

VIRGINIA COMMISSION ON YOUTH

November 8, 2017

1:00 p.m.

House Committee Room, W011
Ground Floor, Pocahontas Building

MINUTES

Attending:

Delegates Richard Anderson, Richard Bell, Mark Keam, Christopher Peace
Senators William Carrico, Barbara Favola, Dave Marsden
Citizen members Karrie Delaney (by phone), Deirdre Goldsmith, Chris Rehak

Not Attending:

Delegates Peter Farrell and Daun Hester

Staff Attending

Amy Atkinson and Will Egen

I. Call to Order and Opening Remarks

Senator Barbara A. Favola, Chair

Senator Favola welcomed the Commission members and meeting participants and asked that the members introduce themselves. Sen. Favola then recognized former Commission on Youth staff member Leah Mills with a recognition award. Leah Mills was Senior Legislative Analyst and worked for the Commission for over 15 years. Her work updating *The Collection* was applauded.

II. Survey for Children Aging Out of Foster Care

Amy M. Atkinson, Executive Director

Amy Atkinson described the background of the survey and how this study came to be undertaken. She described the roundtables and site visits the Commission did over the interim. Ms. Atkinson ended her presentation and stated that Allison Gilbreath from Voices for Virginia's Children would be introducing the following speakers who are foster care alums.

The presentation can be accessed on the Commission's webpage under the November 8 meeting tab.

A Foster Care Perspective

Tiffany Haynes, Great Expectations Student

Sophia Booker, Great Expectations Student

Christine Malone, Operational Support Specialist, Virginia Department of Social Services

Tiffany Haynes gave a perspective from her foster care experience. She gave her support for Fostering Futures. She added that youth's input should be part of the process of developing a survey and improving foster care. Some of the concerns she shared were driver's licenses before 18, attaining full and complete education, and getting a doctor and dentist.

Sophia Booker shared her experience in foster care and role as an advocate. She spoke about the positives of allowing youth opportunities to share their voice with policy

makers. Ms. Booker brought up the issue of barriers to foster care youth in obtaining driver's licenses.

Christine Malone is a current DSS employee and Foster Care alum. She spoke on her experience in foster care and the support systems she used to thrive after aging out of foster care.

The Survey – The Department of Social Services

Em Parente, Foster Care and Family Engagement Program Manager

Anne Kisor, Project Manager

Ms. Malone talked about the partnerships used to develop a survey, the charge, and the guiding principles for this study.

Em Parente discussed the draft of the survey and how it is being refined. She also discussed about how and when it will be administered. Further she added, how administering another survey, the National Youth in Transition Database (NYTD) has informed this process. Finally, Ms. Parente gave a timeline. Sen. Favola asked how many survey responses would DSS desire. Ms. Parente stated that approximately 500 foster care youth exiting a year would be ideal.

The presentation can be accessed on the Commission's webpage under the November 8 meeting tab.

III. Regional Tuition

John Eisenberg, Assistant Superintendent for Special Education Student Services, Virginia Department of Education

John Eisenberg started by giving background on regional tuition including its original purpose and current requirements according to code and regulations. Mr. Eisenberg reviewed issues identified during VDOE's study such as increased demands for new regional programs, growth as a line-item in the budget, and growth in certain disability categories. Mr. Eisenberg also covered disparity in how funds are being used for instruction, administration, operation, and technology. Also, in 2016 for the first time ever in the history of the program claims exceeded the appropriation. Mr. Eisenberg then went through changes to the existing model and the transition process going on at VDOE. Mr. Eisenberg added that these changes would be able to be made under the current regulatory structure.

Mr. Eisenberg asked the Commission to approve the following:

- The VDOE should finalize and implement the new Policies and Procedures to address the disparity in existing funding;
- The VDOE should implement the new Application/Budget for 2018-2019;
- The VDOE should implement the new Intensive Support Needs Eligibility Criteria; and
- The VDOE should begin working with current RTRP recipients to implement Transition Plans.

A motion was made to advise the VDOE to go forward with the steps they have identified listed above. This was approved unanimously by the Commission.

The presentation can be accessed on the Commission's webpage under the November 8 meeting tab.

IV. **Decision Matrix**

Amy M. Atkinson

- Trauma-Informed Care
- Substance-Use Prevention and Intervention Programs at Virginia's Colleges and Universities

Ms. Atkinson presented the decision matrix for Trauma-Informed Care and Substance-Use Prevention and Intervention Programs at Virginia's Colleges and Universities.

After the presentation of the draft findings and recommendations the Commission heard public comment.

Public Comment

The following individuals offered oral public comment during the meeting on the Trauma-informed Care recommendations:

- Donna Sayegh, brought up her concerns regarding her local community. She would like to see the school systems works with students and use restorative practices and have parents get involved.
- Lisa Specter-Dunaway, The Family and Children's Trust Fund of Virginia (FACT), encourages the Commission to consider the work that FACT does.
- Emily Griffey, Voices asked the Commission to strongly support these recommendations, especially one and two.

The draft and adopted decision matrix can be found on the Commission's website under the November 8 meeting tab. The Commission on Youth approved the following recommendations:

Substance-Use Prevention and Intervention Programs at Virginia's Colleges and Universities

Recommendation 1

Amend the *Code of Virginia* to add §4.1-103.02(B) to direct the Virginia Alcoholic Beverage Control (ABC) Board to establish and seek the advice of the Virginia Institutions of Higher Education Substance Use Advisory Board to develop and update a statewide strategic plan for substance use education, prevention, and intervention at Virginia's public institutions of higher education and nonprofit private institutions of higher education.

This statewide strategic plan shall (i) incorporate the use of best practices, which may include, but not be limited to, student-led peer-to-peer education and college recovery programs; (ii) determine and provide for the collection of statewide school data on student alcohol and substance use; (iii) facilitate institutions of higher education in developing their individual strategic plans by including networking, resources, and training materials and (iv) develop and maintain reporting guidelines for institutions of higher education individual strategic plans using mandatory requirements as a guide.

The ABC Board shall convene a group of representatives from Virginia's colleges and universities including students and directors of student health and such other members as the Board may require to make up the Virginia Institutions of Higher Education Substance Use Advisory Board. Membership on the Advisory Board shall be broadly representative of public and nonprofit private institutions of higher education. The Advisory Board shall submit an annual report to the Governor and General Assembly on or before December 1 of each year.

Trauma-Informed Care

Recommendation 1

Request the Governor to include in the proposed biennial budget, language directing the Office of the Secretary of Health and Human Resources, in cooperation with the Office of the Secretary Education, to create a Trauma-Informed Care workgroup. The workgroup shall include representatives from the Department of Social Services, the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services, the Department of Criminal Justice Services, the Department of Juvenile Justice, the Department of Education, the Office of Children's Services, the Department of Medical Assistance Services, the Virginia Department of Health, the Family and Children's Trust Fund of Virginia, other state agencies as needed, stakeholders, researchers, community organizations and representatives from impacted communities. The workgroup shall (i) develop a shared vision and definition of trauma-informed care for Virginia; (ii) examine Virginia's applicable child and family-serving programs and data; (iii) develop an implementation plan for data-sharing; (iv) develop strategies to build a trauma-informed system of care for children and families across the Commonwealth; (v) identify indicators to measure progress; (vi) identify workforce development opportunities around evidence-based and best practices; and (vii) identify needed professional development/training in trauma-informed practices for all child-serving professionals. In addition, the workgroup shall explore opportunities, including the creation of public/private partnerships to expand trauma-informed care throughout the Commonwealth. The Secretary of Health and Human Resources and the Secretary of Education shall report to the Chairman of the Senate Finance and House Appropriations Committees and the Virginia Commission on Youth by December 15 of each year. Include an appropriation of \$150,000 each year for staff support to coordinate and carry out the duties of the workgroup.

Recommendation 2

Request the Governor to include in the proposed biennial budget a General Fund appropriation of \$250,000 to serve as a dollar for dollar match for private, foundation and nonprofit money raised to support a grants program of the Family and Children's Trust Fund (FACT). These dollars shall fund a competitive small grants program to prevent, mitigate or help children ages 0-6 recover from Adverse Childhood Experiences across the state.

Recommendation 3

Request the Governor to include in the proposed biennial 2018 budget, a General Fund appropriation of \$250,000 to increase the existing General Fund appropriation to the Department of Education's Virginia's Tiered Systems of Supports directing the additional funds to support Title I and Accreditation Denied Schools.

V. Reporting of Child Protective Service Cases to Virginia's Public Schools

Amy M. Atkinson

Senator Favola introduced the topic and how it came to the Commission. Ms. Atkinson presented the draft findings and recommendations on Reporting of Child Protective Service Cases to Virginia's Public Schools. These recommendations are based on the presentation by DSS at the Commission's last meeting as well as Commission staff working with DOE and DSS. During the presentation Delegate Keam brought up the issue of providing more information to the public regarding revocations, cancellations, suspension, denials, and reinstatements of licenses issued by the Board of Education. Senator Favola requested the Commission draft a recommendation to be advertised on this issue brought up by Delegate Keam, and Commission staff agreed to this request.

Ms. Atkinson noted that the draft recommendations would be made available for public comment through Friday, December 1. The presentation and draft recommendations can be found on the Commission's website under the November 8 meeting tab.

VI. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 3:30PM.