a budget amendment to develop a state-funded grant program for the Great Expectations Program. The Virginia Community College System (VCCS) shall develop the grant program to provide a range of funding for Community Colleges in the following areas: the hiring of college coaches or mentors; housing stipends; child care; and transportation needs. VCCS shall report to the Commission on Youth the outcomes of the grant program by November 30 each year.</p>	<p>Member Amendment to Budget - Brewer: 212#5h ● Mason: 212#4s ●</p> <p>Current Status: In the Senate Budget only.</p>

<p><u>Recommendation</u> Introduce a budget amendment to direct the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia (SCHEV) to examine the feasibility of having a point of contact at each state and/or private college and university for those who have been involved in the foster care system. SCHEV shall investigate the possibility of using federal dollars (such as the Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs) for this purpose and report their findings to the Commission on Youth by November 30, 2022.</p>	<p>Member Amendment to Budget - Delaney: 144#5h  Favola: 144#2s  Current Status: In the Senate Budget only.</p>
<p><u>Recommendation</u> Direct the Virginia Department of Social Services to convene a stakeholder group to determine the feasibility of adopting a new uniform assessment tool in determining the enhanced payments for children in foster care with additional needs. The stakeholder group shall investigate ways to provide more flexibility regarding the foster care payment to address a wide variety of needs for hard to place children, including financial incentives for serving these children, and develop ways to ensure accurate documentation. Consideration should be given to current assessment tools used in determining a child's needs such as the Child and Adolescent Needs and Strengths (CANS) tool.</p>	<p>Member Amendment to Budget - Guzman: 345#6h  Favola: 345#6s  Current Status: In neither House nor Senate budget. Other action taken: Chair Brewer sent letter to update DSS Commissioner Danny Avula on March 1, 2022. </p>
<p><u>Recommendation</u> Introduce a budget amendment to support the development and implementation of a statewide driver's licensing program to support foster care youth in obtaining a driver's license. The Department shall coordinate and administer the driver's licensing program based on best practices from similar programs in other states.</p>	<p>Member Amendment to Budget - Keam: 345#3h  Favola: 345#7s  Current Status: In neither House nor Senate budget.</p>

Crossover Youth Information Sharing

Adopted Recommendations	History and Current Status
<p><u>Recommendation</u> Amend the <i>Code of Virginia</i>, sections 63.2-104/63.2-105 to indicate that the immediate identification of and sharing of crossover youth status between local departments and court service units and community services boards is to be done in accordance with established agreements between the local agencies. Any court service unit or community services board to which such records are disclosed in accordance with an agreement shall not further disclose any information received unless such further disclosure is expressly required by law.</p> <p>Direct the Department of Social Services to create guidelines or best practices on what these agreements should entail. Direct the Department of Juvenile Justice to develop and biennially update a model memorandum of understanding setting forth the respective roles and responsibilities of court service units, local departments of social services, and community services boards regarding the information sharing of youth records.</p>	<p>Legislation - Bell, Rob: HB 733 ● Marsden: SB 316 ●</p> <p>Current Status: Passed both houses and signed by the Governor. ✓</p>

Increasing Engagement in Virginia Higher Education Substance Use Advisory Committee (VHESUAC)

Adopted Recommendations	History and Current Status
<p><u>Recommendation</u> Introduce a budget amendment for VHESUAC to implement a one-time strategic initiative grant and a one-time incentivized reporting effort for institutions of higher education (IHE) to increase participation within VHESUAC. IHEs who apply and receive a grant from the VHESUAC shall use this funding to implement a new VHESUAC strategic plan campus-wide initiative and report on results at the end of the year. Incentive reporting funds would go to those IHEs that provide essential VHESUAC documentation, which could include: biannual report, alcohol and other drugs-specific strategic plan, progress on VHESUAC strategic plan campus-wide initiatives, and student data.</p>	<p>Member Amendment to Budget - Delaney: 395#2h ● Favola: 396#1s ●</p> <p>Current Status: In neither House nor Senate budget.</p> <p>Other action taken: Commission on Youth staff will work with ABC and Opioid Abatement Authority to secure additional resources. ✓</p>

Commission on Youth Requested Involvement

2022 Legislation

Senate Bill 396 (Edwards)

That the Office of the Children's Ombudsman shall convene a work group to consider issues relating to the Commonwealth's model of court-appointed legal counsel in child dependency cases. The work group shall include representatives from the Virginia Indigent Defense Commission, the Virginia Bar Association Commission on the Needs of Children, **the Commission on Youth**, the Office of the Executive Secretary of the Supreme Court of Virginia, and the Virginia Poverty Law Center and other Virginia Legal Aid programs. The work group shall make recommendations for legislative and budgetary changes to address these issues by November 1, 2022, to the Chairmen of the Senate Committee on the Judiciary and the House Committee for Courts of Justice. (This legislation passed both houses and signed by the Governor)