

VIRGINIA COMMISSION ON YOUTH

September 8, 2015

10:00 a.m.

House Room C

MINUTES

Attending:

Delegates Richard Anderson, Mamyé BaCote, Richard Bell, Christopher Peace
Senators Barbara Favola, Dave Marsden, Stephen Martin
Citizen members Chuck Slemp, Deirdre Goldsmith

Attending Electronically:

Citizen Member Frank Royal

Not Attending:

Delegates Peter Farrell and Mark Keam

Staff Attending

Amy Atkinson, Will Egen, and Leah Mills

I. Call to Order and Opening Remarks

Delegate Christopher K. Peace, Chair

Senator Favola started the meeting and noted that Delegate Peace would be arriving shortly. She asked that the members introduce themselves. Senator Favola noted that Dr. Frank Royal was participating electronically and that the Commission followed Freedom of Information Act requirements.

Senator Favola recognized Ms. Atkinson and Ms. Mills for both having 20 years of state service this year. She thanked them for their contributions to state government and to the Commission.

II. Commonwealth Council of Childhood Success Update

Clark Mercer, Chief of Staff, Office of the Lieutenant Governor

Access and Quality Workgroup

Emily Griffey, Senior Policy Analyst, Voices for Virginia's Children

Senator Favola introduced Mr. Clark Mercer and Ms. Emily Griffey. She stated that Governor McAuliffe issued Executive Order 22 establishing the Commonwealth Council on Childhood Success. The Council is charged with assessing the health and educational needs of children, from birth to age eight, and making recommendations for their alignment and improvement in partnership with various state agencies and entities, local schools and governments, the business community, private and nonprofit providers, and advocacy organizations.

Over the last year, the Council's work groups have focused on five major areas: the Virginia Preschool Initiative, Access to and Quality of Preschool and Child Care, Early Elementary Years (Kindergarten through third grade), Health and Well-Being, and Data

and Governance. The Council has been working to develop a work plan for these initiatives that appropriately balances them with the Children's Cabinet's priorities.

Mr. Mercer and Emily Griffey provided an update on the work of the Council and one of the Council's priorities; access and quality to child care and pre-school. Mr. Mercer and Ms. Griffey outlined recommendations and next steps and responded to questions from Commission members. The members asked for a listing of acronyms and organizational structure for this topic. The presentation can be accessed on the Commission's webpage under the September 8 meeting tab.

III. Temporary Placements for Children

Will Egen, Legal Analyst

During the 2015 Session, Delegate Byron introduced legislation that would allow a parent or legal custodian of a minor to delegate to another person by a properly executed power of attorney any powers regarding care, custody, or property of the minor for a period not exceeding one year. The House Courts Committee sent Delegate Byron's bill to the Commission for further review. Delegate Peace introduced Mr. Egen and thanked him for his work on this study.

Mr. Egen and Ms. Atkinson, Executive Director for the Commission on Youth, outlined the study's mandate, stakeholders, and identified issues and responded to questions from the members. Mr. Egen reviewed Virginia's child abuse and neglect statistics. Ms. Atkinson reviewed the proposed recommendations from the study. The presentation can be accessed on the Commission's webpage under the September 8 meeting tab. The Commission will accept written public comment on this study through 5:00 p.m., Tuesday, October 13 and the Commission will vote on the recommendations at the Commission's October 20 meeting. The draft recommendations can be found on the Commission's website under the September 8 meeting tab.

IV. The Use of Federal, State, and Local Funds for Private Educational Placements of Students with Disabilities – Year Two

Leah Mills, Senior Policy Analyst

Delegate Peace introduced Ms. Mills and noted that she would be presenting on the Commission's study – the Use of Federal, State, and Local Funds for Private Educational Placements of Students with Disabilities. Delegate Peace stated that, following this meeting, the Commission will convene an Advisory Group meeting on this Study.

Ms. Mills provided the members with information about the study mandate, study Activities, federal requirements for special education, special education trends in Virginia, Children's Services' Act (CSA) funds for special education in Virginia, key findings, and draft recommendations. She then responded to questions from the members. Ms. Mills stated that the study recommendations would likely be modified by the Advisory Group but will then be posted to the Commission's website following the Advisory Group meeting and be made available for public comment through 5:00 p.m., Tuesday, October 13. The presentation and draft recommendations can be found on the Commission's website under the September 8 meeting tab.

V. Adjourn

Delegate Peace stated that Citizen Member Goldsmith had made a request for the Commission to receive a formal presentation from the Office of the Secretary of

Education on drug education policies among state universities. The members concurred. Delegate Peace noted that Ms. Atkinson had contacted the Office of the Secretary of Education to make them aware that this request may be coming their way.

Delegate Peace reminded the members and the audience that the Commission's Advisory Group for the Commission's study – the Use of Federal, State, and Local Funds for Private Educational Placements of Students with Disabilities – will be meeting at the Capitol in Senate Room 3 at 1:00 p.m.

Delegate Peace thanked everyone for their participation and reminded the members that the next meeting was October 20 at 10:00 a.m. The meeting adjourned at approximately 12:30 p.m.