

**STATE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL (SEC)
FOR CHILDREN'S SERVICES
1604 Santa Rosa Road
Richmond, VA 23229**

Meeting Minutes

Thursday, March 12, 2026

SEC Members Present:

Toni Blue, Deputy Secretary of Health and Human Resources for The Honorable Marvin Figueora,
Secretary of Health and Human Resources (**SEC Chair**)
Carl Ayers for Duke Storen, Commissioner, Virginia Department of Social Services (VDSS)
John Budesky, County Administrator, Hanover County
The Honorable Kevin Carroll, Member, Chesterfield County Board of Supervisors
Nedra Moncrief-Craig, Ph.D., Commissioner, Department for Aging and Rehabilitative Services (DARS)
Cheryl Gallon, Deputy of Programs and Operations for Steve Ford, Director, Department of Medical
Assistance Services (DMAS)
The Honorable Amelia Ross-Hammond, Member, Virginia Beach City Council
The Honorable Jacob Holmes, Mayor, City of Bristol
Samantha Hollins, Ph.D., for Jenna Conway, Superintendent of Public Instruction,
Virginia Department of Education (VDOE)
Mills Jones, Chair, State and Local Advisory Team (SLAT)
Sandra Karison for Karl Hade, Executive Secretary of the Supreme Court of Virginia
The Honorable Chad Logan, Judge, 26th Judicial District, Juvenile and Domestic Relations
District Court
Andrea McMahan for Bob Bermingham, Director, Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ)
The Honorable Barbara Null, Member, James City County Board of Supervisors
Nancy Robbins, Parent Representative
Ron Spears, CEO, Elk Hill, Private Provider Representative
Carl Street, Jr., Vice President for Behavioral Health Services, Youth for Tomorrow
Alyssa Ward, Ph.D., Chief Deputy, for Daryl Washington, Commissioner, Virginia Department of
Behavioral Health and Developmental Services (DBHDS)

New Agency Directors/Commissioners accompanying designees:

Daryl Washington, Commissioner, Virginia Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental
Services (DBHDS)
Bob Bermingham, Director, Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ)

Other Staff Present:

Stephanie Bacote, Audit Manager, OCS
Mary Bell, Program Consultant, OCS
Gezelle Glasgow, Administrative Manager, OCS
Scott Reiner, Executive Director, OCS

Kristi Schabo, Senior Policy and Planning Specialist, OCS
Susan Whyte, Assistant Attorney General

Members Absent:

Melvin Roy, Founder and CEO of Foster-U, Service Recipient Representative
The Honorable Schuyler VanValkenburg, Member, Senate of Virginia
Cameron Webb, MD, Commissioner, Virginia Department of Health (VDH)
Anahita Renner, Parent Representative

Call to Order/Opening Remarks

Deputy Secretary Toni Blue called the meeting to order at 9:31 a.m. A quorum was present.

Approval of Minutes

The December 11, 2025, meeting minutes were approved on a motion by Carl Street, Jr., seconded by Mills Jones.

SEC, CSA, and OCS Overview

Mr. Reiner, Executive Director, provided an overview of the roles and responsibilities of the State Executive Council (SEC), the Children’s Services Act (CSA), and the Office of Children’s Services (OCS). He noted that the SEC is responsible for collaborative programmatic and fiscal policy development, as well as administrative oversight, to ensure the efficient and effective delivery of child-centered, family-focused, and community-based services in the least restrictive, appropriate environment. He also highlighted the Council’s role in keeping the Governor and Cabinet Secretaries informed on related matters.

Member Introductions

Council members introduced themselves to fellow members, OCS staff, and members of the public. New members in attendance included Deputy Secretary Toni Blue, Chair of the Council; Dr. Nedra Moncrief-Craig, Commissioner of DARS; Cheryl Gallon, Deputy of Programs and Operations, Department of Medical Assistance Services designee, for Steve Ford, Director, DMAS; Bob Birmingham, Director of DJJ (represented by designee Andrea McMahan); Daryl Washington, Director of DBHDS (represented by designee Dr. Alyssa Ward); and Dr. Alyssa Ward, Chief Deputy Commissioner (designee for Commissioner Washington).

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Excellence in CSA Recognition

As part of the SEC’s Strategic Plan, the SEC has developed a process to acknowledge areas of local excellence and best practices. The Excellence in CSA Award, established in March 2025, recognizes a local CSA program’s commitment to positively impacting the lives of children, youth, and families through collaboration, authentic engagement, and a system of care.

Deputy Secretary of Health and Human Resources and SEC Chair Toni Blue presented the SEC's March 2026 Excellence in CSA Award to the New Kent County/Charles City County CSA program on behalf of the Council.

Representatives from New Kent County and Charles City County in attendance included:

- DeDreama Harrod, Director of CSA, New Kent County/Charles City County
- Rodney Hathaway, New Kent County Administrator
- Andrea Gardner, CPMT Chairperson and Assistant Director of Finance, New Kent County
- John Moyer, Vice Chairman, New Kent County Board of Supervisors
- Dr. Suzan Denby, Director of Exceptional Education, Charles City County
- Suzanne Grable, Director of Social Services, New Kent County

SEC Policy Review

Policy 4.1.1 – Children in Need of Services (CHINS)

Kristi Schabo, OCS Senior Policy and Planning Specialist, reported that at the SEC's December 11, 2025 meeting, the Council approved draft Policy 4.1.1 for an additional 60-day public comment period, which closed on February 13, 2026, at 5:00 p.m. One public comment was received. Ms. Schabo requested approval of the final version of Policy 4.1.1, which includes revisions to Appendix A for clarity and consistency, and noted that the policy would be effective April 1, 2026.

Following discussion and on a properly seconded motion, the SEC approved the final version of Policy 4.1.1 without objection, effective April 1, 2026.

Policy 3.5 – Records Management

Ms. Schabo reported that at the SEC's December 11, 2025 meeting, the Council approved proposed revisions to Policy 3.5 for a 60-day public comment period, which closed on February 13, 2026, at 5:00 p.m. No public comments were received. She noted that, if approved, the policy would take effect on April 1, 2026.

Following discussion and on a properly seconded motion, the SEC approved the final version of Policy 3.5 without objection, effective April 1, 2026.

State and Local Advisory Team (SLAT) Report

- Mills Jones, Chair of the State and Local Advisory Team (SLAT), provided an overview of the team's purpose and ongoing work. He explained that SLAT advises the SEC on programmatic and fiscal policies, supports collaboration among state agencies and local partners, and provides guidance on training and technical assistance to improve the delivery of services for at-risk youth and their families. At the most recent meeting, Carrie Thompson, OCS Senior Research Associate, presented an overview of the FY 2025 CSA Service Gap Survey findings. The survey examines service gaps, barriers, and local efforts across the Commonwealth.

Workgroup Updates

- **Sponsored Residential Workgroup:**
 - Established at the request of the Virginia League of Social Service Executives.
 - Charged with reviewing funding methodologies, match rates, and overall service delivery practices.
 - The group has engaged in detailed data analysis to support equitable and sustainable practices.
 - Development of frequently asked questions (FAQs) is underway to provide additional clarity and guidance.
 - The group is also exploring the need for a comprehensive rate determination tool to improve consistency, transparency, and statewide decision-making.
- **Medicaid Redesign Workgroup:**
 - Continues to monitor alignment between CSA and Medicaid redesign efforts.
 - Discussions included a review of standardized CSA service names and identification of areas needing clearer definitions or updates.
 - Emphasis was placed on distinguishing between:
 - Clinical services, which Medicaid typically covers, and
 - Non-clinical, family-support services, where CSA provides the greatest value.

OCS Executive Director's Report

Mr. Reiner provided an update on recent OCS activities and welcomed new Executive Branch members to the SEC.

General Assembly and Budget Updates

- Mr. Reiner provided an overview of CSA-related activity during the General Assembly session, noting that legislative activity outside of the budget focused on supporting students with educational disabilities in public school settings.
- Legislation introduced by Delegate Carroll was amended into a VDOE-led workgroup to review the SISNA program and reduce reliance on CSA-funded private day placements. The bill was continued to the 2027 session.
- He noted that key decisions are currently tied to ongoing state budget negotiations.
- The introduced budget includes:
 - \$20 million for the current fiscal year to meet projected CSA needs, in addition to prior increases.
 - Proposed increases of \$25 million for FY2027 and \$34 million for FY2028.
- Proposed budget actions related to private special education include:
 - Training for school divisions on the use of CSA transitional funds,
 - A proposed 2.5% cap on private day school tuition growth,
 - A \$10 million House amendment to expand the SISNA program, and
 - Additional reporting requirements for OCS and VDOE.
- Mr. Reiner also discussed a proposed reduction in the state match rate for community-based services from an average of 83% to 71%, intended to balance state and local fiscal responsibility. This change would result in estimated reductions of \$10.7 million in FY2027 and \$11.8 million in FY2028.

Service Name Review Initiative

- Mr. Reiner provided an update on OCS efforts to review and refine standard CSA Service Names, noting that some existing categories are overly broad.
- OCS will work with local CSA Coordinators to clarify service definitions, establish standard units of service, outline provider qualifications, and provide guidance on typical rate ranges.

Medicaid Behavioral Health Redesign

- Mr. Reiner noted that this work aligns with ongoing Medicaid Behavioral Health Redesign efforts.
- OCS is actively engaged to ensure continued access to services for youth served through CSA and to minimize any unintended shift in service demand.
- Additional updates will be presented to the Council at a future meeting.

Member Remarks/Updates

Deputy Secretary Blue thanked all members of the SEC for their hard work and dedication in assisting children and families.

Members provided updates on upcoming trainings, initiatives, projects, and ongoing activities within their respective agencies and organizations. Members also highlighted their continued efforts to strengthen services and improve service delivery for children, youth, and families across the Commonwealth through both agency work and advocacy efforts.

Updates included the Virginia Department of Education's Commonwealth Listening Tour, *Speak Up for Virginia's Future*, as well as the upcoming Virginia Association of Independent Specialized Education Facilities (VAISEF) 2026 Spring Conference, *Transforming Challenges into Opportunities*, scheduled for April 22–24 at The Virginian Hotel in Lynchburg, Virginia.

Closing Remarks and Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 11:17 a.m. The next meeting is scheduled for June 11, 2026.