



Activities in State Government Related to Youth and Families 2008

COMPREHENSIVE SERVICES • CHILD WELFARE • KINSHIP CARE, ADOPTION & FOSTER CARE • CHILD CARE • PUBLIC SAFETY
JUVENILE JUSTICE • SUBSTANCE ABUSE • MENTAL HEALTH • EDUCATION • HEALTH • HUMAN SERVICES

Prepared by the Virginia Commission on Youth

April 23, 2008

The Virginia Commission on Youth is a standing, bipartisan legislative commission of the General Assembly which, by mandate, provides a legislative forum in which complex issues may be explored and resolved. The Commission was enacted in 1989 and began operations in 1991. According to the *Code of Virginia*, the role and function of the Commission is "to study and provide recommendations addressing the needs of and services to the Commonwealth's youth and families." The Commission monitors the development of laws and policies in federal, state and local governments which impact youth and their families and contribute to the General Assembly's ability to make sound policy decisions based on well-studied and reasoned recommendations.

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*One House of Delegates member seat is
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COMPREHENSIVE SERVICES

Lead Agency	Description	Status
Legislative Services	SJR 75 (2008) continues for a third year the joint subcommittee studying the administration of the Comprehensive Services Program for At-Risk Youth and Families (CSA) and make recommendations for improvement of program services and strategies for cost containment. The joint subcommittee was originally established in 2006 by SJR 96 (Hanger). In conducting its study, the joint subcommittee shall: ▪ study the structure of the Comprehensive Services program, including the role of local government, state government, community-based service providers, residential service providers and other stakeholders; ▪ identify alternate methods of providing services to at-risk youth and families; ▪ review the cost of the CSA program; and ▪ identify ways to limit costs and increase the efficiency and effectiveness of service delivery to at-risk youth and families. In the first year, the joint subcommittee reviewed the administration of the CSA by state and local governments, including projections of caseloads, service needs and costs, quality of services provided, and made recommendations for improvement of program services and strategies for cost containment. In the second year of the study, SJR 96 directed the joint subcommittee and JLARC to continue their respective studies and collaborate in preparation for end-of-year reporting. Commission's involvement: Delegate Fralin is a member.	SJR 96 (2006) established the joint subcommittee to study the cost effectiveness of the Comprehensive Services for At-Risk Youth and Families program and to collaborate with JLARC regarding its evaluation of the administration of the CSA. Its first year findings and approved recommendations were published in <i>Senate Document 14</i> (January 2007). In 2007, the joint subcommittee met four times. The executive summary of their findings and recommendations was published as <i>Senate Document 10</i>. Technical assistance continues to be provided by JLARC, the Office of Comprehensive Services, and the Departments of Social Services, Education, Juvenile Justice, and Mental Health, Mental Retardation and Substance Abuse Services. The joint subcommittee is limited to four meetings during the 2008 study year and to study expenses in the amount of \$7,200. The resolution requires that the joint subcommittee complete its meetings by November 30, 2008 and submit to the Division of Legislative Automated Systems an executive summary of its findings and recommendations no later than the first day of the 2009 Regular Session of the General Assembly.
Office of Comprehensive Services	Utilization of Residential Facilities for Treatment of Children – Pursuant to § 2.2-5200 of the <i>Code of Virginia</i>, Community Policy and Management Teams are required to ensure that services and funding are consistent with the policies of preserving families and providing appropriate services in the least restrictive environment, while protecting the welfare of children and maintaining public safety. Each locality must submit to the Office of Comprehensive Services (OCS) information on utilization of residential facilities for treatment of children and length of stay in such facilities. Commission's involvement: Tracking	Item 283-B #2d of the proposed 2009-2010 Biennial Budget requires the Office of Comprehensive Services to report to the Governor and Chairmen of the House Appropriations and Senate Finance Committees on utilization rates and average length of stays statewide and, for each locality, by December 15th of each year.

COMPREHENSIVE SERVICES *(continued)*

Lead Agency	Description	Status
Office of Comprehensive Services	The State Executive Council's (SEC) (www.csa.state.va) purpose is to assure collaborative programmatic policy development, fiscal policy development and administrative oversight for the efficient and effective provision of child centered, family focused and community based services to eligible emotionally and behaviorally troubled child and youth and their families in the least restrictive, appropriate environment. Further, the Council assures the Governor, and Cabinet Secretaries are well informed in matters related to these areas. Legislative members are Delegate Phillip A. Hamilton and Senator John A. Edwards. Commission's involvement: Tracking	SEC meetings are scheduled by the Secretary of Health and Human Resources. Pursuant to § 2.1-746 of the <i>Code of Virginia</i>, the SEC is required to meet at least quarterly. Its first 2008 meeting is scheduled for May 12 in Richmond. The meeting will focus on organizing the SEC's work for the year and in providing guidance on the definitions of "community" and "residential care" for the match rate changes that begin July 1, 2008 and January 1, 2009, respectively. Other 2008 meetings are scheduled for June 12, July 15, September 26, October 31, November 21, and December 19.
Office of Comprehensive Services	The State and Local Advisory Team (SLAT) is established to better serve the needs of troubled and at-risk youths and their families by advising the State Executive Council (SEC), managing cooperative efforts at the State level and providing support to community efforts. The team shall be appointed by and be responsible to the Council. Commission's involvement: Tracking	The SLAT, which generally meets the first Thursday of each month, receives presentations on varied State and local activities for children's services. At its first 2008 meeting on January 3, SLAT Chairwoman Charlotte McNulty updated members on the Commission on Mental Health Reform. CSA Executive Director, Kim McGaughey, provided an update on the Council on Reform (CORE) and an overview of the children's services reform in the Governor's proposed budget. The March 6 meeting focused on legislative updates from the General Assembly Session. Members were updated on recent CORE activities. On April 3, the agenda focused on the progress of implementing a new mental health assessment tool for CSA. Additional 2008 meetings have been scheduled for May 1, June 5, August 7 and September 9.
Office of Comprehensive Services	Utilization of Residential Facilities Item 283—B.2.d. of the proposed 2009-2010 Biennial Budget directs each locality to submit to the Office of Comprehensive Services information on utilization of residential facilities for treatment of children and length of stay in such facilities. Commission's involvement: Tracking	By December 15 of each year, the Office of Comprehensive Services shall report to the Governor and the Chairmen of the House Appropriations and Senate Finance Committees on the utilization rates and average lengths of stays statewide and for each locality.
Office of Comprehensive Services	Technical Assistance to Localities Item 283-B#6 of the proposed 2009-2010 Biennial Budget provides \$50,000 for each year for a combination of regional and statewide meetings for technical assistance to local community policy and management teams, family assessment and planning teams, and local fiscal agents. Commission's involvement: Tracking	CSA is in the process of planning for the regional and statewide training.

COMPREHENSIVE SERVICES *(continued)*

Lead Agency	Description	Status
Office of Comprehensive Services	Workgroup on Local CSA Match Rates Item 283-C#3a of the proposed 2009-2010 Biennial Budget directs the Secretary of Health and Human Resources to oversee the implementation of a system of financial incentives that is consistent with the statutory purposes of the Comprehensive Services Act. The financial incentive system shall use the methodology in place on July 1, 2007 for calculating the base rate for each locality. The Secretary shall establish a work group to implement the changes in state and local match rates for the CSA. Commission's involvement: Tracking	The workgroup will include representatives from the Virginia Association of Counties, the Virginia Municipal League, the Virginia League of Social Services Executives, the Virginia Association of Community Service Boards, the Virginia Coalition of Private Providers, the Virginia Association of School Superintendents, the Department of Education, the Department of Juvenile Justice, and the Office of the Executive Secretary of the Supreme Court. The meeting calendar for the workgroup will be developed when the members of the workgroup convene.
State Executive Council	Evidence-based Practices for Community-based Care Item 283-C#3d of the proposed 2009-2010 Biennial Budget directs the State Executive Council to monitor the implementation of the incentives and disincentives included in Item 3, provide technical assistance and recommend evidence-based best practices to assist localities in transitioning individuals into community-based care. Commission's involvement: Tracking	Beginning November 1, 2008 and each year thereafter, the SEC shall provide an update to the Governor and the Chairmen of the House Appropriations and Senate Finance Committees on the outcomes of this initiative.

CHILD WELFARE

Lead Agency	Description	Status
Medical Assistance Services	Training to Comprehensive Services Act Teams Item 306-P of the proposed 2009-2010 Biennial Budget directs the Department of Medical Assistance Services, in cooperation with the State Executive Council, to provide semi-annual training to local Comprehensive Services Act teams on the procedures for use of Medicaid for residential treatment and treatment foster care services, including, but not limited to, procedures for determining eligibility, billing, reimbursement, and related reporting requirements. The Department is to provide information on the proper utilization of inpatient and outpatient mental health services as covered by the Medicaid State Plan. Commission's involvement: Tracking	The 2007-2008 Biennial Budget required a report on the Department's training program; however, the current proposed budget does not require a report.
Social Services	The Child Welfare Advisory Committee (CWAC) is responsible for assessing child and family service needs and improvements. Committee membership includes advocacy groups, private providers, local and state public agencies and foster/adoptive parents. Various subcommittees address child protection, permanency and training. Commission's involvement: Committee Member	CWAC meetings are generally held monthly. CWAC assisted the Department of Social Services with the development of Virginia's Program Improvement Plan (PIP) for the federal Child and Family Services Review, which went into effect February 1, 2005. DSS reports quarterly to the federal government on the progress of PIP implementation.

CHILD WELFARE (continued)

Lead Agency	Description	Status
Social Services	Virginia Community Action Partnership (VACAP) is the statewide membership association for Virginia's thirty non-profit private and public community action agencies which work to fight poverty and build self-sufficiency for strong families and communities. Item 344-A#3 of the proposed 2009-2010 Biennial Budget directs VCAP to support the Virginia Earned Income Tax Coalition and provide grants to local organizations to provide outreach, education and tax preparation services to citizens who may be eligible for the federal Earned Income Tax Credit. Commission's involvement: Tracking	Budget language requires the Department of Social Services to report its findings no later than December 1 of each year to the Governor and the Chairmen of the Senate Finance and House Appropriations Committees and the Chairman of the Joint Legislative Audit and Review Commission.
Office of the Governor	The Governor's Working Group on Early Childhood Initiatives was established to coordinate executive branch efforts of early childhood programs and strengthen public and private programs. The working group, chaired by the Secretary of Education, brings together high-level staff from cabinet offices and State agencies in the areas of Education, Health and Human Resources, Economic Development, Finance and Policy. Commission's involvement: Tracking	The Working Group meets on the 2 nd Thursday of every other month to provide oversight to the coordination of the Alignment Project's three components: Smart Beginnings, Start Strong, and PK-3 Education.
Virginia Department of Social Services	The Alignment Project, started in February 2006 and spearheaded by the Department of Social Services (DSS), now involves a team of professionals from many agencies under four secretariats, other agencies, and organizations from throughout Virginia. It functions under the oversight of the Governor's Working Group on Early Childhood initiatives, which is discussed in a preceding section. The Alignment Project is the umbrella for the Governor's three main early childhood initiatives: Smart Beginnings, Start Strong, and PK-3 Education. These are discussed in the sections which follow. Commission's involvement: Tracking	To gather broad feedback on the project, DSS held six focus groups in six different regions across the Commonwealth in 2007. DSS published <i>The Milestones of Child Development, A Guide to Young Children's Learning and Development from Birth to Kindergarten</i> in Fall 2007 through support from the federal child Care Development Fund. An electronic version is available at http://www.dss.virginia.gov/family/cc/index.html. The document reflects the involvement of 30 independent reviewers.

CHILD WELFARE (continued)

Lead Agency	Description	Status
Office of the Governor/ Department of Social Services	Virginia Early Childhood Foundation (VECF) is a public-private partnership with a mission to provide collaborative leadership to foster Smart Beginnings for all young children in Virginia. As a nonprofit organization, the VECF provides grants, training and technical assistance to local communities to build their capacity to provide early childhood services. The Foundation was recommended by the Early Learning Council Task Force, which was charged with recommending strategies to improve Virginia's ability to provide early learning experiences to children from birth to age five. In making the recommendation, the Council cited the need for a state-level 501(c)(3) entity to lead an aggressive agenda to build the State's infrastructure for an effective early childhood system. In response, the Foundation was created in December 2005. VECF relies on the shared leadership of local councils to provide strategic planning, effective integration of programs and services, decision-making and accountability for local delivery, implementation and outcomes. Commission's involvement: Tracking	The VECF 2007 Annual Report, released September 29, is posted on the Smart Beginnings website, as well on the General Assembly Legislative Information System website as <i>Report Document 223</i> (2007). The proposed 2009-2010 Biennial Budget appropriated to the Department of Social Services an allocation of \$1.5 million over the biennium to support Virginia Early Childhood Foundation, with the goal of promoting programs that enhance the health, safety and well-being of Virginia's youth. Item 344-E#1 directs the Foundation to account for the expenditure of these funds by providing the Governor, Secretary of Health and Human Resources, and the Chairmen of the House Appropriations and Senate Finance Committees with a certified audit and full report on initiatives and results not later than October 1 of each year for the preceding fiscal year ending June 30. Also, on or before October 1 of each year, Item 344-E#2 requires VECF to submit to the Governor and the Chairmen of the House Appropriations and Senate Finance Committees a report on the actual amount, by fiscal year, of private and local government funds received by the Foundation. The Foundation provides the Smart Beginnings website as a resource for parents, educators and others interested in early childhood learning.
Virginia Early Childhood Foundation	Smart Beginnings — one of three components to The Alignment Project — is a statewide collaboration with the broad goal of sharing information and efforts to direct new and improved resources to families with children from birth to age five. The initiative highlights the health, social and emotional, and cognitive needs of very young children, and urges partners in every community to plan and partner strategically for a strong early childhood system to meet these needs successfully. It focuses on parent education, including new parent information about early childhood development, and consumer education information for parents regarding selecting and accessing quality child care and preschool programs. Another key component of this initiative is public education messages about the correlation between high quality, early childhood education and a competitive workforce and ultimately a vital economy for the Commonwealth. Commission's involvement: Tracking	The Hayes Hitzeman Foundation, a Richmond-based non-profit organization to raise funds for Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS) education and research, has introduced the <i>This Side Up</i> campaign. Started in 2002 by parents whose infant son had died, the Foundation has partnered with Virginia hospitals and now partners with Ukrop's Super Markets, Inc., Ukrop's Dress Express, Pampers, and Smart Beginnings to promote placing babies on their backs for nap or bedtimes.

CHILD WELFARE (continued)

Lead Agency	Description	Status
Social Services	The Virginia Information and Referral (I&R) System has existed for almost a quarter of a century. Section 63.2-222 of the <i>Code of Virginia</i> established a statewide I&R system, which is designed to: ▪ Collect and maintain accurate and complete resource data on a statewide basis; ▪ Link citizens needing human services with appropriate community resources to satisfy those needs; ▪ Assist in planning for human services delivery at the local, regional and state levels; and ▪ Provide information to assist decision-makers in allocating financial and other resources to respond to State and local human service priorities. The proposed 2009-2010 Biennial Budget appropriated to the Department of Social Services an allocation of \$723,844 from the general fund and \$531,791 from the federal trust fund in each year of the biennium to support the statewide implementation. Commission's involvement: Commission Initiative	In Fall 2004, the Commission on Youth, as part of its two-year legislative initiative on Strengthening Families, acted on study recommendations to support the statewide Information & Referral System for 2-1-1 and adopted 2-1-1 as a stand-alone initiative for the 2005 study year. On February 11, 2008, Northern Virginia was added to the 2-1-1 network and now 2-1-1 is available statewide. The next step is for 2-1-1 to be implemented 24 hours, 7 days a week.
Social Services	Consolidation of Local DSSs Item 338-F of the proposed 2009-2010 Biennial Budget directs the Commissioner of Social Services to work with the governing bodies of localities operating a single jurisdiction local department of social services with 2007 provisional population estimates of 20,000 or less to examine and identify efficiencies or general fund cost savings as a result of consolidating those programs and/or administrative operations. Commission's involvement: Tracking	Budget language requires the Commissioner to report on the potential savings accrued by this action to the Governor and the Chairmen of the Senate Finance and House Appropriations Committees by December 1, 2008.
Social Services	Foster Care Trainings Item 337 directs the Department of Social Services, in collaboration with the Office of Comprehensive Services, to provide training to local staff serving on Family Assessment and Planning Teams and Community Policy and Management Teams. Training shall include, but not be limited to the federal and state requirements pertaining to the provision of the foster care services funded under § 2.2-5211 of the <i>Code of Virginia</i>. The training shall also include written guidance concerning which services remain the financial responsibility of the local departments of social services. Training shall be provided on a regional basis at least once a year. Commission's involvement: Tracking	Budget language requires the Commissioner to report on the potential savings accrued by this action to the Governor and the Chairmen of the Senate Finance and House Appropriations Committees by December 1, 2008.

CHILD WELFARE *(continued)*

Lead Agency	Description	Status
Social Services/ Correctional Education	Prisoner Re-entry Item 338-H directs the Department of Social Services, in conjunction with the Department of Correctional Education, to identify and apply for federal, private and faith-based grants for pre-release parenting programs for non-custodial incarcerated parent offenders committed to the Department of Corrections. The budget language requires DSS to identify certain grant programs including, but not limited to the following grant programs: Promoting Responsible Fatherhood and Healthy Marriages, State Child Access and Visitation Block Grant, Serious and Violent Offender Reentry Initiative Collaboration, Special Improvement Projects, §1115 Social Security Demonstration Grants, and any new grant programs authorized under the federal Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) block grant program. Commission's involvement: Tracking	In 2007, the Joint Subcommittee Studying the Commonwealth's Program for Prisoner Reentry to Society (SJR 327, Puller) also reviewed proposals to facilitate the successful reintegration of prisoners to their communities.
Secretary of Health and Human Resources	Prevent Child Abuse Virginia is a statewide, private nonprofit organization leading a coalition of community partners across the Commonwealth. It coordinates Healthy Families Virginia, a statewide system of support and information for all new families about parenting and community resources. It makes home visiting services available to families who need personal guidance. Other direct service programs include Hugs and Kisses and Nurturing Programs®. In addition, Prevent Child Abuse Virginia provides Awareness Activities, such as Child Abuse Prevention Month promotions and a "Together for Children" newsletter, as well as educational opportunities and advocacy. The Department of Social Services administers both the Virginia Family Violence Prevention Program (VFVPP) and Community Based Child Abuse Prevention (CBCAP) program grants for child abuse and neglect prevention. The VFVPP Program was established in 1982 for purposes stated in the <i>Code of Virginia</i>, 63.2-1502.3: <i>To assist in developing programs aimed at discovering and preventing the many factors causing child abuse and neglect.</i> Commission's involvement: Tracking	Item 344-D of the proposed 2009-2010 Biennial Budget provides \$1,332,959 in the first year and \$3,472,779 the second year from the general fund and \$4,139,820 the first year and \$2 million the second year from the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) block grant to support Healthy Families Virginia. The Department of Social Services is directed to allocate funds from this item to the statewide office of Prevent Child Abuse Virginia for providing the coordination, technical support, quality assurance, training and evaluation of the Healthy Families Virginia program.

CHILD WELFARE *(continued)*

Lead Agency	Description	Status
Secretary of Health and Human Resources	The Council on Reform (CORE) was established based on Virginia's Services reform efforts initiated by First Lady Anne Holton and her <i>For Keeps Initiative</i> and was a recommendation from the Annie E. Casey Foundation. The CORE is made of the 13 localities, DJJ, DOE, CSBs and CSA. CORE is to work with the 13 localities to develop shared vision for children's services and best practices at state and local levels. After they have the program in the 13 localities (Phase I) it will be taken statewide (Phase II). Raymond R. Ratke was appointed by the Governor to be Special Advisor on Children's Services under the Secretariat of Health and Human Resources. He will oversee this effort which seeks to improve outcomes for children and families across multiple agencies. Commission's involvement: Tracking	The CORE workgroup had its first meeting in December 2007. The workgroup meets monthly. Other meetings were March 5 and April 15. Upcoming meetings are scheduled for June 4, July 23, September 3, and October 15. An Executive Planning Committee of the CORE also meets monthly.

KINSHIP CARE, FOSTER CARE & ADOPTION

Lead Agency	Description	Status
Aging	The Kinship Care Initiative is a statewide task force and information network which focuses on inter-generational activities, as well as communication issues among the kinship care community. Sponsored by the Brookdale Foundation's Relatives as Parents Program (RAPP), the Initiative offers support groups and information for relatives serving as parents. It also works closely with other State agencies and private organizations to meet the service needs of kinship care families. One of these groups, the Virginia Cooperative Extension, has developed a curriculum and lecture series entitled <i>Grandparents Raising Grandchildren: Rights and Responsibilities</i>. The Department for the Aging (VDA) has published <i>Grandparents Caring for Grandchildren: A Resource Guide</i> to direct kinship care families to available services. Commission's involvement: Task Force Member	On January 29, the Task Force met to review legislation introduced in the 2008 General Assembly Session which affected grandparents and to discuss the Virginia Department of Social Services' Prisoner Re-Entry Program as it relates to grandparents caring for children of their incarcerated adult children. The Task Force meets next on April 24 to set goals for 2008.
Social Services	The Kinship Care Task Force – co-chaired by Senator Miller and Commissioner Anthony Conyers, Jr. – continues its work addressing the needs of grand-parents and others caring for minor children in their families, as well as the needs of the those children. The Task Force, which meets quarterly, was created to examine the feasibility of establishing a Kinship Care program in Virginia. Commission's involvement: Senator Miller co-chairs the Task Force; Commission staff serves as a Task Force Member.	The 2008 General Assembly passed SB 251 (Miller, Y.), which provides that the 24-month period of ineligibility shall not apply to a child who is removed from his parents' home as a result of a child protective services report or complaint as defined in regulations promulgated by the Board and placed with a relative. The bill provides that in such cases, the child shall be eligible for TANF financial assistance immediately and without waiting for the 24-month period to run. The Governor has signed the legislation into law.

KINSHIP CARE, FOSTER CARE & ADOPTION & FOSTER CARE *(continued)*

Lead Agency	Description	Status
Social Services	Virginia Foster, Adoptive and Kinship Parents Association is a not-for-profit association funded by the Virginia Department of Social Services. Now known as FACES (Family Advocacy, Collaboration, Empowerment, and Support) of Virginia Families, the organization seeks to establish a grassroots effort for kinship parents, foster and adoptive parents in Virginia. FACES supports recruitment and retention of foster, kinship and adoptive parents and provides information to the State about what families need in terms of support and training. FACES also advocates for the needs of youth and families. Commission's involvement: Tracking	On May 4, 2007, First Lady Anne Holton and DSS announced the formation of a new Foster, Adoptive and Kinship Parent Association (FACES of Virginia's Families). On January 30, 2008, the Governor and First Lady hosted FACES members at a reception at the Governor's Mansion in conjunction with the organization's Legislative Advocacy Day. On April 18-20, FACES hosted <i>Bright Tomorrows Begin Today</i>, its first annual conference in Charlottesville. Nearly 200 participants, including youth, enjoyed keynotes from well-known speakers Jaiya John, Ashley Rhodes Courter, Jennifer Lauck, Dr. Robert Hill, Terri Jagers, and the First Lady. FACES has established a website with the intent of providing a bridge between the social services community and parents/children — www.facesofvirginia.org or www.fosteradoptiveparents.org — both of which are accessible to association members. A representative from the Virginia Youth Advisory Council President serves as a FACES Board member to represent the issues, concerns and needs of Virginia's foster youth across Virginia.
Social Services	For Keeps was created to identify and develop ways to find and strengthen permanent families for older children in foster care, or who might be at risk of coming into foster care. For Keeps is founded on the belief that everyone deserves and needs permanent family connections to be successful. For Keeps is a partnership between the State's human services agencies, the Freddie Mac Foundation, and other private organizations. Commission's involvement: Tracking	First Lady Anne Holton launched her foster care initiative For Keeps on January 16, 2007 at the Executive Mansion. As a result of the First Lady's efforts, Richmond's CBS affiliate, WTVR, featured two 30-minute segments on the For Keeps initiative. In addition, the First Lady spoke on January 24, 2008 at the University of Richmond's Jepson Alumni Center on ways to improve the foster care system in Virginia.
Medical Assistance Services	Treatment Foster Care and Residential Psychiatric Services Training is reported annually by the Department of Medical Assistance Services (DMAS). Training is offered semi-annually to local Comprehensive Services Act teams on the procedures for use of Medicaid for residential treatment and treatment foster care services, including but not limited to procedures for determining eligibility, billing, reimbursement, and reporting requirements. Commission's involvement: Tracking	<i>Report Document 119</i> (2007) details the most recent training activities of DMAS.

CHILD CARE

Lead Agency	Description	Status
Social Services	Automation of Day Care Assistance Program – Item 338-L of the proposed 2009-2010 Biennial Budget expresses the General Assembly’s intent that the Department of Social Services automate day care assistance programs. Under this budget, the program will receive \$750,000 each year to create the automated management and payment system. The child care subsidy program has grown significantly over the past decade. Expenditures have increased from approximately \$9 million in FY1989 to \$176 million in FY 2006. In FY 2006, child care assistance was provided to over 61,000 children. The child care program is one of the largest assistance programs administered by the Department of Social Services. Commission’s involvement: Tracking	Budget language requires the Department of Social Services to report on the system’s progress to the Chairmen of the House Appropriations and the Senate Finance Committees, the Secretary of Health and Human Resources and the Department of Planning and Budget by July 1 of each year. Budget language further requires the Department of Social Services to report to the Governor and the General Assembly by October 15 of each year regarding the status of such automation, system adequacy and needed action. The Department’s most recent annual report was published in Fall 2007 by the General Assembly’s Legislative Automated System website as <i>Report Document 277</i>.
Social Services	The Child Day-Care Council (CDCC) is authorized by the <i>Code of Virginia</i> to adopt regulatory standards for licensure and operation of child day care centers in Virginia. Also, in collaboration with the Virginia Recreation and Park Society and the Department of Mental Health, Mental Retardation and Substance Abuse Services, CDCC is charged with promulgating regulations for therapeutic recreation programs. The regulations are to be developed in consultation with representatives of the affected entities and are not to require the adoption of a specific teaching approach or doctrine. The CDCC, which operates under the supervision of the Secretary of Health and Human Resources, is comprised of a minimum of 28 members, appointed by the Governor and representing a variety of interests from around the state. Commission’s involvement: Tracking	CDCC generally meets six times per year. The review process is scheduled to begin again in May 2009, although the Council is considering beginning discussions in March 2009. In May 2007, CDCC released an Opinion/Editorial piece on the review process, inviting public comment.
Social Services	The Virginia Child Care Resource & Referral Network (VACCRRN) is a statewide network of 14-locally based child care resource and referral agencies which assist parents in finding child care that meets their family’s particular needs. Parents can educate themselves with information and data on a variety of child care issues, such as public policy, cost of care, and range of quality at the local, State, and national levels. The network is a member of the National Association of Child Care Resource and Referral Agencies is funded through the Virginia Department of Social Services. Commission’s involvement: Tracking	VACCRRN has become the home of T.E.A.C.H.® (Teacher Education and Compensation Helps), an educational scholarship program for center-based and family child care providers. It was established in 1989 to promote and support quality child care resources throughout Virginia and to coordinate the efforts of more than a dozen agencies. Several VACCRRN member agencies have recently completed a national training program through Zero to Three entitled “Partnering with Parents: Preventing Neglect and Abuse.”

PUBLIC SAFETY

Lead Agency	Description	Status
Secretary of Public Safety	Established by Executive Order 15 (2006), Prevention Comes First expands on the original KIDSafe program to promote, throughout the executive branch, the positive development of Virginia's youth, by addressing the risk and protective factors that lead to youth gang recruitment and activity, substance abuse, delinquency, violence, school drop-out, and related adolescent problem behaviors. It coordinates the prevention activities of law enforcement, educators, State and local prevention professionals, and families throughout the Commonwealth. Its initiatives are organized under the direction of the Secretary of Public Safety. Commission's involvement: Tracking	The Executive Order, originally in effect until June 2, 2007, was extended to June 2008. The Prevention Comes First Conference is a one-day conference provides prevention professionals and interested citizens with cutting-edge information and highlights gang prevention/bullying model programs that have proven to reduce bullying and gang membership and activity. An estimated 500 participants representing law enforcement, education, prevention, Commonwealth's Attorneys, and other professionals attend the conference each year.
Secretary of Public Safety	Virginia's Interagency Anti-Gang Workgroup is a subgroup Prevention Comes First. The Prevention Comes First Anti-Gang Workgroup consists of 24 designees from 17 executive branch agencies. Its mission is to cultivate strong collaboration; prioritize, coordinate, and leverage prevention resources; encourage and facilitate wider use of proven prevention programs and strategies; provide training and tools to assist state and local prevention professionals, service providers, and the faith community in assessing needs, targeting resources, and planning services for youth and families; disseminating information on gangs to citizens of the Commonwealth. Commission's involvement: Tracking	The Anti-Gang Workgroup includes representatives from Education, Corrections, Criminal Justice Services, Health, Juvenile Justice, Mental Health, Mental Retardation and Substance Abuse Services, Social Services, State Police, Office of the Attorney General, Commonwealth's Attorneys' Services Council and GOSAP, Virginia Association of Commonwealth's Attorneys, Richmond Behavioral Authority, Virginia Association of Chiefs of Police, Virginia Sheriffs' Association and VCU's Center for School-Community Collaboration.
Secretary of Public Safety	The Parent Guide to Personal Safety for Youth is a product of Prevention Comes First efforts. Due to the popularity of the KidSafe Virginia parent guides, the Governor's Office for Substance Abuse Prevention (GOSAP) recently revised and combined the parent guides. The purpose of the <i>Parent Guide to Personal Safety for Youth</i> is to educate parents on some of the safety threats our children face and assist parents in communicating with their children about personal safety. The topics covered in this guide include: fire safety, internet safety, driving safety, bullying, gangs, inhalant abuse prevention and underage drinking. Commission's involvement: Tracking	Beginning December 15, 2007, parent guides were made available at fire and rescue stations throughout the Commonwealth and at your local DMV office. The parents' guides may also be downloaded at GOSAP's webpage at http://www.gosap.virginia.gov/preventioncomesfirst.htm

PUBLIC SAFETY *(continued)*

Lead Agency	Description	Status
Secretary of Public Safety	The Community Profile Database, created by the Governor's Office for Substance Abuse Prevention (GOSAP), with its GOSAP Collaborative, is a one-stop, web-based, interactive tool that provides easy access to a variety of community-level data and prevention resources. It can assist state and local prevention professionals, service providers, and the faith community in assessing needs, targeting resources, and planning services for youth and families to combat gang activity. Commission's involvement: Tracking	The Community Profile Database is recognized with a national "Best of the Web" award for innovation. The database provides: ▪ community planners with consistent, easily accessible data to help them assess local needs; ▪ both public and private organizations with uniform, comparable data to use in developing grant applications; ▪ objective data for use in benchmarking and monitoring progress toward achieving targeted outcomes; ▪ community risk factors for gang activity (by age group, race/ethnic group, gender, city or county, zip code, where available); ▪ resources for addressing gang problems: - evidence-based programs serving Virginia's youth and families; - links to best practices for addressing gang problems; - links to network with other people involved in gang prevention and early intervention activities; and - training opportunities to instruct individuals how to use the database. Each activity is evaluated to monitor outcomes and improve effectiveness.
Virginia State Police	The General Assembly through Item 397-E of the proposed 2009-2010 Biennial Budget appropriated \$1.5 million for the Crimes Against Children Task Force. The task force's units are based in Fairfax and Bedford Counties and are charged with assisting police locate Internet predators. Commission's involvement: Tracking	Operation Blue Ridge Thunder through the Bedford County Virginia Sheriff's Office is comprised of a cooperative group of law enforcement agencies on the international, federal, regional, state and local levels. The Mission of Operation Blue Ridge Thunder is to safeguard our children from Internet crime by weaving a seamless web of protection around them, across the nation and around the globe. The VA State Police task force is known as the Northern Virginia Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force (NOVA ICAC) and is responsible for the most northern counties in Virginia and Washington, D.C.

JUVENILE JUSTICE

Lead Agency	Description	Status
State Crime Commission	HJR 113 (Moran, 2008), HJR 136 (Moran, 2006) directs the State Crime Commission to continue for a third year its study of Virginia's juvenile justice system. The resolution directs the 2008 study to focus on: ▪ review of the severity of offenses committed by juveniles in the Commonwealth; ▪ evaluation of the effects on the learning environment and educational process, particularly for other students, when juvenile offenders are returned to the public school classroom; ▪ identification and examination of more effective methods of rehabilitating juveniles, particularly juveniles who commit serious offenses; and ▪ development of recommendations for changes to provide a more effective juvenile justice system. Commission's involvement: Tracking	<i>House Document 7</i> (2006) was published to report first year study findings. At its May 22, 2007 meeting, the Commission approved its second-year study plan, which calls for a Final Report to the Governor and the 2008 General Assembly, which was published as <i>House Document 10</i> (2008). The plan called for a comprehensive analysis of Title 16.1 of the <i>Code of Virginia</i> to determine the adequacy and effectiveness of Virginia's statutes and procedures related to juvenile delinquency and to conduct a statewide survey of Juvenile & Domestic Relations Court Judges, focus groups of professionals and stakeholders and other pertinent activities. The Commission will meet in Spring 2008 to approve its third year study plan.
State and Local Juvenile Justice Agencies	Virginia Council on Juvenile Detention (VCJD) assists the Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) in developing standards, certification and evaluation related to detention programs and facilities. VCJD provides information and input to DJJ to aid in the formulation of detention policies and suggests improvements and/or modifications. VCJD also facilitates the collection and dissemination of information related to juvenile detention. Commission's involvement: Tracking	The Council meets quarterly. Its first meeting in 2008 was held on March 4-6 in Roanoke.
Criminal Justice Services	The Advisory Committee on Juvenile Justice is responsible for reviewing the operation of the juvenile justice system, for recommending needs and priorities for the development and improvement of the juvenile justice system and for advising the Governor on matters related to the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act. Commission's involvement: Tracking	The Virginia Advisory Committee on Juvenile Justice and the Juvenile Services Section, Department of Criminal Justice Services, will co-sponsor the annual Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Conference on June 19-20, 2008 in Hampton. The Virginia Commission on Youth hosted a table at the conference to educate participants on the <i>Collection of Evidence-based Treatment Modalities for Children with Mental Health Needs</i>.

MENTAL HEALTH

Lead Agency	Description	Status
Joint Legislative Audit and Review Committee	HJR 105 (Valentine, 2008) Directs the Joint Legislative Audit and Review Committee to study over the course of two years Virginia's autism services in order to: ▪ identify and evaluate best practices in the provision of services for the diagnosis, treatment, and management of autism; ▪ methods of providing services to persons with autism; ways to disseminate information regarding best practices; and ▪ provide autism education and training for law enforcement and judicial personnel. In conducting its study, JLARC shall: ▪ assess current availability and delivery of autism services in the Commonwealth; ▪ identify best practices in the diagnosis, treatment, and management of Autism Spectrum Disorders; ▪ evaluate the need and means to disseminate information collected during assessments to relevant service areas including education, law enforcement, rehabilitation, mental health, and emergency services; ▪ assess service delivery in other states; ▪ identify current autism educational and training opportunities available to or provided to law-enforcement and judicial personnel, including law-enforcement officers, public safety personnel, first responders, judges, magistrates, attorneys for the Commonwealth, public defenders, and other personnel involved in the legal system; ▪ identify best practices and areas for improvement in autism education and training for law-enforcement and judicial personnel, and other models for providing autism education for law-enforcement and judicial personnel; and ▪ recommend ways to improve the delivery of autism services in the Commonwealth, including methods of providing the range of autism educational and training opportunities to law-enforcement and judicial personnel. Commission's involvement: Tracking	The Joint Legislative Audit and Review Commission shall complete its meetings for the first year by November 30, 2008, and for the second year by November 30, 2009, and the Director shall submit to the Division of Legislative Automated Systems an executive summary of its findings and recommendations no later than the first day of the next Regular Session of the General Assembly for each year. Each executive summary shall state whether the Joint Legislative Audit and Review Commission intends to submit to the General Assembly and the Governor a report of its findings and recommendations for publication as a House or Senate document.
Office for Protection and Advocacy	The Virginia Office for Protection and Advocacy has an Advisory Council for the Protection and Advocacy for Individuals with Mental Illness Program (PAIMI). This Council is funded by the federal funds and is intended to promote the provision of legal and advocacy services for adults and children with mental illness who live in a hospital or other facility providing care and treatment for their illness. Commission's involvement: Tracking	The PAIMI Advisory Council is comprised of 15-20 members, broadly representative of the diverse culture and geography of Virginia. The Council membership includes individuals who have received or are receiving mental health services and family members, attorneys, mental health professionals, individuals knowledgeable about mental illness, and providers of mental health services. At least 60 percent of the membership is composed of individuals who have received or are receiving mental health services or who are family members of such individuals. The Council also includes at least one member who is the parent of a minor child with mental illness.

MENTAL HEALTH (continued)

Lead Agency	Description	Status
Virginia Commission on Youth	SJR 358 (2003) directed the Commission on Youth to update biennially its publication, the <i>Collection of Evidence-based Treatment Modalities for Children and Adolescents with Mental Health Treatment Needs</i> (House Document 9, 2003). The purpose of the <i>Collection</i> is to identify effective treatment modalities and practices for children, including juvenile offenders, with mental health treatment needs. Moreover, utilization of evidence-based practices in the field of children's mental health may offer the Commonwealth cost savings. Commission's involvement: Commission Study	Three editions of this publication (2003, 2005, and 2008) have been widely disseminated primarily through web-based technology and secondarily through print copies. An Advisory Group of practitioners and experts in the field participated in the planning of documents. The Advisory Group met on April 1, 2008 and will continue meeting to discuss the next biennial update. Commission staff will report on the progress of the <i>Collection</i> at the April 23, 2008 Commission meeting.
Mental Health, Mental Retardation and Substance Abuse Services	Best Practices for Housing for Persons with Disabilities Item 314-Z of the proposed 2009-2010 Biennial Budget directs the Department of Mental Health, Mental Retardation and Substance Abuse Services (DMHMRSAS), in conjunction with the Virginia Housing Development Authority, the Department of Housing and Community Development, the Virginia Association of Community Services Boards, The Arc of Virginia and the Virginia Network of Private Providers, with input from other statewide advocacy organizations, shall report on investment models and best-practices for the development of affordable and accessible community-based housing for persons with intellectual and related developmental disabilities. The report shall include how other states have provided financial incentives for the acquisition, renovation or construction of community housing. The report shall identify specific funding options that will increase the availability of community housing, leverage state dollars, and promote individualized, person-centered housing for people with intellectual and related developmental disabilities. The report shall also include recommendations on the number of housing units, the location and type of units as well as an allocation methodology to ensure equitable statewide distribution. The report shall also address access to transportation and use of informal and formal support networks that are critical components of the success of housing models for this population. Commission's involvement: Tracking	Budget language directs the Department to submit its report to the Governor and the Chairmen of the House Appropriations and Senate Finance Committees by October 1, 2009.

MENTAL HEALTH *(continued)*

Lead Agency	Description	Status
Virginia Association of Community Services Boards	Virginia Child and Family Services Council, which is one of six councils of the Virginia Association of Community Services Boards, addresses issues pertaining to service delivery to children and their families. It also provides a forum for information sharing and networking among the respective task force members. The Council collaborates with the Department of Mental Health, Mental Retardation and Substance Abuse Services and other relevant state agencies to assure consistent policies, protocols, procedures and data collection methods in service delivery and reporting. Commission's involvement: Tracking	The Council meets quarterly, on the first Friday of the month.
Mental Health, Mental Retardation and Substance Abuse Services	The Child and Family Behavioral Health Policy and Planning Committee for Children's Services – Item 315-E of the proposed 2009-2010 Biennial Budget - is the continuing workgroup designated to develop a comprehensive plan for children's services across disabilities. The committee is to develop an integrated policy and plan, including the necessary legislation and budget amendments, to provide and improve access by children, including juvenile offenders to mental health, substance abuse, and mental retardation services. Commission's involvement: Committee Member	Budget language requires the Department of Mental Health, Mental Retardation and Substance Abuse Services to report to the Governor and the Chairmen of the House Appropriations and Senate Finance Committees by June 30 each year. The Committee met March 13 and April 10, 2008 to discuss the direction of 315-E Committee.
Mental Health, Mental Retardation and Substance Abuse Services	Training and Resources for Effective Adolescent Treatment (Project TREAT) Interagency Adolescent Workgroup is a three-year initiative funded through SAMHSA and managed through the Office of Child and Family Services of the Department of Mental Health, Mental Retardation and Substance Abuse Services. Funds were allocated to 15 states and the District of Columbia to increase capacity to meet the complex and multi-faceted needs of youth with a substance use or co-occurring disorder and to provide services that are accessible, culturally competent, comprehensive, and community based. Project TREAT's goal is to develop and improve coordination of substance abuse and/or co-occurring treatment services for adolescents across Virginia. The workgroup, determined to be a critical component of a three-year federally-funded project of the DMHMRSAS, will be tasked with linking relevant agencies and organizations to assess the status of service delivery and to develop strategies to enhance these services. Commission's involvement: Workgroup Member	The workgroup launched an on-line survey of youth services in the Community Service Boards (CSBs) to determine what substance abuse or co-occurring treatment services are available for adolescents and how these services are rendered. Information received will assist DMHMRSAS and Project TREAT staff in addressing the needs of the CSB workforce and their service delivery capabilities. The same survey is being sent to private providers in order to assess the services available in the private sector. Project TREAT is offering CSBs and facilities serving adolescents with technical assistance and training in evidence-based practice for substance abuse or co-occurring disorders. This are provided through a grant application process in a succession of request periods. Project TREAT's offers a statewide series of free trainings sponsored by the Virginia Department of Mental Health, Mental Retardation, and Substance Abuse Services (DMHMRSAS), the Mid-Atlantic ATTC and the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA). Training was held February 21-22, 2008 in Charlottesville.

MENTAL HEALTH *(continued)*

Lead Agency	Description	Status
Mental Health, Mental Retardation and Substance Abuse Services	Virginia Integrated Network of Family Organizations (VA INFO) is a coalition led by a Steering Committee of Family Voices of Virginia, Parent to Parent of Virginia, the Arc of Virginia's Family Involvement Project, Virginia Federation of Families (formerly Parents and Children Coping Together [PACCT]) and the Parent Educational Advocacy Training Center (PEATC). Its primary purpose is to ensure that families of children and young adults with special needs obtain the optimal and most current knowledge, supports, and services. The non-profit coalition is funded by the Department of Mental Health, Mental Retardation, and Substance Abuse Services and the federal Center on Medicare and Medicaid Services Block Grant funds. Commission's involvement: Committee Member	The VA INFO coalition meets bi-monthly.

HEALTH

Lead Agency	Description	Status
Health	The Interagency Suicide Prevention Coordinating Committee is comprised of representatives from the Departments of Health, Education, Mental Health, Aging, Corrections Education, Office of Chief Medical Examiner, CSBs, private and public agencies with an interest in suicide prevention, as well as the Commission on Youth. Its purpose is to advise the Department of Health on its suicide prevention activities. Commission's involvement: Committee Member	Suicide prevention efforts in Virginia are a collaborative effort headed by the Department of Health (VDH), but involving participants from many disciplines. The VDH program was a recommendation of the Commission on Youth Suicide Prevention Plan, <i>House Document 29</i> (2001). In addition to the committee's quarterly meetings, VDH has established a workgroup of local service providers: the Virginia Network for Suicide Prevention Coalitions. This group supports both new and existing suicide prevention efforts at the community level. Network members met in January to identify ways to increase the number of coalitions in the state that can support local suicide prevention, training and education efforts and sustain them when grant monies are no longer available.
Health	The Virginia Tobacco Settlement Foundation (VTSF) has established Regional Advisory Boards to provide a local connection between VTSF and communities throughout the state. Nine boards oversee the review process to select grantees that will receive funding to implement youth tobacco use prevention programs. Commission's involvement: Regional Advisory Board Member	Virginia Tobacco Settlement Foundation (VTSF) recently conducted a survey requesting feedback for training ideas. As a result, VTSF will offer 21 workshops in 2008. These trainings are open to anyone in the prevention field. Trainings will be conducted on adolescent development, dealing with difficult students, designing effective programs for youth, managing behaviors in youth programs, measuring program outcomes, strategic planning, sustainability and community assessment and planning. These trainings will be offered in Roanoke and in Richmond for a fee of \$25.

HEALTH (continued)

Lead Agency	Description	Status
Health	ESCAPE: Enhancing State Capacity to Address Child and Adolescent Health through Violence Prevention is federally funded through CDC to address violence toward or among youth, including suicide, child maltreatment, dating violence, sexual violence, bullying, and violence in the school and community. ESCAPE's planning and implementation phases focus on shared risk and protective factors. Commission's involvement: Committee Member	During the 3 rd year of the federal grant, ESCAPE is in the implementation phase of the grant.
Medical Assistance Services	The Child Health Insurance Program (CHIP) Advisory Committee, which was established by the 2005 General Assembly, works to improve outreach and enrollment of FAMIS and to provide input on policies, operations, utilization of services and the health outcomes of children in FAMIS and FAMIS Plus (the state Medicaid program). Commission's involvement: Tracking	As of April 4, 2008 – 88,901 children were enrolled into the FAMIS program, with an additional 351,554 children enrolled into the state Medicaid program.
Health/Medical Assistance Services	A State Leadership Workshop to improve Early Periodic Screening Diagnosis and Treatment (EDPSDT) took place January 7-8, 2008 in Richmond. Through a federal technical assistance grant from the Maternal Child Health Bureau, participants will convene for open discussions about EPSDT in Virginia and other states and to identify best practices that will improve the State's services. Commission's involvement: Participant	News of the workshop is being disseminated throughout Virginia. Registration will open in late Fall.
Health	Section 32.1-46F of the <i>Code of Virginia</i> requires the Board of Health to review vaccines included in the Recommended Childhood and Adolescent Immunization Schedules developed by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices, the Academy of Pediatrics and the American Academy of Family Physicians. It also addresses the minimum vaccine requirements for school and day care attendance. Commission's involvement: Tracking	Since the Board's August 2006 review, meningococcal vaccine for 11 and 12 year old children has been added to the recommendations. Adoption of the recommendation did not require legislative action. Currently no state has a middle school mandate for this vaccine, but the Commissioner has indicated that adding the vaccine as a school requirement would be, in his opinion, good public health practice. Consideration is being given to recommending in 2008 a mandate in Virginia middle schools.
Health	The Virginia Department of Health's (VDH) Commonwealth's Healthy Approach and Mobilization Plan for Inactivity, Obesity and Nutrition (CHAMPION) continues to work towards a comprehensive statewide plan to reduce obesity in Virginia through nutrition and exercise. Commission's involvement: Tracking	Following VDH Family Health Services Review, the working document will be presented to a new State Committee being appointed by the Governor. The completed comprehensive statewide plan is tentatively scheduled to be released by September 30, 2008, although VDH indicates its timeline is by design flexible.

HEALTH (continued)

Lead Agency	Description	Status
Health	Virginia Early Childhood (VECCS) Comprehensive Systems functions as a statewide strategic planning workgroup with the purpose of supporting state maternal and child health agencies and their partner organizations in collaborative efforts to strengthen early childhood system of services for young children and their families. Although the planning workgroup's work concluded with the official planning phase, plan implementation is 2006-2009. This public/private partnership is part of a five year initiative launched by the federal Maternal and Child Health Bureau (MCHB) to support states' efforts to build comprehensive early childhood systems. Commission's involvement: Tracking	On July 1, 2003, VDH received the initial two-year planning grant, with a budget of \$100,000 per year. A workgroup defined five focus areas in the initiative: ▪ Access to medical homes; ▪ Mental health and social-emotional development; ▪ Early care and education services; ▪ Parent education; and ▪ Family support services. On September 25-26, 2006 in Reston, VDH participated along with other state coordinators in a national meeting with the theme of <i>Implementing Comprehensive Systems for Early Childhood</i>. The meeting was organized around the themes of governance, early childhood consultation, financing, and strengthening families. The resulting plan was published by VDH in 2006, and implementation began that year. VDH held a strategic planning meeting on June 13, 2006. VECCS has successfully completed the process of writing the grant for the two-year implementation phase, which has an annual budget of approximately \$150,000. The project has seen growth in all five component areas since its inception; however, parent education and data and evaluation have become the primary focuses for the final year of implementation. The funding period for this phase continues through August 31, 2008.

SUBSTANCE ABUSE

Lead Agency	Description	Status
Legislative Services	SJR 77 (Hanger) creates a joint subcommittee to study strategies and models for substance abuse prevention and treatment that effectively reduce the costly service demands created by substance abuse. The joint subcommittee shall: ▪ identify and characterize the nature of substance abuse in the Commonwealth; ▪ identify current state policies and programs targeting substance abuse prevention and treatment; ▪ examine the cost of such policies and programs; ▪ identify and examine policies and prevention programs from other leading states; and ▪ benchmark Virginia's programs and policies against those of the leading states. Commission's involvement: Tracking	The joint subcommittee shall be limited to four meetings for the 2008 interim, and the direct costs of this study shall not exceed \$6,200 without approval. If a companion joint resolution of the other chamber is agreed to, written authorization of both Clerks shall be required. The joint subcommittee shall complete its meetings by November 30, 2008, and the chairman shall submit to the Division of Legislative Automated Systems an executive summary of its findings and recommendations no later than the first day of the 2009 Regular Session of the General Assembly.

SUBSTANCE ABUSE *(continued)*

Lead Agency	Description	Status
Joint Legislative Audit and Review Commission	HJR 683 (Landes, 2007) and SJR 395 (Hanger, 2007) direct JLARC to address the costs, financial and intangible, of substance abuse in the Commonwealth. HJR 683 focuses on the offender population; SJR 395 addresses all Virginians, including youth. In addition, the study effort addresses societal problems affecting children and families, including family separation, child abuse and domestic violence. Specifically, JLARC is directed to: ▪ study the impact of substance abuse on State and local budgets; ▪ determine savings that could be achieved through enhanced substance abuse services; and ▪ recommend funding initiatives needed to provide adequate services to Virginians who need them. Commission's involvement: Tracking	JLARC received its interim study briefing at its December 10, 2007 meeting and is scheduled to review its 2008 study plans at its May 2008 meeting. The resolutions direct JLARC to complete its meetings for the second year by November 30, 2008, and to submit to the Division of Legislative Automated Systems an executive summary of its findings and recommendations no later than the first day of the 2009 General Assembly Session. JLARC will receive a final briefing and staff report in Spring 2008.

HUMAN SERVICES

Lead Agency	Description	Status
State and Local Agencies Representatives	Virginia Association for Local Human Services Officials (VALHSO) is comprised of State and local government officials. Full membership is limited to the single most senior official in a locality who has broad responsibilities for multiple agencies delivering human services. Most members have direct oversight or liaison responsibilities for health, mental health and social services with considerably broader responsibilities. VALHSO advises State agency heads or members of the General Assembly on these various topics. Commission's involvement: Tracking	VALHSO generally meets quarterly; however, additional meetings are added as needed for specific areas of interest.

EDUCATION

Lead Agency	Description	Status
House Appropriations Committee/ Senate Finance Committee	Joint Subcommittee on Elementary and Secondary Education Funding, which was authorized first in the 2006 Acts of the Assembly (Item I-H#2), continued its work as directed by both the 2007 Budget Bill and, as of this date, tentatively the 2008 Budget Bill. The intent of Budget Bill authorization has been to provide on-going direction and oversight of Standards of Quality funding cost policies and to make recommendations to their respective committees. The Joint Subcommittee shall: ▪ study re-benchmarking cost trends and drivers; ▪ review existing Standards of Quality (SOQ), incentive, categorical, and school facilities funding streams within Direct Aid to Public Education, as well as the Literary Fund, and identify options for efficiencies and cost savings and for greater funding flexibility, especially to better prepare the state and localities for future economic downturns; ▪ consider alternatives to across-the-board compensation supplements to better target state funds; ▪ review funding streams for students at-risk of academic failure, and assess whether such programs should be incorporated into the SOQ; and ▪ examine special education funding issues. Commission's involvement: Delegate Tata represents the House Appropriations Committee; Senator Houck represents the Senate Finance Committee on this Joint Subcommittee.	The Joint Subcommittee met twice in 2007. Presentations focused on the history and constitutional basis of SOQs (Joint Legislative Audit and Review Commission), current SOQ funding cost policies (House Appropriations/Senate Finance), an analysis of Re-benchmarking cost trends and drives (Department of Education) and program reviews of Direct Aid and the School Efficiency Reviews. The Joint Subcommittee's preliminary report was published as <i>Report Document 179</i> (2007). Technical assistance is provided by school divisions, the Department of Education, and JLARC.
Office of the Secretary of Education	Virginia's P-16 Education Council was created by Executive Order 100 (2005) and extended by Executive Order 40 (2006) to integrate reform efforts in education in the Commonwealth. It is intended to offer a variety of perspectives on education and to make recommendations on enhancing a seamless transition for students through the Virginia education system. A primary responsibility is to advise and react to initiatives within Virginia's grant from the NGA to develop effective models to "redesign" high schools and specifically to improve the transition of ninth graders from middle school. It is intended that the council will allow for a comprehensive, rather than piecemeal, approach to problem-solving. The council serves in an advisory capacity to the Governor, the Secretary, and State education agencies, and other key education policymakers. Commission's involvement: Delegate Tata serves on the Council.	The council, which is chaired by the Secretary of Education, generally meets every two months. Meeting topics have included early childhood development and pre-kindergarten education, the Department's workforce development conference and projects, career and technical education, the federal Partnership for the 21st Century Skills, the National Governors Associations Honor States grant, alignment of high school graduation and college entrance requirements, and the Commonwealth Scholars Program.

EDUCATION *(continued)*

Lead Agency	Description	Status
Education	The Student Advisory Committee to the Board of Education represents and serves the students of Virginia by acting as a liaison between students and the board, understanding and voicing the concerns and issues facing students, giving a fresh perspective to the board members, and providing a collective voice to provide feasible solutions. Commission's involvement: Tracking	The committee meets 3 times a year with two meetings coinciding with regularly scheduled board meetings. The committee includes high school students from each of the Department of Education's eight administrative regions and four middle school students selected at-large. The Committee met December 11, 2007 and February 20, 2008. The next meeting is scheduled for April 23, 2008.
Office of the Secretary of Education	Start Strong is an initiative to develop expanded access to pre-kindergarten for Virginia's four-year-olds. The 17-member Start Strong Council created by Executive Order 7 (January 2006) is charged with developing a public-private partnership to provide services in public schools and community settings, including the establishment of local Start Strong councils that bring together key child-serving agencies and organizations in each region or locality. The Council is also responsible for advising the Governor, the Secretary of Education, and the Secretary of Health and Human Resources on the development of infrastructure for the Strong Start programs and for making decisions necessary to implement the program. Council members include legislators, representatives from the public school system, private providers of early childhood education programs, elected local government officials, community business leaders and parents. Staff support is provided by the Office of the Governor, the Governor's cabinet secretaries, the Department of Education, and other agencies as appropriate. Commission's involvement: Delegate Tata serves on the Council.	The Start Strong Council, by mandate, meets at least quarterly to oversee the development of infrastructure for the Start Strong programs and to make decisions necessary to implement the program. There are six task forces which develop recommendations in the areas of Standards, Professional Development, Governance, Finance, Public Engagement, and Evaluation. In April 2008, seven regional forums are being held across the Commonwealth to provide information on the Governor's pre-K proposal, legislative and budget action, and best practice strategies for community planning and service delivery. Led by the Executive Director of the Governor's Working Group and hosted in partnership with United Way's Success By 6, the forums are discussing the latest information on the VPI initiative and state-level policy and program activities and provide opportunities for regions to share information and best practices with each other.

EDUCATION (continued)

Lead Agency	Description	Status
Education	The Commission on Civics Education was created in 2005 as an advisory committee in the executive branch. It is comprised of 23 members including the Governor, Lieutenant Governor, legislators, executive branch officials and citizens. Legislation was introduced during the 2008 General Assembly Session to extend the sunset provision of the Commission to July 1, 2010 – HB777 (Tata) and SB 306 (Reynolds). The three primary purposes of the advisory commission are to: ▪ Further the education of students on the importance of citizen involvement in a representative democracy; ▪ Promote the study of State and local government among the citizens; and ▪ Enhance communication and collaboration among organizations that conduct civic education programs. Commission's involvement: Delegate Tata chairs the commission.	Commission meetings are held at the call of the chair or whenever the majority of the members request. The Commission is in the process of discussing the feasibility of planning, presenting and financing a <i>Virginia Civics Education Summit</i> for 2008. The chair of the Commission on Civics Education is directed to submit to the Governor and the General Assembly an annual executive summary of the interim activity and work of the Commission no later than the first day of each regular session of the General Assembly.
Education	Know How Virginia is an initiative of the Virginia Career Education Foundation in partnership with the Virginia Department of Education, Virginia Community College System, State Council of Higher Education, and the Virginia Employment Commission. It presents a long-term public awareness campaign designed to: ▪ inform students and their parents, teachers, and counselors of rewarding career opportunities, particularly in high-demand and emerging fields; ▪ promote quality Career and Technical Education (CTE) in middle and high schools to support career exploration and preparation; and ▪ ensure a larger pool of qualified, motivated applicants for Virginia businesses and industries. The campaign has two components: ▪ an Umbrella Campaign that provides basic information on careers, career exploration, and the benefits of Career and Technical Education (CTE); ▪ Career-specific Campaigns underwritten by private-sector partners seeking to cultivate greater pools of qualified candidates for specific types of jobs. Commission's involvement: Tracking	The partnership's website—www.knowhowvirginia.org—provides an overview of the program's activities. In addition, the website gives information about one-time events and ongoing programs available in each region or throughout the state. Information is given on career fairs, student organization events, and numerous other career building opportunities.

EDUCATION *(continued)*

Lead Agency	Description	Status
Education	The Virginia Advisory Committee for Career and Technical Education represents a standing committee of educators and representatives of the private sector. In partnership with the Virginia Department of Education, the committee recognizes annually the outstanding work of one business and industry partnership and one award for an advisory council/committee for each of the eight Superintendent's Regions. Commission's involvement: Tracking	Meetings for 2008 are scheduled for January 16, April 3, and June 16.
Board of Education	The Board of Education will hold public hearings regarding the proposed changes to Virginia's special education regulations. These public hearings will take place in the summer of 2008 Commission's involvement: Tracking	Hearing Dates and Locations for proposed special education regulations during 2008 are listed below. All meetings will be held 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. Those wishing to speak will be asked to sign in at 6:00 p.m. May 12 - Halifax Co. High School, Halifax May 13 - Abingdon High School, Abingdon May 14 - Hidden Valley High School, Roanoke May 15 - Freedom High School, South Riding May 27 - Clover Hill High School, Chesterfield May 28 - Norview High School, Norfolk June 2 - Oakton High School, Vienna June 3 - Essex High School, Tappahannock June 4 - Martin Luther King, Jr. Performing Arts Center. Charlottesville
Education	HJR 130 (Hall, 2006) encourages the Department of Education (DOE) to monitor and collect data and information on the State's high school dropout and graduation rates. DOE is required to: ▪ Determine the relevancy of the current process and procedures for defining, counting and reporting school dropout statistics and consider the need for revisions in such process and procedures and compliance by school divisions; ▪ Compile data concerning the number of students who dropped out of school before the seventh grade and the reasons why, and the number of students who graduate annually, for school years 2002-2005; ▪ Ascertain whether, by whom, and the manner in which students who are at-risk of dropping out are counseled to remain in school; and ▪ Identify local initiatives and efforts to retain and retrieve students at risk of dropping out, particularly populations with low high school graduation rates. Commission's involvement: Tracking	The Graduation and Dropout Committee is a standing committee of the Board of Education. HJR 130 requires DOE to apprise policymakers fully regarding Virginia's dropout and high school graduation rates, and of any statutory, fiscal or regulatory changes that may be necessary to avoid an increase in the school dropout rate. The Department of Education's statistics on graduation and dropout rates can be viewed on its website and also Virginia.gov.

EDUCATION *(continued)*

Lead Agency	Description	Status
Board of Education	HB 19 (Fralin, 2006) requires the Board of Education to collect, analyze and report high school graduation and dropout data using a formula prescribed by the Board of Education. Commission's involvement: Tracking	The Board of Education published <i>House Document 81, The High School Graduation Rate Formula</i> (2006) in accordance with its mandate. The Board's Committee on Graduation and Dropouts studied seven widely-discussed graduation rate formulas and evaluated each. At the Committee's recommendation, the Board of Education approved adoption of the National Governors Association On-Time Graduation Rate formula. The Department of Education's statistics on graduation and dropout rates can be viewed on its website and also Virginia.gov. In Fall 2008, the records of first-time freshmen (first group of students as testing identifiers) in 2004-2005 can be linked to their records four years later to determine their graduation or completion status. On-Time High School Graduation rate will be reported by Virginia for the first time in Fall 2008 for students who entered the ninth grade four years earlier.
	In action approved the General Assembly, Item 135 #23d (2007), the newly-funded Teacher Incentives in Hard-to-Staff Schools initiative is a program designed to improve student achievement in "hard-to-staff" schools by attracting and retaining licensed, highly qualified, and experienced teachers through an incentive-based program. Teachers who are eligible to receive the hiring and retention incentives must meet criteria established by the Department and applicable regulations in the federal No Child Left Behind Act of 2001. Commission's involvement: Tracking	The program was begun in Fall 2004 in Caroline County and Franklin City. Beginning in 2005-06, the program was expanded to Brunswick and Greenville Counties and Petersburg City. (Brunswick and Greenville no longer participate.) Besides offering hiring incentives, the program offers training to the entire school staff, along with a stipend for participating. Schools may also receive a per-student allocation to improve the school environment. The <i>Code of Virginia</i> requires annual reporting to the Chairmen of the Senate Finance and House Appropriations Committees by the Department. <i>Report Document 155</i> (2007) details the findings from this pilot year. The report can be accessed on the General Assembly Legislative Information System's website.

To access reports submitted to the Governor and to the General Assembly, visit the Legislative Information System's website at <http://legis.state.va.us>. Click "Studies and Commissions" in the menu bar on the left. Then click "Reports to the General Assembly."



Activities in State Government Related to Youth and Families

is an annual publication of the Virginia Commission on Youth which is updated throughout the study year. The Commission extends its appreciation to staff members in the Legislative, Executive and Judicial Branches who lend their invaluable assistance in providing information on an on-going basis.

Commission staff welcomes comments at any time and invites submission of material for its
2008 Activities in State Government Related to Youth and Families.

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