



## VIRGINIA COMMISSION ON YOUTH

### Meeting Minutes

September 20, 2021, 1:00 p.m.  
(Virtual Meeting)

#### Attending:

Senators: Dave Marsden, Barbara Favola, David Suetterlein

Delegates: Emily Brewer, Rob Bell, Joshua Cole, Karrie Delaney, Elizabeth Guzman, Jay Jones

Citizen Members: Dede Goldsmith, Avi Hopkins, Chris Rehak

#### Staff Attending:

Amy Atkinson, Will Egen, Kathy Gillikin

#### I. Welcome and Introductions

*The Honorable Dave Marsden, Senator, Senate of Virginia*

Senator Marsden welcomed everyone to the meeting. He noted that this meeting is convening virtually, pursuant to the seventeenth enactment of Chapter 1 of the Acts of Assembly of 2021, Special Session II. The Commission meeting is streaming for the public to view via the Virginia Senate streaming site.

#### II. Crossover Youth Information Sharing

*Will Egen, Policy Analyst*

Senator Marsden introduced Will Egen, Senior Policy Analyst with the Virginia Commission on Youth, who led the work group. Mr. Egen explained that “crossover youth” includes children who have experienced maltreatment and have engaged in delinquency. These youth are most likely involved in the child welfare system. The Crossover Youth Information Sharing work group met on May 19, 2021 and June 21, 2021. The work group had presentations from the Center for Juvenile Justice Reform at Georgetown University, the City of Alexandria’s crossover youth practice model team, and Maryland’s Department of Juvenile Justice. Draft recommendations on best practices for information sharing were discussed at these work group meetings.

In his presentation, Mr. Egen explained that the Virginia Longitudinal Data System (VLDS) is capable of being used to research outcomes data on the crossover youth population. The VLDS was designed to match data from one agency to another while maintaining confidentiality through de-identification. Mr. Egen also reviewed federal and Virginia laws and regulations governing privacy and confidentiality on information sharing. Mr. Egen then reviewed the best practices themes that the work group discussed. These themes centered on specific guidance, initial and ongoing training, clear memorandums of understanding, safe and secure use of data, and other topics.

Eight findings and draft recommendations were reported. Written public comment must be received by 5:00 p.m. on October 14, 2021. Submission instructions are available online (<http://vcov.virginia.gov>). This presentation may be accessed on the Virginia Commission on Youth website under the meetings tab.

### **III. Virginia Higher Education Substance Use Advisory Committee Update**

*Katie Crumble, Education & Prevention Manager, Virginia Alcohol Beverage Control (ABC)*

Next, Senator Marsden introduced Katie Crumble, Education and Prevention Manager with the Virginia ABC. Ms. Crumble provided a brief history of the Virginia Higher Education Substance Use Advisory Committee (VHESUAC). Senate Bill 120 and House Bill 852 was approved during the 2018 Session to establish VHESUAC.

The legislatively mandated activities were explained. A nationally recognized statewide campus assessment was developed for Virginia's Institutes of Higher Education (IHEs). A strategic plan was developed that includes foundation and leadership, planning and assessment, policy and enforcement, programming and services, and collaboration and communication. An implementation guide for campus-wide initiatives was developed with evaluation based on the various levels of impact and complexity. A mechanism to collect statewide data was established, and guidance for individual college strategic plans were initiated. The Advisory Committee has provided resources and materials for the colleges to help stop the abuse of alcohol and other substances.

Participation by the colleges and universities is at 83%, and that includes the following activities: Reading VHESUAC newsletters, workgroup membership, executive council membership, and being a statewide campus assessment contributor. According to Ms. Crumble, although participation is generally considered strong, the quality of engagement could be improved. Incentives for improvement include starting a recognition program, awarding strategic initiative grants, providing financial incentives or combinations of these options.

Commission staff stated that these incentives for improvement will be posted on the Commission's website following this meeting for public comment. Written public comment must be received by 5:00 p.m. on October 14, 2021. Submission instructions

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#### **IV. Foster Care Family Recruitment**

*Garrett Jones, Resource Family and Family Engagement Program Manager, Virginia Department of Social Services*

Senator Marsden moved to the next topic on the agenda and introduced Garrett Jones, Resource Family and Family Engagement Program Manager with the Virginia Department of Social Services (VDSS). Mr. Jones explained Senate Bill 1339, in 2019, the Foster Care Omnibus Bill (resource family program – program manager and five regional consultants, data driven foster family recruitment plan, and clear guidance to local departments related to approval of relatives as foster parents).

Mr. Jones explained that VDSS is increasing the capacity for family placements through changing the scope of work for recruitment contractors, providing a foster parent recruitment portal, and adding staff to help approve relatives as foster parents. Progress has been positive. Next steps include improving the data quality, developing collaborations between the local departments of social services, creating alternatives for congregate care for those needing more specialized care, and facilitating a wider understanding of social determinants of health. To reduce the number of children in foster care, Virginia will need to increase kin and family placements, improve the quality of congregate care, and reduce long, foster care use. Congregate care is not as effective, and the children often do not do as well. However, Em Parente with VDSS commented that congregate care allows for specialized treatment that may not be available in the locality of a foster family.

Senator Favola asked to address the need for children with challenging behaviors to find foster families. She would like to revisit the framework at the December's Commission meeting to allocate additional funding for training, funding, and emotional support to support foster families with challenging foster youth.

Em Parente explained that VDSS wants to pilot a model that pays one foster parent a stipend for enhanced treatment with the foster child. Some regulations and the payment structure would need to be revised, and Title IV-E and the Children's Services Act funding needs to be studied.

This presentation may be accessed on the Virginia Commission on Youth website under the meetings tab.

## **V. Adjourn**

Senator Marsden thanked everyone for their presentations and participation. The meeting ended at 3:19 p.m.

The video of this meeting can be found at the following link: [Meeting Video Archive](#).