



Activities in State Government Related to Youth and Families 2007

Prepared by the Virginia Commission on Youth
April 3, 2007

Topic	Lead Agency	Description	Status
Comprehensive Services	Legislative Services	SJR 96 (Hanger, 2006) establishes a joint subcommittee to study the cost effectiveness of the Comprehensive Services Act (CSA) and to collaborate with the Joint Legislative and Audit Review Commission (JLARC) regarding its evaluation of the administration of the Act. The study is being conducted in two phases. In the first phase of the study, SJR 96 directs the joint subcommittee to review the administration of the CSA by state and local governments, including projections of caseloads, service needs and costs, quality of services provided, and to make recommendations for improvement of program services and strategies for cost containment. The joint subcommittee is directed to: ▪ Evaluate the costs, quality, and reimbursement of children's residential services, ▪ Examine interdepartmental regulations of these facilities, determine whether CSA children receive appropriate care, and ▪ Apprise the joint subcommittee of the status of its study and findings. Commission's involvement: Tracking	The joint subcommittee met two times in the first year of the study. Legislative Services is staffing the study cooperatively with JLARC. Meeting dates are not yet established for 2007. The resolution requires that the joint subcommittee and JLARC to complete their respective meetings by November 30, 2007 and to submit an executive summary of the findings and recommendations to the Division of Legislative Automated Systems prior to the start of the 2008 General Assembly Session.

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Comprehensive Services	Joint Legislative Review and Audit Commission	HJR 60 (Nixon, 2006) directs JLARC to evaluate the administration of the Comprehensive Services Act (CSA). In conducting this two-year study, the Commission shall, among other things: ▪ Evaluate the costs, quality, and reimbursement of children's residential services; ▪ Examine the interdepartmental regulation of these facilities; ▪ Assess the administration of the CSA by state and local governments; ▪ Evaluate the quality and capacity of services available to and provided for CSA children; and ▪ Determine whether CSA children receive appropriate care, case management, education, and supervision. This study is a recommendation of the Joint Subcommittee Studying Private Youth and Single Family Group Homes in the Commonwealth pursuant to HJR 685 (Nixon, 2005). Commission's involvement: Tracking	JLARC approved its study plan on May 8, 2006 and submitted the final report on December 11, 2006 (<i>House Document 12</i>, 2006). The report contained six key findings and 28 recommendations which focused on the need to: • Improve licensing standards and enforcement efforts; • Control expenditures for residential services; • Address the gaps in availability of community-based services; • Improve access to reliable information; and • Help local CSA programs by providing greater state resources for program administration and additional guidance on prioritizing responsibilities.
Comprehensive Services	Joint Legislative Review and Audit Commission	Custody Relinquishment and the Comprehensive Services Act - On December 11, 2006, the Joint Legislative Subcommittee Studying the Comprehensive Services Act (SJR 96, 2006) asked JLARC to examine the extent to which the opinion issued by the Attorney General (December 6, 2006) would impact the size of the caseload and expenditures of CSA. The 2007 General Assembly passed Senate Bill 1332 (Davis), which would provide access to services so that parents do not have to relinquish custody in order to obtain mental health treatment for their child. This bill contains a 2008 reenactment clause. In addition, a budget amendment directs the Office of Comprehensive Services (OCS) to collect additional information and estimate the fiscal impact of SB 1332. Commission's involvement: Tracking	In March 2007, JLARC released a follow-up report for the Custody Relinquishment and Comprehensive Services Act. Recommendations of the report focused around the state's current policy. The report also cited that the Office of Comprehensive Services (OCS) should take the lead in ensuring that current policies are consistent with state law and issue any needed clarifications to localities. On March 27, 2007 the Commissioners of the Departments of Social Services and Mental Health, Mental Retardation, and Substance Abuse Services, along with the Executive Director of OCS, sent out notices to all effective parties recognizing that Virginia's current foster care prevention policy is not consistent with the Comprehensive Services Act. The memo also stated that there has been inconsistent local administration on determining eligibility for foster care prevention services. As a result, some families may not receive the services for their children to which they are legally entitled, without relinquishing custody. As a result, the Secretary of Health and Human Resources issued corrective actions necessary to ensure compliance with the current law. OCS will present the proposed guidelines to the State Executive Council on April 18.

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Comprehensive Services	Office of Comprehensive Services	The State Executive Council (SEC) oversees the activities of the Office of Comprehensive Services (OCS) and establishes collaborative program policy development, fiscal policy development, and administrative oversight for the provision of child-centered, family-focused and community-based services to eligible emotionally and behaviorally troubled children/youth and their families in the least restrictive, appropriate environment. 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. The next meeting is April 18, 2007. Item 279-J of the introduced 2006-2008 State Budget requires the SEC to biennially publish and disseminate to the General Assembly and Community Policy and Management Teams a progress report on comprehensive services for children, youth and families and a plan for such services for the succeeding biennium states by December 20 in odd-numbered years.
Comprehensive Services	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 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 many presentations regarding state and local activities for children's services. Meetings for 2007 are January 4, March 1, April 5, May 3 and June 7.
Comprehensive Services	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 is required 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	Item 279-B-#2d the 2006-2008 State 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	Office of Comprehensive Services	Statewide Rates for Treatment Foster Care – Item 279-L of the 2007 Enrolled Budget requires the Office of Comprehensive Services, in cooperation with the Departments of Social Services and Medical Assistance Services, League of Social Services Executives, treatment foster care provider associations, and other state agencies, as appropriate, to examine establishing statewide rates for treatment foster care that conform with federal and state law and to determine the impact on federal, state and local funding. Commission's involvement: Tracking	The 2007 Enrolled Budget requires the Office of Comprehensive Services to report with recommendations to the Governor and the Chairmen of the Senate Finance and House Appropriations Committees no later than October 1, 2007.

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Child Welfare	Aging	The Kinship Care Initiative Statewide Task Force and Information Network focuses on inter-generational activities, as well as communication issues among the kinship care community. Commission's involvement: Task Force Member	The Task Force met February 22, 2007. Presentations were given on the new Virginia Foster, Adoptive and Kinship Parents Association, 2007 General Assembly kinship legislation, and Department of Social Services activities related to kinship care. A regional conference on kinship care was held at I.C. Norcom High School in Portsmouth. Virginia Tech researchers are looking for grandparents raising grandchildren ages 12 to 18 to complete a one- to two-hour questionnaire. They are conducting a study to learn new ways to support these kin caregivers. Participants will receive a \$20 gift card to Wal-Mart. Interested participants can call 866-220-4103.
Child Welfare	Social Services	The Kinship Care Task Force – co-chaired by Senator Miller and Commissioner Anthony Conyers, Jr. – continues its work addressing the needs of grandparents 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: Task Force Member	The Task Force has cited the following four major accomplishments as of March 2007: case management and advocacy; definition of Kinship Care in the Code of Virginia; legal assistance/Older American funds; and training for professionals on kinship care issues. In December 2006 VDSS suspended work to implement Title IV-E Waiver for Subsidized Permanent Custody (children in foster care placed with a relative), pending further information about other state guardianship programs with state-only funding. Commission staff provided a legislative update to the Task Force on March 29, 2007, its first meeting of the year.
Child Welfare	Department of Social Services/ Office of the Governor	Virginia Early Childhood Foundation is a statewide nonprofit public-private partnership that blends resources to maximize efficiency and effectiveness toward its vision that every child in Virginia will enter kindergarten healthy and ready to succeed in school and in life. Its mission is to drive a coordinated, comprehensive system of state and local, public and private resources to strengthen the ability of all Virginia families to provide a smart beginning for children from birth to age five. The Foundation was recommended by the Early Learning Council Task Force. The Early Learning Council's responsibility was to recommend strategies to improve Virginia's ability to provide early learning experiences to children from birth to age five. Commission's involvement: Tracking	The 2006-2008 State Budget appropriated \$2.5 million over the biennial to establish Virginia Early Childhood Foundation with the goal of promoting programs that enhance the health, safety and well-being of Virginia's youth. Item 340-D#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 no later than October 1 of each year for the preceding fiscal year. Item 340-D#2 requires the Foundation to submit to the Governor and the Chairmen of the House Appropriations and Senate Finance Committees a report on the actual amount of private and local government funds received by the Foundation on or before October 1 of each year. To date, this report is outstanding. February 21, 2007 Capital One committed \$100,000 contribution directed to the Virginia Early Childhood Foundation.

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Child Welfare	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. The I&R system: ▪ Collects and maintains accurate and complete resource data on a statewide basis; ▪ Links citizens needing human services with appropriate community resources to satisfy those needs; ▪ Assists in planning for human services delivery at the local, regional and state levels; and ▪ Provides information to assist decision-makers in allocating financial and other resources to respond to state and local human service priorities. 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. Following the 2005 General Assembly Session, the Commission adopted 2-1-1 as a stand-alone initiative for the 2005 study year. On February 10, 2006, 2-1-1 was launched in five of Virginia's six coverage areas: Roanoke, Staunton, Norfolk, Lynchburg, and Richmond. The 2006 General Assembly, at the recommendation of the Commission on Youth, appropriated additional funding (\$723,844 General Funds and \$531,791 Nongeneral Funds) to assist with the statewide implementation of 2-1-1. In November 2006, Virginia Department of Health Professions activated an information line available through 2-1-1 VIRGINIA for patients to locate a health professional for themselves, a child or an aging parent. Callers can now determine: ▪ Status of a healthcare provider's license; ▪ Actions taken on an individual's license by any of the 13 health regulatory boards; and ▪ Doctors' office hours and locations, languages spoken, hospital affiliation.
Child Welfare	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. There are also various subcommittees that pertain to child protection, permanency and training. Commission's involvement: Committee Member	The Department of Social Services typically holds CWAC meeting one a month. 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 implementing the PIP. Item 338-M #1&2 of the 2006-2008 State Budget requires DSS to report on the implementation of the PIP to the chairmen of the money committees by January 1 of each year.

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Child Welfare	Social Services	Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) is a block grant created by the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996. The TANF block grant replaced the Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC) program, which had provided cash welfare to poor families with children since 1935. Under the TANF structure, the federal government provides a block grant to the states, which use these funds to operate their own programs. States can use TANF dollars in ways designed to meet any of the purposes set out in federal law Commission's involvement: Tracking	Item 345 of the 2006-2008 State Budget directs the Department of Social Services to report annually on October 1 to the Governor, the Secretary of Health and Human Resources, the Chairmen of the House Appropriations and Senate Finance Committees and to the Department of Planning and Budget regarding the size, implementation status, and the nature of projects funded with TANF funds; results of all formal evaluations; and recommendations for continuation, expansion and redesign of the projects.
Child Welfare	Social Services	Virginia Community Action Partnership (VACAP) is the statewide membership association for Virginia's thirty non-profit private and public community action agencies that work to fight poverty and build self-sufficiency, for strong families and communities. Item 340-L of the Enrolled 2007 Budget directs the Department of Social Services to work in coordination with the Virginia Community Action Partnership to review areas of the Commonwealth that are not currently served by a community action agency and make recommendations concerning the appropriate level and location of additional services to be provided through either expanding the service area of existing community action agencies or encouraging the creation of new community action agencies. In addition, the budget language directs the department to examine the potential costs associated with providing service in unserved areas and recommend a timetable for phasing in additional services. Commission's involvement: Tracking	Budget language requires the Department of Social Services to report its findings no later than October 1, 2007 to the Chairmen of the Senate Finance Committee and House Appropriations Committee, the Chairmen of the Senate Education and Health Committee and House Health, Welfare and Institutions Committee, the Secretary of Health and Human Resources, and the Department of Planning and Budget.

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Child Welfare	Office of the Secretary of Health and Human Services	Healthy Families Virginia - Prevent Child Abuse Virginia coordinates this statewide system of support. Healthy Families Virginia provides information for all new families about parenting and community resources. It makes home visiting services available to families who need personal guidance. Item 278-F of the 2007 Enrolled Budget Bill requires the Secretary of Health and Human Resources, in coordination with the Department of Social Services, to review and report on the strategic plan for Healthy Families Virginia. The review shall examine Prevent Child Abuse Virginia's survey of site capacity and sites appropriate for expansion. As part of the report, the Secretary shall review the findings of the Hampton Healthy Families Partnership Benchmark Study and recommend strategies that other communities may adopt to further reduce child abuse and neglect. Commission's involvement: Tracking	The budget language requires that the Secretary of Health and Human Resources report, no later than October 1, 2007 to the Governor, and the Chairmen of the House Appropriations and Senate Finance Committees on the review of the strategic plan for Healthy Families Virginia.
Child Welfare/ Adoption	Social Services	The Department of Social Services, in collaboration with the League of Social Services Executives and the director of the Office of Comprehensive Services, is directed by Item 338-O#1 of the 2006-2008 State Budget to study the Adoptions Subsidy Program. The study is to examine the relationship of the special needs adoption program to the federal Child and Family Services review Performance Improvement Plan requirements, focusing on causes of recent expenditure growth. The Task Force is to make recommendations on changes to moderate expenditure growth, while continuing to meet the needs of the affected children. Commission's involvement: Tracking	The Department is directed to report to the Governor, the money committees, and the Department of Planning and Budget on or before June 1, 2007.
Child Welfare/ Adoption	Social Services	SJR 377 (O'Brien, 2007) requests the Department of Taxation to examine current financial incentives in other states to support adoption. The Commonwealth currently does not offer any tax assistance to promote adoption. Cites prior studies that reveal the pressing need to find homes for children, but conclude that financial costs are a barrier to adoption. Commission's involvement: Tracking	SJR 377 directs the Department of Taxation to complete its meetings by November 30, 2007, and to submit to the Governor and the General Assembly an executive summary and a report of its findings and recommendations for publication as a House or Senate document. In addition, SJR 377 requires the executive summary and report to be submitted as provided in the procedures of the Division of Legislative Automated Systems for the processing of legislative documents and reports by the first day of the 2008 Regular Session of the General Assembly and that the report be posted on the General Assembly's website.

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Child Welfare/ Adoption and Foster Care	Social Services	On May 4, 2006, Virginia First Lady Anne Holton announced the newly-formed Virginia Foster, Adoptive and Kinship Parents Association, now known as FACES of Virginia Families. This association seeks to establish a grassroots effort for kinship parents, foster and adoptive parents in Virginia. The Association supports recruitment and retention of foster, kinship and adoptive parents, provides training and support, and provides information to the state about what families need in terms of support and training. <i>FACES</i> also advocates for the needs of youth and families. Commission's involvement: Tracking	FACES of Virginia Families is collaborating with the National Foster Parent Association (NFPA) to present a Permanency Training Track at the NFPA Annual Education Conference, May 24-27, 2007 in Washington, D.C. This workshop track is designed to assist foster, adoptive, and kinship families as well as caseworkers and other professionals in their efforts to help youth achieve permanency. <i>FACES</i> is also working with First Lady Anne Holton, who will present a keynote address at the conference and will host an evening reception and a Youth Leadership Breakfast for conference attendees from Virginia.
Child Welfare/ Adoption and Foster Care	Social Services	The Virginia Department of Social Services (VDSS) was directed by the 2006-2008 State Budget to continue reviewing current policies on Adoptions and Foster Care and to recommend mechanisms to expedite the adoption of children from foster care, as well as children not in the state's care. The Appropriations Act directs the Commissioner of VDSS to recruit a national expert on the adoption of children to co-chair the task force comprising of the Commissioner, the national expert, local department of social services staff, adoptive parents and other interested stakeholders. Commission's involvement: Tracking	The task force is directed to report its findings and policy recommendations to the Commission on Youth and the Chairmen of the money committees no later than June 30, 2007. The task force has met three times and is scheduled for meetings March 30 and April 27.
Child Welfare/ Child Care	Social Services	Automation of Day Care Assistance Program – Item 334-J of the 2006-2008 State Budget expresses the General Assembly's intent that the Department of Social Services automate day care assistance programs. 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 to the Governor and the General Assembly by October 15 of each year regarding the status of the day care assistance programs. On October 15, 2006, Commissioner Anthony Conyers, Jr., of the Department of Social Services submitted the report as required. He stated in the report that steps have been taken toward a comprehensive automated system to support the program; however, the automation to support the child care program has been limited.

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Child Welfare/ Child Care	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. CDCC 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	Following studies by the Joint Legislative Audit and Review Commission and the Joint Commission on Administrative Rules in 2004, new regulations were approved by CDDC on January 11, 2005. Those regulations include the following: qualifications for program leaders; staff-to-child ratios; general staff training; medication administration training; qualifications for program directors; and activity space. Many of these had a delayed effective date. CDCC held a planning retreat on May 11, 2006. As required by the <i>Code</i>, CDCC continues to review and adopt day regulations for licensure and operation of child day centers in accordance with the regulations referred to in § 63.2-1734. The Council met on March 8, 2007. The agenda and minutes are posted to the Virginia Regulatory Town Hall website.
Child Welfare/ Public Safety	Secretary of Health and Human Resources	SB 188 (Puller, 2006) directs the Secretary of Health and Human Resources, in consultation with the Secretary of Public Safety, to establish an integrated system for coordinating the planning and delivery of services for children with incarcerated parents among state, local, nonprofit and faith-based organizations in order to provide children with services to continue parental relationships with the incarcerated parent, when appropriate, and encourage healthy relationships in the family and community. This bill was a recommendation of the Joint Subcommittee Studying the Commonwealth's Program for Prisoner Reentry to Society (SJR 273, Puller, 2005). Commission's involvement: Tracking	In 2004, the Commission on Youth sent a letter to the Secretary of Health and Human Resources supporting Virginia's participation in the National Governor's Association Prisoner Reentry Policy Academy. In addition, the Commission on Youth has conducted two studies on children of incarcerated parents: <i>Needs of Children Whose Parents are Incarcerated</i>, (House Document 32, 1992) and <i>Children of Incarcerated Parents</i> (Unnumbered report document, 2003). The Secretariats of Health and Human Resources and Public Safety are currently working to implement this legislation.

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Child Welfare/ Public Safety	Office of the Secretary of Public Safety	Since 2003, Virginia has been one of seven states participating in the National Governors Association Prisoner Re-entry Policy Academy. One part of this multi-faceted strategy is the Virginia Reentry Pilot Projects. Executive Order 22 (2006) directs the Office of the Secretary of Public Safety to lead the Virginia Prisoner Reentry Policy Academy with the aim of promoting reentry strategies for offenders. Executive Order 22 directs the Academy to: ▪ Provide on-going coordination at the executive level of reentry initiatives across the state; ▪ Explore programs that will aid with the offender reintegration; ▪ Address policies and practices that impede successful reintegration; and ▪ Work collaboratively to implement new policies and procedures. Commission's involvement: Tracking	Executive Order 22 requires the Virginia Prisoner Reentry Policy Academy to submit a status report of actions taken to improve offender transitional and reentry services to the Governor and the Chairmen of the House Appropriations and Senate Finance Committees no later than November 15 of each year. The Academy will host a "Coming Home" Conference on April 30-May 1, 2007 in Portsmouth at the Renaissance Hotel and Waterfront Conference Center.
Child Welfare/ Public Safety	Legislative Services	HJR 652 (Welch, 2007) and SJR 327 (Puller, 2007) Continues the Joint Subcommittee to Study the Commonwealth's Program for Prisoner Reentry to Society. The resolutions direct the subcommittee to monitor the work of the Virginia Prisoner Reentry Policy Academy and its pilot programs and to make recommendations that may reasonably facilitate the successful reintegration of prisoners in their communities. In addition, the resolutions direct the subcommittee to evaluate the existing education program for prisoners in Virginia; identify program needs; review prisoner education programs in other states; consider financial aid alternatives to assist inmates in accessing college; examine the relationship between poor educational opportunities, delinquency, unidentified learning disabilities and crime; and determine the number of inmates with learning disabilities and the average reading level of inmates. Commission's Involvement: Tracking	The joint subcommittee is limited to four meetings during the 2007 Interim and shall complete its meetings by November 30, 2007. In addition, the resolutions require that the chairman 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 2008 Regular Session of the General Assembly.

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Child Welfare/ Public Safety	Joint Commission on Health Care	SJR 106 (Davis, 2006) directs the Joint Commission on Health Care (JCHC) to conduct a two-year study on the impact of barrier crimes on social service and health care employers, prospective employees, consumers, residents, patients and clients. Specifically, JCHC will: ▪ Determine the effectiveness of barrier crime laws in protecting consumers, residents, patients, and clients; ▪ Examine the difficulty experienced by employers in service delivery agencies in finding qualified applicants and employees, as well as the difficulty prospective employees have in finding jobs; ▪ Compare Virginia's barrier crime laws with laws related to criminal convictions and employment elsewhere; ▪ Gather data on employment discrimination based on an individual's criminal conviction record from state agencies, institutions, boards, bureaus, commissions, councils or any instrumentality of the Commonwealth. Commission's involvement: Tracking	SJR 106 directs JCHC to complete meetings by November 30 of each year and to apprise the Virginia State Crime Commission of its findings each year. JCHC approved the SJR 106 study plan at its April 27, 2006 meeting. JCHC received the Staff Interim Report at its November 14, 2006 meeting. Findings and Options will be presented to its members in Spring 2007.
Juvenile Justice	State Crime Commission	HJR 136 (Moran, 2006) directs the State Crime Commission to conduct a two-year study of Virginia's juvenile justice system, focusing on recidivism, disproportionate minority contact with the justice system, improving the quality of and access to legal counsel, accountability in the courts, and diversion. In addition, Title 16.1 of the <i>Code of Virginia</i> will be analyzed to determine the adequacy and effectiveness of Virginia's statutes and procedures relating to juvenile delinquency. Commission's involvement: Tracking	The State Crime Commission met June 13, 2006 to review and approve the study plan. The plan calls for staff research in 2006 and the convening of a workgroup in 2007 to review the research products and participate in the development of recommendations to the Commission, leading up to legislative recommendations for the 2008 General Assembly Session.
Juvenile Justice	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.

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Juvenile Justice	Department of 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 announce this year's annual Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Conference for June 19-20, 2007 at the Hampton Roads Convention Center in Hampton. The Committee projects that the conference, "Making a Difference in Juvenile Justice 2007 Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Conference," will have over 350 participants, including Court Service Unit Directors, juvenile probation officers, law enforcement, social workers, juvenile detention home staff and others. The Virginia Commission on Youth will host a table at the conference to educate participants on the <i>Collection of Evidence-based Treatment Modalities for Children with Mental Health Needs</i> and to promote its Fall conference.
Juvenile Justice	Governor's Office for Substance Abuse Prevention	The Virginia Interagency Anti-Gang Workgroup was established in June 2006 to promote collaboration among relevant state agencies involved in gang reduction and prevention. The Workgroup is headed by the Secretary of Public Safety, in cooperation with the Secretaries of Education and Health & Human Resources. Commission's involvement: Tracking	The Workgroup will report annually (by October 30), through the Secretary of Public Safety, regarding the Commonwealth's progress and achievements statewide in the area of gang prevention. The initiative also provides a community profile database and an interactive web-based tool designed to assist state and local prevention planners, service providers, and the faith community in combating gang activity. The Executive Order is in effect until June 2, 2007, unless amended.
Juvenile Justice/Early Intervention	Office of the Governor	Established in the <i>Code</i> in 2006, effective July 1, 2006, the Urban Policy Task Force to address a myriad of issues, including economic development, human services, education, public safety, and transportation. The Task Force is directed to craft a comprehensive urban policy for the Commonwealth which more nearly ensures the health and vitality of local jurisdictions or metropolitan areas. The Secretary of Commerce and Trade chairs the Task Force. Commission's involvement: Tracking	The Task Force will report annually to the Governor (by December 1) and include in each report the performance of each agency in meeting established benchmarks.

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Juvenile Justice/ Education/ Mental Health	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 holds meetings quarterly; however, additional meetings are added as needed for specific areas of interest.
Substance Abuse	Joint Legislative Audit and Review Commission	HJR 683 (Landes, 2007) directs JLARC to study the cost of substance abuse to the Commonwealth to determine the financial savings available to the Commonwealth as a result of providing treatment to offenders diverted from incarceration. HJR 683 directs JLARC to examine: ▪ The policies and procedures governing treatment services; ▪ The effect treatment has on participant behavior, including differences in behavior and experience reported by respondents before and after treatment; ▪ The cost of treatment in different settings; and ▪ The economic value of such treatment to the Commonwealth. JLARC is directed to make recommendations concerning appropriate levels of funding for specific types of treatment and recovery services required to meet the needs of Virginians, to provide the greatest opportunity for growth and economic prosperity in the Commonwealth. Commission's involvement: Tracking	HJR 683 directs JLARC to complete its meetings for the first year by November 30, 2007, and 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 next Regular Session of the General Assembly for each year. Each executive summary is to state whether JLARC 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. HJR 683 requires that the executive summaries and reports to be submitted as provided in the procedures of the Division of Legislative Automated Systems for the processing of legislative documents and reports and to be posted on the General Assembly's website. JLARC's second-year study plan will be reviewed on April 9, 2007.

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Mental Health/Health/	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, Local 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 Department's 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. It has scheduled an October 2007 statewide conference in Virginia Beach to lend technical and programmatic support to new and emerging providers.
Mental Health/Health	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, Va. Federation of Families 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 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. Planning is underway for "Strong Roots for a Healthy Future", its second annual conference for families, on July 27-28, 2007 in Richmond. Commission staff will be a featured workshop presenter.
Mental Health	Virginia Association of Community Services Boards	Virginia Child and Family Services Council (through 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 Task Force 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 Task Force meets quarterly, on the first Friday of that month. It met most recently on March 2, 2007; Commission staff provided a brief update on the upcoming Conference on Systems of Care and Evidence-Based Treatment Modalities. In 2007, the Task Force is developing a white paper on the role of Child and Family Services in the System of Care.

Topic	Lead Agency	Description	Status
Mental Health	Mental Health, Mental Retardation and Substance Abuse Services	The Child and Family Behavioral Health Policy and Planning Committee for Children's Services – Item 311-E of the 2006-2008 State Budget - is the continuing workgroup designated to develop a comprehensive plan for children's services across disabilities. This workgroup 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	The report from this workgroup is due to the money committees by June 30 each year.
Mental Health	Joint Legislative Audit and Review Commission	SJR 185 (Norment, 2006) directs the Joint Legislative Audit and Review Commission (JLARC) to study the use and financing of licensed inpatient psychiatric facilities in the Commonwealth. The two-year study is to: ▪ Examine utilization trends, including sources of payment; ▪ Evaluate the Medicaid rate-setting process for psychiatric services, services provided under temporary detention orders and by psychiatrists; ▪ Evaluate the manner in which Community Services Boards contract with licensed psychiatric facilities; ▪ Examine the adequacy of and funding for licensed psychiatric beds, including child and adolescent mental health services; and ▪ Determine any steps that can be taken to maintain appropriate and necessary licensed psychiatric services in Virginia. Commission's involvement: Tracking	<i>Senate Document 11</i>, a very abbreviated Executive Summary, was submitted to the 2007 General Assembly; there was no interim report. JLARC's second-year study plan will be reviewed on April 9, 2007. SJR 185 directs JLARC to complete its second-year meetings by November 30, 2007. SJR 185 also directs the chairman 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 2008 Session of the General Assembly.
Mental Health	Joint Commission on Health Care	SJR 25 (Marsh, 2004)/HJR 155 (Baskerville, 2004) directed the Joint Commission on Health Care (JCHC) to conduct a two-year study of the mental health needs and treatment of young minority adults in the Commonwealth and to present its findings and recommendations by the 2006 General Assembly Session. Commission's involvement: Tracking	The JCHC approved continuing the study plan at its April 27, 2006 meeting. The JCHC Behavioral Health Subcommittee provides oversight on the study. JCHC concluded that further study is needed and continued this study in 2006 and 2007.

Topic	Lead Agency	Description	Status
Mental Health	Mental Health, Mental Retardation and Substance Abuse Services	Training and Resources for Effective Adolescent Treatment (Project TREAT) Interagency Adolescent Workgroup 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	Project TREAT has scheduled its 2007 meetings on the 2nd Wednesday of the month from March 21 through December 12. This group sends its recommendations on substance abuse and youth to the Child and Family Behavioral Health Policy and Planning Committee for Children's Services (CFBHPP) to be included in that report. Project TREAT is developing a workplan, which will be submitted to CFBHPP in Spring 2007.
Mental Health	Supreme Court	A Commission on Mental Health Law Reform has been formed to develop an omnibus mental health reform package to present to the 2008 General Assembly. Included in the issues being address is a study of how to direct individuals with mental illnesses out of the criminal justice system and into the mental health system. The Supreme Court has expressed the intent of showing that costs of commitment can be reduced if gaps in service are filled. Commission's involvement: Tracking	The Commission has named five task forces that will develop recommendations for "reform legislation": Access to Services, Children and Adolescents, Commitment, Criminal Justice, and Empowerment and Self-Determination. Of six goals, Goal V. speaks specifically to youth: <i>Facilitate access to services for children and adolescents with significant mental health needs</i>. The Task Force on Children and Adolescents is chaired by The Hon. Deborah Paxson, Juvenile & Domestic Relations Court Judge. 2007 Commission meetings are March 15-16, Charlottesville, June 21-22 Fredericksburg, and October in Richmond. (Date to be set.) The Commission will complete its study and final report in October 2007 in order to further legislative change by the 2008 General Assembly.

Topic	Lead Agency	Description	Status
Mental Health/ Education	Education and Mental Health, Mental Retardation and Substance Abuse Services	HJR 96 (Hamilton, 2006) was a recommendation of the Joint Commission on Health Care's Behavioral Health Care Subcommittee (November 10, 2005). Through HJR 96, the Board of Education and the Department of Education were urged to continue to implement initiatives designed to strengthen teacher qualifications, to include preservice and in-service professional development opportunities relating to the effective treatment of autism spectrum disorders, and to consider the treatment of autism spectrum disorders. Through HJR 96, the Mental Health, Mental Retardation and Substance Abuse Services was urged to continue to expand training opportunities that include approaches specifically addressing the needs of children with autism spectrum disorders. Commission's involvement: Committee Member	A committee established by the Department of Education and the Mental Health, Mental Retardation and Substance Abuse Services in Fall 2006 to provide a coordinated response regarding the education and treatment of individuals with autism spectrum disorders continues its work in 2007. The group is comprised of agency personnel, parents, personnel from institutes of higher education, and representatives from autism associations and councils. The group developed recommendations for services and support as directed by HJR 96, including a recommendation for the establishment of a central agency or 'home' for autism. The Committee meets April 30 in Virginia Beach, with additional meetings to follow in 2007.
Education	Education	Pilot Early Childhood Development Programs—Item 135-A #2f appropriated \$2,557,666 to the Department of Education to enter into agreements during the 2007-2008 school year with school divisions to pilot early childhood development programs. Eligibility is limited to school divisions which: ▪ Have existing partnerships with private and/or non-profit providers as of the 2006-2007 school year; ▪ Use the funding to expand the availability of early childhood education programs for at-risk students not served in those school divisions; and ▪ Evaluate the providers using the Quality Standards checklist recommended by the National Institute for Early Education Research. Commission's involvement: Tracking	Item 135-A #2f of the 2007 Enrolled Budget requires the Department of Education to report with recommendations to the Governor, and the Chairmen of House Committee on Appropriations, House Committee on Education, Senate Committee on Finance and Senate Committee on Health and Education no later than December 1, 2007. In addition, the Department of Education is directed to report the number of school divisions participating, number of students served, and the benchmarks used to evaluate the pilot; and the final findings of the these evaluations submitted within ninety days after the completion of the school year.

Topic	Lead Agency	Description	Status
Education	Education	Start Strong Council (SSC), established by the Executive Order 7 (2006), is a council charged with developing a public-private partnership to provide services in public schools and community settings that bring together key child-serving agencies and organizations in each region or locality. The Council oversees the development of infrastructure for the Strong Start programs and makes decisions necessary to implement the program. Commission's involvement: Tracking	The SSC meets quarterly. In December 2006, SSC released its initial report, which recommended the need to: ▪ Provide a coordinating infrastructure to address the research-based quality features that result in outcomes and gains for early learners; ▪ Collect and use data and information to guide Start Strong decision-making; ▪ Examine and strengthen existing programs as a foundation from which to build; and ▪ Identify or create governance structure at both the local and state levels.
Education	Joint Legislative Audit and Review Commission	HJR 729 (Cox, 2007) directs the Joint Legislative Audit and Review Commission to study the Virginia Preschool Initiative. HJR 729 directs JLARC to: ▪ Review the statutory authorization for the Virginia Preschool Initiative and funding; ▪ Determine the costs of the program to the state and localities since its inception; ▪ Assess the manner in which the program has been implemented in the several school divisions and the effectiveness of the current program in preparing at-risk four-year-olds for school readiness and success; ▪ Evaluate the continued K-12 academic performance of participants in the current preschool program; ▪ Identify and assess the program's accountability measures to promote effective programs and efficient use of public funds; ▪ Study the concept of the Universal Preschool or Pre-K, including which other states have adopted these programs and their success, if any; ▪ Evaluate the additional costs, if any, of aligning components of the Initiative with the Quality Standards checklist recommended by the National Institute for Early Education Research; ▪ Determine whether research has been conducted concerning the efficacy of preschool programs for children of middle- and upper-income parents and report the findings and recommendations; and ▪ Consider such other related matters as appropriate to meet the objectives of this study. Commission's involvement: Tracking	HJR 729 directs JLARC to complete its meetings by November 30, 2007, and the chairman 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 2008 Regular Session of the General Assembly. The resolution also requires the executive summary to state whether JLARC 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. HJR 729 requires the executive summary and report to be submitted as provided in the procedures of the Division of Legislative Automated Systems for the processing of legislative documents and reports and to be posted on the General Assembly's website.

Topic	Lead Agency	Description	Status
Education	Legislative Services	HJR 25 (Cosgrove, 2006) establishes a 14-member joint subcommittee to conduct a two-year study of science, math and technology education at the elementary, secondary and undergraduate levels to insure that Virginia continues to be a leader in the science and technology sectors. Interim goals are to: ▪ Increase emphasis and access to science, math, and technology education by students throughout Virginia; and ▪ Increase the number of graduates of science and engineering programs who remain in Virginia. HJR 25 directs the Subcommittee to: ▪ Study ways to provide incentives for students to pursue careers in these sectors; ▪ Review the curriculum of Virginia's existing public schools, including Governor's Schools and other specialized public schools devoted to math, science, or technology; ▪ Study accessibility to specialized public schools by students throughout Virginia; ▪ Examine the Standards of Learning for math and science to ensure that students are provided with the fundamentals necessary for successful continuation of science, math, and technology education at the college level; ▪ Review and recommend innovative ways to interest students at all education levels in science, math, and technology; and ▪ Examine the possibility of encouraging partnerships between educators at the Commonwealth's public schools and institutions of higher education, as well as with business and research entities in the science and technology sectors located in the Commonwealth. Commission's involvement: Tracking	The joint subcommittee is limited to four meetings in each year of the two-year study. HJR 25 directs the joint subcommittee to complete its meetings by November 30 in each study year and to submit to the Division of Legislative Automated Systems an executive summary of its findings and recommendations before the start of each General Assembly Session. Please be advised that the Joint Subcommittee Studying Science, Math and Technology Education - HJR-25 will hold a meeting on Monday, April 30, 2007, at 1:00 PM in House Room - C of the General Assembly Building in Richmond. Should you have any questions regarding the meeting agenda, please contact Patrick Cushing or Nicole Seeds in the Division of Legislative Services at (804) 786-3591.

Topic	Lead Agency	Description	Status
Education	Legislative Services	SJR 378 (O'Brien, 2007) establishes a joint subcommittee to study revision of the curriculum for driver training programs. In conducting its study, SJR 378 directs the joint subcommittee to: ▪ Evaluate the curriculum used by school-based and commercial driving schools; ▪ Survey other states to identify innovative approaches to driver training; ▪ Consider the appropriateness of the curriculum for new adult drivers, especially those for whom English is a second language; and ▪ Make recommendations to the General Assembly for revision of such curriculum as appropriate. Commission's involvement: Tracking	SJR 378 limits the joint subcommittee to four meetings for the 2007 interim and to complete its meetings by November 30, 2007. The chairman is to submit to the Division of Legislative Automated Systems an executive summary of the joint subcommittee's findings and recommendations no later than the first day of the 2008 Regular Session of the General Assembly. In addition, the resolution requires the executive summary to state whether the joint subcommittee 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. SJR 378 requires the executive summary and report to be submitted as provided in the procedures of the Division of Legislative Automated Systems for the processing of legislative documents and reports and to be posted on the General Assembly's website.
Education	Education	The Commission on Civics Education was created in 2005 as an advisory committee in the executive branch. It is comprised to 23 members including the Governor, Lieutenant Governor, legislators, executive branch officials and citizens (expires July 1, 2008). 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: Tracking	Meetings of the Commission on Civics Education are held at the call of the chair or whenever the majority of the members request. The chairman 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.

Topic	Lead Agency	Description	Status
Education	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). The Board's Committee on Graduation and Dropouts studied seven widely-discussed graduation rate formulas and evaluated the strengths and weakness of each. At the Committee's recommendation, the Board of Education approved adoption of the National Governors Association On-Time Graduation Rate formula. In Fall 2008, the records of first-time freshmen (the 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. Therefore, the 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.
Education	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 requested 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	HJR 130 requests 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 Board of Education's Committee on Graduation and Dropout Rates met on March 28, 2007. Franklin Schargel, noted speaker and author of several books on dropouts and related issues, addressed the Committee.

Topic	Lead Agency	Description	Status
Health	Legislative Services	SJR 103 (Lambert, 2006) continues the Joint Subcommittee Studying Lead-Poisoning Prevention for two years to: ▪ Monitor the development of the reference database of statewide health-related data to determine its usefulness in containing health care costs and improving health care outcomes, including among children who may be exposed to lead risks or have elevated blood lead levels; ▪ Seek to enact the two essential lead program elements needed by the Virginia Department of Health (VDH) to be competitive in the 2006 federal grant process; ▪ Continue to assist state agencies to obtain funding for activities that protect children from lead risks; ▪ Monitor the evolution of the data-sharing partnership established in § 32.1-127.1:04; ▪ Monitor the completion of the reference database of statewide health-related data elements required by SB 565 (2004); ▪ Examine issues relating to lead poisoning among immigrant and adopted children; and ▪ Seek to assist VDH and the Department of Housing and Community Development in every appropriate way in maintaining federal funding. Commission's involvement: Tracking	SJR 103 limits the joint subcommittee to two meetings for the 2006 interim and two meetings for the 2007 interim. SJR 103 directs the joint subcommittee to complete meetings by November 30 in each year. The chairman of the joint subcommittee is directed 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 next regular Session of the General Assembly for each year. Each executive summary shall state whether the joint subcommittee 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.
Health	Medical Assistance Services	The Child Health Insurance Program (CHIP) Advisory Committee was established by the 2005 General Assembly. It works to improve outreach and enrollment of FAMIS and to have input on policies, operations, utilization of services and the health outcomes of children in FAMIS and FAMIS Plus. Commission's involvement: Tracking	The CHIP Advisory Committee, which meets quarterly, spent much of 2005 on structuring the committee and educating its members on FAMIS and FAMIS Plus. Three subcommittees have been formed: Retention; Utilization and Access. The committee is looking at various ways to utilize data to improve program design and outcomes, as well as working on ways to promote FAMIS Select, the program that gives families the choice of receiving coverage through FAMIS or through their private or employer-sponsored health plan.

Topic	Lead Agency	Description	Status
Health	Medical Assistance Services	The feasibility of a FAMIS Buy-in Program in Virginia is being studied by the Virginia Department of Medical Assistance Services (DMAS) as a directive in the 2006 Appropriations Act (Item 301-E of the 2006-2008 State Budget). The Act directed DMAS to review and evaluate State Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) in light of Buy-in Programs operating in other states. Commission's involvement: Tracking	This review, including recommendations regarding the development of a CHIP Buy-in Program in Virginia, shall be presented to the chairmen of the General Assembly money committees and the JCHC by October 1, 2006. DMAS presented to the JCHC at its November 14 meeting. The JCHC approved delaying the decision on FAMIS Buy-In Program until after 2007, when the future level of CHIP funding available to Virginia is known.
Health	Joint Commission on Health Care	Preterm Infants: Follow-up Care and Tracking Systems is being studied by the Joint Commission on Health Care in an effort to ascertain the extent to which there is a potential need for follow-up services for and tracking of preterm infants. Study Plan documents note that preterm and low-birth infants, who are at an increased risk of developmental delay, benefit from services provided early in life, when the development of the brain and central nervous system may be influenced. Commission's involvement: Tracking	JCHC convened a workgroup of representatives from public and private entities to address the ability to access services, funding, tracking of low birth weight babies, and increasing awareness of the importance of identifying and addressing developmental delays as early as possible. At its November 14, 2006 meeting, JCHC approved a year-end study recommendation that the chairman request that applicable agencies participate in a workgroup which continues to examine existing data and tracking systems. The workgroup will report to the JCHC by October 1, 2007.
Health	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	The CHAMPION Summary Report published in 2006 reflected citizen input at nine regional meetings in 2005. Staff is currently reviewing private and public programs related to themes in the Summary Report in order to identify programs for implementation at the community level. These are being evaluated on cost effectiveness, ease of implementation, cultural sensitivity, scientifically proven results. Following VDH Family Health Services Review, the working document will be presented to a new State Committee appointed by the Governor. This Committee is expected to be convened in August/September 2007. The completed comprehensive statewide plan is tentatively scheduled to be released in Spring 2008.
Health	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	This year, the VTSF is providing over \$3.5 million in funding to 75 grant programs throughout the Commonwealth. Grant applications for FY 08 grants in the \$10,000-75,000 range were due March 20, 2007. Regional Advisory Boards consisting of community representatives will review the applications from designated organizations and make funding recommendations to the VTSF Board of Trustees.

Topic	Lead Agency	Description	Status
Health	Health	Virginia Early Childhood 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. Its work concluded with the official planning phase, although plan implementation is 2006-2009. Commission's involvement: Workgroup Member	The Virginia Department of Health (VDH) received the initial planning grant on July 1, 2003 for a two-year period with a budget of \$100,000 per year. The implementation phase will span about three years, with a budget of approximately \$150,000 per year. There are five focus areas addressed in the initiative: ▪ Access to medical homes; ▪ Mental health and social-emotional development; ▪ Early care and education services; ▪ Parent education; and ▪ Family support services. Implementation of the VDH plan began in 2006. VDH held a strategic planning meeting on June 13, 2006.
Health	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 for these forms of violence. Commission's involvement: Committee Member	Continuing its work from 2005, ESCAPE developed a Strategic Plan in 2006. The Committee met January 25, 2007 and is scheduled to meet April 5 in Richmond to: review draft products from the first two years of the grant; to develop a workplan to achieve the three priorities in the Strategic Plan; and hold a stakeholder meeting to introduce the Strategic Plan and share resources developed by ESCAPE.

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