

**VIRTUAL MEETING – May 6, 2021**  
**STATE & LOCAL ADVISORY TEAM (SLAT)**  
**CHILDREN’S SERVICES ACT**  
**1604 Santa Rosa Road, Suite 137**  
**Richmond, VA 23229**

**Members Present:** Lesley Abashian, SLAT Chair, CPMT – Local Government Representative; Shannon Updike, SLAT Vice-Chair, VCOPPA; Lisa Madron, CPMT – CSB Representative; Em Parente, DSS; Laura Reed, DMAS; Mills Jones, CSA Coordinators Network; Sabrina Gross, DOE; Linda McWilliams, DJJ; The Honorable Richard Campbell, Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court Representative; Susan Aylor, CPMT – School Representative; Nina Marino, DBHDS; Rebecca Vinroot, CPMT – local DSS Representative; Martha Carroll, CPMT – local CSU Representative; Cristy Corbin, Parent Representative

**Members Absent:** Jeannine Uzel, VDH

**OCS Staff Members Present:** Scott Reiner, Zandra Relaford, Marsha Mucha

**Welcome/Opening**

Lesley Abashian called the meeting to order at 9:32 a.m.

Mr. Reiner noted that in accordance with state law governing meetings of public bodies during the declared state of emergency related to COVID-19, the SLAT is meeting virtually and the meeting is being recorded. Additionally, all votes must be taken via roll call.

Attendance of SLAT members on the call was taken by roll call. A quorum was present.

**Public Comment Period**

There was no public comment offered.

**Approval of Minutes**

The minutes of the February 4, 2021 meeting were approved on a motion by Nina Marino, seconded by Shannon Updike and approved by roll-call vote of the SLAT membership.

**SLAT Officer Elections (FY22)**

Ms. Abashian reported that recent changes in SLAT’s meeting schedule conflict with the protocol for election of officers as cited in the SLAT bylaws. She further noted that, per Robert’s Rules of Order, SLAT may suspend the SLAT by-laws to allow SLAT to proceed with the election of officers without the use of a Nominating Committee.

A motion was made, by Laura Reed, seconded by Richard Campbell, and approved by roll-call vote of the SLAT membership to suspend the by-laws to allow for election of SLAT officers for the upcoming fiscal year (FY22).

Shannon Updike, SLAT Vice-Chair, assumed the duties of SLAT Chair to receive nominations from the floor for SLAT Chair for FY22. A motion was made by Sabrina Gross and seconded by Martha Carroll to nominate Lesley Abashian for the position of SLAT Chair for FY22. No other nominations were received from the floor. A motion was made by Rebecca Vinroot, seconded by Cristy Corbin and approved by roll-call vote of the SLAT membership to elect Lesley Abashian as SLAT Chair for FY22.

After the election of the SLAT Chair, Ms. Abashian again assumed the duties of SLAT Chair for the remainder of the meeting. She asked if there were nominations from the floor for SLAT Vice-Chair for FY22. A motion was made by Mills Jones and seconded by Em Parente to nominate Rebecca Vinroot as SLAT Vice-Chair for FY22. No other nominations were received from the floor. A motion was made by Em Parente, seconded by Shannon Updike and approved by roll-call vote of the SLAT membership to elect Rebecca Vinroot as SLAT Vice-Chair for FY22.

### **New SLAT Member Orientation**

Ms. Abashian reported that she would like to develop an orientation process for new SLAT members. If members would like to assist with the project, please let her know. Mr. Reiner will send Ms. Abashian materials that he uses to orient new SEC members to assist with the development of orientation materials for new SLAT members.

### **Families First Implementation Update**

Ms. Abashian reported that Elizabeth Lee (VDSS) was not able to attend today's meeting to present an update on implementation of the Family First Prevention Services Act (FFPSA) which becomes effective July 1, 2021. Ms. Abashian noted that, since the February SLAT meeting, Ms. Lee was able to meet with Ms. Abashian and representatives from SLAT for a more in-depth discussion of FFPSA and CSA.

Ms. Abashian shared a written update from Ms. Lee with SLAT and she will forward that update to the membership after today's meeting.

### **SEC Strategic Plan Workgroups Updates**

- Policy Alignment – Mr. Reiner reported that the Workgroup has completed revision of the SEC Family Engagement Policy (3.3) and the SEC Family Assessment and Planning Team Policy (3.2). A Notice of Intent to Develop Policy for each of the revisions will be presented at the SEC's June 10, 2021 meeting. If approved by the SEC, both Notices of Intent would be distributed for a 45-day public comment period.
- Empowering Families and Communities – Cristy Corbin reported on behalf of the Workgroup. The Workgroup is streamlining a draft Family and Youth Guide. A finalized draft should be ready in early June.
- Leadership and Collective Action – Kristi Schabo and Jessica Webb reported on behalf of the Workgroup. They presented documents developed by the Workgroup around core competencies for CSA coordinators as well as FAPT and CPMT members. After the presentation, Ms. Schabo and Ms. Webb asked that members let them know if there are changes that need to be made as these documents will be presented at the SEC's June 10 meeting.

### **OCS Report**

- Implementation of New Laws (7/1/2021) – Mr. Reiner reported on the following:
  - HB2117/SB1313 – Impacts CSA and special education by: 1) state pool funds for private special education services shall only be expended on private educational programs that are licensed by the Board of Education or an equivalent out-of-state licensing agency; 2) state pool funds may be utilized for certain transitional services for students returning from a private special education program to a public school setting; 3) directs the Secretaries of Education and Health and Human Resources to convene a workgroup to develop a plan to direct the transfer of CSA funds currently reserved for children requiring an educational placement in a private special education day school or residential facility to VDOE.

- HB2212 – From the JLARC report, requires OCS to implement a process to work with local programs that are consistently underperforming.
- EBP Readiness Training Events – Mr. Reiner reported that OCS is engaged in cross-agency efforts to improve outcomes for evidence-based programs. A series of virtual local team events, “Virginia Are You Ready”, began Tuesday and will continue through the end of June.
- Annual CSA Training Plan and Other OCS Updates – Zandra Relaford reported that members had received a copy of the draft OCS Training Plan for FY22. She highlighted several sections of the plan and reported that the draft Training Plan would be presented at the SEC’s June 10 meeting for approval.

Mrs. Relaford also reminded members that OCS has a training calendar and to please share training opportunities with OCS for posting to the calendar.

At the close of the OCS report, Mrs. Relaford recognized Shannon Updike for her service as SLAT Vice-Chair and presented her with a certificate of appreciation.

### **Member Updates**

Ms. Abashian noted time constraints for member updates as the meeting would be adjourning at 11:30 a.m. She noted the discussion from the February meeting and whether or not it would be beneficial to have reports submitted in writing to share before the meeting so all members would have an opportunity to provide an update. Mr. Jones concurred with Ms. Abashian.

Members reported on activities and the statuses of ongoing projects, new programs and grant opportunities. Members continue to work within their agencies and advocate through their associations for improvements to services and service delivery for the children, youth and families of Virginia.

### **Adjournment**

The virtual meeting adjourned at 11:30 a.m. The next meeting is scheduled for August 5, 2021.