

**Commonwealth of Virginia
State Board of Social Services**

**Virginia Department of Social Services
5600 Cox Road
Glen Allen, VA 23060**

August 21, 2024

Attending: Don Carey (Chair), DeRonda Short (Vice Chair), William Boone, Leslie Ford, Zulma Santos, Maria Benjamin, April Morefield, Coke Stewart, and Matthew Melvin.

Absent: Sheryl Garland

Also in Attendance: James Williams (Commissioner) and Ellen Malenke (Assistant Attorney General)

Meeting called to order at 10:03am – Mr. Carey

Acknowledgement and Approval of Remote Participation by Board Members

The Chair noted that Zulma Santos and Les Ford requested to participate remotely. A physical quorum was present. Ms. Santos stated she was participating from Prince William County because of school-related commitments. Ms. Ford stated she was participating from home due to medical advice to avoid travel. **On Motion Duly Made**, (Buckey Boone), second (Deronda Short), motion for the members to participate remotely approved with all in favor.

Comments from the Commissioner – Commissioner Williams reviewed agency priorities and provided an update on the Parental Child Safety Placement Program.

COMMENT PERIOD

There were no public comments.

There were no comments from boards and directors of community action agencies.

Comment from the Virginia League of Social Service Executives – Rebecca Morgan, President

Ms. Morgan welcomed the new Board members. She gave a quick overview of the League to the new members. She shared an overview of some of the topics the League is working on to include for the 2025 General Assembly session and the legislative and regulation priorities and policy guidance. She shared the League is also focused on the workforce work group and IT initiatives. Ms. Morgan introduced Linda Gibson and acknowledged Wanda Williams.

Linda Gibson, Chair, Professional Development Committee – Ms. Gibson shared an overview and update on the training academy.

ACTION ITEMS

1. Approved June 2024 Meeting Minutes

On Motion Duly Made, (Matthew Melvin), second (Maria Benjamin), motion approved with all in favor.

2. 22VAC40-73, Standards for Licensed Assisted Living Facilities-Exempt Regulation

On Motion Duly Made, (Buckey Boone), second (April Morefield), motion to approve with all in favor.

3. 22VAC40-73, Standards for Licensed Assisted Living Facilities-Proposed Regulation

On Motion Duly Made, (Buckey Boone), second (Matthew Melvin), motion made to approve. Ms. Stewart noted the reasons for involuntary discharge (22VAC40-73-430.E.) are broad and vague. After discussion, a substitute motion was suggested, to table the proposed regulation to the October Board meeting, allowing time for the agency to add clarification and definitions regarding the reasons for involuntary discharge. A committee will be appointed to work with the agency in the interim. **On motion Duly Made**, (Deronda Short), second (Zulma Santos), motion to table Action Item #3 until the October Board meeting was approved with a vote of 5-4. Members voting in favor were Don Carey, Zulma Santos, DeRonda Short, April Morefield and Coke Stewart. Members opposed were Melvin Matthew, Maria Benjamin, Buckey Boon and Les Ford.

Summer EBT Update – Michele Thomas provided an update on the Sun Bucks program.

Medicaid Unwinding & Kinship Updates – Carl Ayers provided updates on Medicaid Unwinding and Kinship updates.

Appoint Ad Hoc Committee to Review Bylaws – The Chairman appointed William Boone, DeRonda Short and himself to serve on the committee.

In addition, the Chairman appointed Coke Stewart and Matthew Melvin to the Assisted Living Facility Appeals Committee. Ms. Stewart will chair the committee.

Board Member Comments

There were no Board member comments.

Meeting adjourned at 12:33pm