

VIRGINIA COMMISSION ON YOUTH

May 6, 2019

9:30 a.m.

U-Turn Sports Performance Academy
2101 Maywill Street, Richmond

MEETING MINUTES

Attending:

Senators Barbara Favola, Dave Marsden
Delegates Richard P. “Dickie” Bell, Emily Brewer, Chris Peace
Citizen members Avohom Carpenter, Deirdre Goldsmith

Not Attending:

Senator Bill Carrico; Delegates Jay Jones, Mark Keam, Todd Pillion; Citizen Member
Chris Rehak

Staff Attending

Amy Atkinson, Will Egen, Kathy Gillikin Christine Wilcox

Invited General Assembly Members Attending:

Senators George Barker, Monty Mason; Delegates Ronnie Campbell, Betsy Carr, Karrie
Delaney, Elizabeth Guzman, John McGuire

I. Call to Order and Opening Remarks

Delegate Richard P. “Dickie” Bell, Chair

Delegate Bell welcomed Commission members and meeting participants and asked for introductions.

II. Approval of Commission on Youth 2019 Study Plans

The 2019 study plans to be considered are:

- *Collection of Evidence-based Practices for Children and Adolescents with Mental Health Treatment Needs*
- Seminar: Foster Care for Legislators
- Seclusion and Restraint: Overview and Update on Regulatory Process

Delegate Bell moved that the study plans be adopted. The motion was adopted unanimously.

The Study Plans, as adopted by the Commission, can be accessed on the Commission’s webpage under the studies tab.

III. Overview of Virginia’s Foster Care System From a State and Local Perspective

*Carl Ayers, Director, Division of Family Services,
Virginia Department of Social Services*

*Andrew Crawford, Director, Bedford Department of Social Services,
President of Virginia League of Social Services Executives*

Delegate Dickie Bell introduced Amy Atkinson, Executive Director of the Commission on Youth to explain the genesis of today's Seminar as well as to detail a binder full of materials on Foster Care that is being given to the General Assembly members in attendance at today's meeting. The binder can be accessed on the Commission's webpage under the studies tab.

Following Amy's explanation, Delegate Bell introduced the first two presenters on the agenda. Carl Ayers, Director, Division of Family Services, Virginia Department of Social Services and Andrew Crawford, Director, Bedford Department of Social Services, President of Virginia League of Social Services Executives

Their presentation gave a state and local perspective on Virginia's foster care system and highlighted some successes in the current system.

Their presentation can be accessed on the Commission's webpage under the meetings tab.

IV. Funding of Virginia's Foster Care System

Mike Tweedy, Legislative Fiscal Analyst, Senate Finance

Next, Delegate Bell introduced Mike Tweedy, Legislative Fiscal Analyst for Senate Finance. Mr. Tweedy's presentation is to go in to how the funding streams work for foster care.

His presentation can be accessed on the Commission's webpage under the meetings tab.

V. Foster Care Prevention and Family First

Carl Ayers, Director, Division of Family Services

Delegate Bell introduced the next topic, which is a presentation on the new federal law known as Family First Prevention Services Act. This new law prioritizes keeping families together and puts more money towards prevention. Mr. Ayers gave a presentation about the opportunities provided by this change in the law.

The handout Mr. Ayers used during his presentation can be accessed on the Commission's webpage under the meetings tab. After Mr. Ayers' presentation Delegate Bell asked that the Division of Family Services team and Department of Social Services Commissioner Duke Storen be recognized for all their work on implementation of Family First.

VI. Virginia's Foster Care System, Bedford Department of Social Services Team

Casey Tanner, Family Services Specialist, CPS

Jennifer Hooper, Family Services Specialist, Foster Care

Joseph Wriston, Family Services Specialist, CPS Ongoing/Prevention

Delegate Bell introduced the next topic, which is a walk-through on how the foster care system operates day-to-day, at the local department level. Andy Crawford, Director Bedford DSS introduced his team what will be presenting.

The PowerPoint slides used by the Bedford team during their presentation can be accessed on the Commission's webpage under the meetings tab.

VII. Foster Families Panel

*Janet Kelly, President, Virginia's Kids Belong
Autumn Zaborowski, Henrico Foster to Adopt Parent
Tony Fowler, HopeTree Foster Parent
Brittany Jones, Richmond City Foster Parent*

For the next panel Delegate Bell introduced Janet Kelly, President of Virginia's Kids Belong. Ms. Kelly presented the work being done by Virginia's Kids Belong such as launching the Virginia Fosters Campaign. Ms. Kelly then introduced her panel.

Her panel discussed various challenges and rewards of being a foster parent.

VIII. Foster Youth Transition to Adulthood Panel

*Rachel Strawn, Director, Great Expectations
Allison Gilbreath, Policy Analyst, Voices for Virginia's Children
Taylor Landrie, Coach, Great Expectations
Tiffani Beissel, Young Alum, Great Expectations*

The final panel of the Seminar was led by Allison Gilbreath, Policy Analyst, Voices for Virginia's Children.

Ms. Gilbreath led a robust discussion with her panel about their various transitions to adulthood from foster care.

IX. Conclusion, Plan of Action

Delegate Dickie Bell

Delegate Bell ended the Seminar by thanking the staff at U-Turn Sports as well as Casey Family Programs for providing continental breakfast to everyone.

X. Adjourn

The Seminar adjourned at 12:35PM.