



COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA

# Virginia's Three Branch Strategies

Presentation to the Virginia Commission on Youth  
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# Impetus

- National Governors Association (NGA) Center for Best Practices' Request for Proposals in March
  - Policy Institute in Philadelphia July 24-26
    - 7 states and national experts
  - Customized technical assistance with National Partners
    - National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL)
    - Casey Family Programs (CFP)
    - National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges
    - National Center for State Courts



## Purpose

- Measure and improve social and emotional well-being of children in foster care
  - Develop State-driven, 18 month plan
  - Align work of executive, legislative, judicial branches
  - Consider evidence-based, research informed strategies
  - Enhance existing efforts through cross-system collaboration
  - Leverage resources to fund innovative practices



# Virginia's Leadership Team in Philadelphia

## **Executive Branch**

- VDSS Commissioner Schultze, Team Leader
- Bryan Tomlinson, DMAS
- Kim McGaughey, VDSS, Project Manager

## **Legislative Branch**

- Senator Barbara Favola
- Delegate Richard Bell
- Amy Atkinson, Commission on Youth

## **Judicial Branch**

- Lelia Hopper, Office of Executive Secretary, Va Supreme Court
- Judge Elizabeth Kellas, Frederick/Winchester J&DR Court



## Virginia's Leadership Team Other Members

### Executive Branch

- Karin Addison, Governor's Special Advisor on Children's Services
- Julia Hammond, Governor's Director of Legislative Affairs and Policy Advisor
- Susie Clare, OCS
- Jim Stewart and/or John Pezzoli, DBHDS
- Anne Wescott, DOE
- Dev Nair, VDH
- Paul McWhinney, VDSS



## Virginia's Home Leadership Team Members

### Legislative Branch

- Delegate Peter Farrell
- Senator Bryce Reeves

### Associations of Local Child Serving Agencies

- Carl Ayers, Virginia League of Social Services Executives
- Carolyn Arthur, Virginia Association of Community Services Boards
- Appropriate association for local school divisions



## Key Partners in Implementation

- VDSS and DMAS' Health Plan Advisory Committee
- VDSS and VDOE's Foster Care and Education Committee
- Office of Comprehensive Services
- Court Improvement Program
- DBHDS System of Care Initiative



## Strategy 1

- Manage by data to improve health and behavioral health outcomes
  - Use health, behavioral health, and psychotropic medications outcome data for decision making on a regular basis





## Strategy 2

- Manage by data to improve educational outcomes
  - Use educational performance and predictors of success outcome data for children in foster care to improve decision making on a regular basis



## Strategy 3

- Improve appropriate and effective use of psychotropic medications for children in foster care
  - Implement strategies for consent and monitoring
  - Increase availability and access to child and adolescent psychiatrists
  - Increase knowledge of prescribers, mental health clinicians, health care providers, child welfare staff, family members, caregivers, and judges



## Strategy 4

- Increase access to and appropriate use of trauma informed and evidence based behavioral health services
  - Increase percentage of children screened and assessed for trauma and mental health needs
  - Increase availability of trauma-informed behavioral health services
  - Increase training for mental health clinicians, child welfare staff, judges, etc.



## Next Steps: Technical Assistance

- Analyze data to set baselines
- Explore options to define "medical necessity" beyond diagnosis to address complex trauma
  - July 11 joint letter to State Directors of child welfare, Medicaid, and behavioral health from federal agencies (ACF, CMS, SAMHSA)
- Customize managed care for children in foster care
- Identify lessons learned from managed care states



## Next Steps: September 24 Meeting

- National Partners (NCSL, NGA and CFP) attending
- Sheila Pires - Over 30 years working with national, state, and local governments and non-profits serving children and families
  - US House of Representatives; US Department of Health, Education and Welfare; Carter White House - senior staff/management positions
  - Bush's New Freedom Mental Health Commission - co-authored children's issue brief and policy recommendations
  - Clinton's Task Force on Health Care Reform – co-chaired children's mental health and substance abuse committee
  - Center for Health Care Strategies – senior consultant on children in managed care and child health quality program
  - National Wraparound Initiative - advisory board
  - DC Deputy Commissioner Social Services; Head of Child Mental Health Services