



Activities in State Government Related to Youth and Families 2005

Prepared by the Virginia Commission on Youth
March 21, 2005

Topic	Lead Agency	Description	Status
Child Day Care Council	Social Services	The Child Day-Care Council is authorized by the <i>Code of Virginia</i> to adopt regulatory standards for licensure and operation of child day care centers in Virginia. The Council is comprised of a minimum of 28 members. Members are appointed by the Governor and represent a variety of interests from around the state. In addition, HJR 770 (Marrs) was passed by the 2005 General Assembly expressing the General Assembly's support for the suspension or repeal of the amended regulation, 22 VAC 15-30, Standards for Licensed Child Day Centers. Commission's involvement: Tracking	In 2004 JLARC reviewed five key changes: minimum sq. footage/child; child/staff ratios; director and staff qualifications and training; resilient surfacing on playgrounds; and transportation. On September 13, 2004, JLARC staff presented their findings and recommendations. In addition to the JLARC review, the Joint Commission on Administration Rules has been tracking the status of the Child Day Care Center Regulations. They received an update on the status of the regulations on September 8, 2004 and voted to suspend the regulations at this meeting. A letter was sent to the Governor and the Governor responded in a letter dated January 11, 2005 stating his support for the proposed regulations. The Child Day-Care Council approved final regulations (§ 22VAC15-030) on Jan. 13, 2005. The regulations were published by the State Registrar January 22, 2005. The final regulations become effective June 1, 2005 unless any legislative action or public comment action via the Administrative Process Act take place that would either suspend, repeal or delay the regulations. However, many of the regulations have a delayed effective date. Those regulations include: qualifications for program leaders; staff-to-child ratios; general staff training; medication administration training; qualifications for program directors; and activity space.

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Child Welfare	Social Services	The Child Support Guidelines Review Panel determines the adequacy of the guideline for the determination of appropriate awards for the support of children by considering current research and data on the cost of and expenditures necessary for rearing children, and any other resources it deems relevant to such review. The Panel consists of 15 members that include four legislative members and 11 nonlegislative citizen members. Commission's involvement: Member of the Panel	States are required by federal regulations to review at least quadrennially their criteria for determining child support awards. Virginia's requirement is found in § 20-108.2 of the <i>Code of Virginia</i> which requires the Panel to review and report its findings on the guidelines to the General Assembly.
Child Welfare	Social Services	The Virginia 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 which pertain to child protection, permanency and training. Commission's involvement: Member of Committee	The CWAC assisted DSS with the development of Virginia's Program Improvement Plan (PIP) for the federal Child and Family Services Review, which was submitted on July 21, 2004. Virginia's PIP was approved by the federal Department of Health and Human Services Administration for Children and Families On January 31, 2005 and went into effect February 1, 2005. DSS will begin to report quarterly to the federal government on the progress of implementing the PIP and will be reviewed again in two years. Item 354-I #1&2 of the State Budget requires the Department of Social Services to report status reports on the implementation of the PIP to the Chairmen of the money committees by January 1 of each year.
Child Welfare	Social Services	In 2003, the Virginia Department of Social Services, through the Healthy Marriage and Stable Families Initiative, awarded grants to organizations that provide community-based family preservation and supportive services which strengthen marriages and stabilize families. The Department offered \$300,000 in grants to organizations seeking to achieve these goals. The grant cycle commenced in October 2003 and was extended through September 2004. Participants included community and faith-based organizations, non-profits and public agencies. Grant awards ranged from \$15,000 to \$30,000. Commission's involvement: Commission Initiative	Item 360-G of the State Budget states that, contingent upon the availability of federal funding, the Virginia Department of Social Services may continue funding for the Healthy Marriage and Stable Families Initiative grants which provide community-based family preservation and supportive services which strengthen marriages and stabilize families. A report on these activities shall be submitted by November 30, 2005, to the Chairmen of the Senate Finance and House Appropriations Committees, as well as to the Chairman of the Virginia Commission on Youth.

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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: 1. Collects and maintains accurate and complete resource data on a statewide basis; 2. Links citizens needing human services with appropriate community resources to satisfy those needs; 3. Assists in planning for human services delivery at the local, regional and state levels; and 4. 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's Initiative	Item 362-F of the State Budget directs the Department of Social Services to: Review Virginia's current Information and Referral System webpage, in conjunction with the Virginia Information and Technologies Agency and the Virginia Information and Referral providers, and propose a plan to make it more comprehensive and user-friendly. This plan shall be submitted by November 30, 2005 to the Chairmen of the Senate Finance and House Appropriations Committees, and the Virginia Commission on Youth; Work with the Information and Referral providers and other public and private partners to develop strategies to market and promote Virginia's Information and Referral System, along with the 2-1-1 phone campaign currently under development. A report on these activities shall be submitted by November 1, 2005 to the Chairmen of the Senate Finance and House Appropriations Committees, as well as to the Chairman of the Virginia Commission on Youth; Request that all state and local child-serving agencies within the Commonwealth be included in the Virginia Statewide Information and Referral System as well as any agency or entity that receives state general funds and provides services to families and youth. The Secretary of Health and Human Resources, the Secretary of Education, and the Secretary of Public Safety shall assist in this effort by requesting all affected agencies within their Secretariats to submit information to the statewide Information and Referral System and ensure that such information is accurate and updated annually. Agencies shall also notify the Virginia Information and Referral System of any changes in services that may occur throughout the year; and Communicate with child-serving agencies within the Commonwealth about the availability of the statewide Information and Referral System. This information shall also be communicated via the Department of Social Services' broadcast system on their agency-wide Intranet so that all local and regional offices can be better informed about the Statewide Information and Referral System. Information on the Statewide Information and Referral System shall also be included within the Department's electronic mailings to all local and regional offices at least biannually.

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Child Welfare	Social Services	The Commissioner's Kinship Care Task Force was created to examine the feasibility of establishing a Kinship Care program in the Commonwealth. Senator Yvonne Miller serves on this Task Force. The Task Force is assisting DSS with key pieces of legislation passed by the 2004 General Assembly: SB 78, definition of Kinship Care, and SB 35, a subsidized guardianship program for relative caregivers. Commission's involvement: Tracking	DSS submitted an application for a Title IV-Waiver for Subsidized Custody and Intensive Case Management Services to HHS staff.
Child Welfare	Legislative Services	SJR 331 (O'Brien) establishes a Joint Subcommittee to study Virginia's adoption laws and policies. In conducting its study, the Joint Subcommittee will do a comprehensive review of Virginia's adoption laws, with special attention paid to recognition and effect of foreign adoption decrees, and determine whether such laws can be rewritten and reorganized to give clear and consistent guidance to persons using the laws. Commission's involvement: Tracking	The Joint Subcommittee is limited to four meetings for the 2005 interim and is to complete its meetings by November 30, 2005. The chairman of the Joint Subcommittee is submit to the Division of Legislative Automated Systems an executive summary of its findings and recommendations no later than the first day of the 2006 Regular Session of the General Assembly. The 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.
Child Welfare	Aging	The Kinship Care Initiative Statewide Task Force and Information Network focuses on intergenerational activities, as well as communication issues among the kinship care community. Commission's involvement: Member of Task Force	Virginia Department for the Aging has developed a guide that helps identify legal, medical and emotional resources that are available to grandparents caring for grandchildren. The task force meets quarterly. Staff from the Department for the Aging will be attending the White House Conference on Aging on April 14, 2005 with a focus on intergenerational issues.
Child Welfare	Office of Comprehensive Services	Pursuant to § 2.2-5200, Code of Virginia, Community Policy and Management Teams shall seek to ensure that services and funding are consistent with the Commonwealth's policies of preserving families and providing appropriate services in the least restrictive environment, while protecting the welfare of children and maintaining the safety of the public. Commission's involvement: Tracking	Item 299-B #1d of the State Budget requires that 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. By November 1 of each year, the Office of Comprehensive Services shall report to the Governor and Chairmen of the House Appropriations and Senate Finance Committees on utilization rates and average lengths of stays statewide and for each locality.

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Child Welfare	Office of Comprehensive Services – State Executive Council	Custody Relinquishment – Item 299-F of the State Budget directs the State Executive Council for the Comprehensive Services Act to investigate the reasons leading to the practice of parents relinquishing custody of their children solely to obtain necessary and appropriate mental health services and report and recommend changes that strengthen child advocacy in the Commonwealth. The State Executive Council will recommend policy options, including legislative action if appropriate, for abolishing this practice while continuing to make the services available and accessible to children. Commission's involvement: Member of Workgroup	Item 299-F of the State Budget directs the State Executive Council to monitor implementation progress and provide a final report to the Chairmen of the House Appropriations and Senate Finance Committees and to the Chairman of the Joint Commission on Health Care by October 1, 2005.
Crime	Crime Commission	HJR 573 (Albo) directs the Virginia State Crime Commission to study criminal street gang conduct and characteristics for the purpose of reducing the burden on prosecutors by producing a formal listing of gang names coupled with conduct and characteristics unique to those gangs. Commission's involvement: Tracking	The Virginia State Crime Commission will hold their first meeting for the 2005 study year on April 12 th .
Education	Board of Education	SJR 403 (Wagner) requests the Board of Education to study the permanent use of industry certifications and state licensure tests for the award of verified units of credit in the public schools. In conducting its study, the Board of Education is to examine the suitability of additional industry testing programs that could be used as substitute tests for students to earn verified units of credit for graduation; determine how to increase the emphasis on career and technical education for creating greater equity and applicability to the verified credit system, including, but not limited to, consideration of increasing the number of potential verified credits obtained through industry certifications; and consider these issues as it reviews and amends the Regulations Establishing Standards of Accrediting Public Schools in Virginia, commonly known as the Standards of Accreditation. Commission's involvement: Tracking	SJR 403 requires the Board of Education to complete its meetings by November 30, 2005, 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.

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Education	Education	HB 1769 (Dillard) creates a 23-member Commission on Civics Education, comprised of the Governor, Lieutenant Governor, legislators, executive branch officials, and citizens. Commission's involvement: Tracking	The three main purposes of the advisory commission will be to further the education of students on the importance of citizen involvement in a representative democracy, to promote the study of state and local government among the citizens, and to enhance communication and collaboration among organizations that conduct civic education programs. The General Assembly appropriated \$81,000 for this new commission.
Education	Education/ College of William & Mary	Virginia Older Youth Advisory Board for Project Hope is Virginia's program for the education of homeless children and youth. The purpose is to ensure the enrollment, attendance and success of homeless children and youth in school. Commission's involvement: Member of Board	During the 2004 Session, Senator Quayle sponsored SB 270 that aligned Virginia Code with the federal education requirements under McKinney-Vento. The advisory board has developed a flyer showing all of the updates on homeless education and where to access information. The Advisory Board sponsored a Virginia Homeless Education Seminar March 7-8, 2005 in Williamsburg.
Health	Legislative Services	SJR 380 (Lambert) continues the Joint Subcommittee Studying Lead-Poisoning Prevention. Commission's involvement: Tracking	SJR 380 directs the Joint Subcommittee to 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 of 2004; examine issues relating to lead poisoning among immigrant and adopted children; and seek to assist the Department of Health and the Department of Housing and Community Development in every appropriate way in maintaining federal funding.
Health	Health/ Education	The Virginia Department of Health (VDH) and the Department of Education (DOE) established a joint committee to study the feasibility of developing an education curriculum for proper nutrition and exercise for students in grades K-12 (Childhood Obesity). DOE and VDH presented to the Commission in November 2004. Commission's involvement: Tracking	The Boards of Health and Education have received the 2004 recommendations of the Joint Committee. The Committee has opted to continue meeting in 2005 to examine issues of child health and to determine the appropriate role of public schools in affecting changes in nutrition and exercise.

Topic	Lead Agency	Description	Status
Health	Health	Virginia Early Childhood Comprehensive Systems is a Statewide Strategic Planning Workgroup with a purpose of supporting state maternal and child health agencies and their partner organizations in collaborative efforts to strengthen the State's early childhood system of services for young children and their families. Commission's involvement: Member of Workgroup	VDH received the initial planning grant on July 1, 2003 for a two year period with a budget of \$100,000/year. The implementation phase will span about three years, with a budget of approximately, \$150,000/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.
Health	Health	The Virginia Tobacco Settlement Foundation has established Regional Advisory Boards to provide a local connection between the Foundation and communities throughout the state. The nine boards oversee the review process to select grantees that will receive funding to implement youth tobacco use prevention programs. Commission's involvement: Member of Regional Advisory Board	Throughout the Commonwealth, 95 grants have been issued for more than \$5.1 million in youth tobacco use prevention program funding. Regional Advisory Boards consisting of community representatives reviewed the grant renewal applications and made funding recommendations to the VTSF Board of Trustees members, who voted unanimously to fund these organizations.
Health	State Corporation Commission	HJR 646 (Tata) requests the Virginia Birth-Related Neurological Injury Compensation Program, with the assistance of the State Corporation Commission, the Office of the Attorney General, the State Workers' Compensation Commission, and other state agencies to develop recommendations for adequately funding the Birth-Related Neurological Injury Compensation Fund. In conducting its study, the Virginia Birth-Related Neurological Injury Compensation Program shall identify the extent of program deficits; assess causes for such deficits; review the Program structure to determine necessary amendments to stem deficits; and assess the effect of such amendments on the number of beneficiaries projected to be assisted by the Program in subsequent years. Commission's involvement: Tracking	The Virginia Birth-Related Neurological Injury Compensation Program provides lifetime medical care for children with "severe, lifelong physical and mental infirmities" caused by oxygen loss and brain damage at birth. Families who enroll their children in the program are barred from bringing malpractice suits against doctors and hospitals that pay annual fees to the program. Although Virginia's program currently has \$138 million in assets, enough to provide lifetime care for the 82 children enrolled in the program at the end of 2003, it is required by state law to have enough funds available to provide care for any children who could be enrolled in the program in the future. The average cost of lifetime care per brain-injured child is about \$1.8 million, and about \$40 million has been paid to families since the program began in 1988. The Virginia Birth-Related Neurological Injury Compensation Program shall complete its meetings by November 30, 2005, and shall 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.

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Health	Medical Assistance	The Child Health Insurance Program Advisory Committee 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 Child Health Insurance Program Advisory Committee had its first meeting in late 2004 and created an Interim Executive Committee. The Interim Executive Committee has held two conference calls since then. During the two conference calls, the Interim Committee determined that the size and composition of the committee should not be altered in the Code of Virginia until the strategic goals of the group had been determined by the present membership. Instead, other interested organization may be asked to serve on committees or work groups on selected topics according to their area of expertise. They also determined that the membership requires more information on certain subjects before they can craft the Committee's goals and work plan for the coming year. The Child Health Insurance Program Advisory Committee is planning its next full committee meeting in late April.
Health	Medical Assistance	Managed Care Advisory Committee was established to improve communications with providers, recipients and partner agencies regarding Medicaid Managed Care. Commission's involvement: Tracking	This advisory committee meets approximately every quarter. Recently the Department of Medical Assistant Services published an on-line newsletter for the Managed Care Advisory Committee.
Juvenile Justice	Legislative Services	SJR 273 (Puller) establishes a Joint Subcommittee to study the Commonwealth's program for prisoner reentry to society to continue the work of the Prisoner Reentry State Policy Academy established by the National Governors Association in identifying and developing strategies to address key needs and overcome barriers for offenders, prior to and upon leaving prison, to reduce the incidence of reincarceration and increase their successful social adaptation and integration into their communities. Commission's involvement: Tracking	The Joint Subcommittee is limited to four meetings for the 2005 interim and is to complete its meetings by November 30, 2005. The chairman of the Joint Subcommittee is submit to the Division of Legislative Automated Systems an executive summary of its findings and recommendations no later than the first day of the 2006 Regular Session of the General Assembly. The 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.

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Juvenile Justice	Juvenile Justice	Item 445 D gives the authority for the Department of Juvenile Justice to close Barrett Juvenile Correctional Center located in Hanover County and to expand utilization of the Culpeper Juvenile Correctional Center. Commission's involvement: Tracking	The General Assembly attached an amendment to this language requiring the Department of Juvenile Justice and Department of Correctional Education in implementing the plan for the utilization of the juvenile correctional centers to coordinate with the Secretary of Public Safety and the Secretary of Administration and shall seek the assistance of the Department of Human Resource Management in addressing issues related to the state work force affected by the implementation of this plan. The Secretary of Public Safety shall report to the Chairmen of the House Appropriations and Senate Finance Committees by June 1, 2005, on the status of the plan.
Juvenile Justice	Juvenile Justice	House Bill 2657 (BaCote) - authorizes the Director of the Department of Juvenile Justice to establish work release programs for juveniles proficient in any trade or occupation, and who meets the work release criteria established by the Director, is capable of receiving substantial benefit from educational or other related community activity programs that are not available within a juvenile correctional center . DJJ must provide juveniles committed to the Department with opportunities to work and participate in career training or technical education programs as operated by the Department or by the Department of Correctional Education, and sets forth provisions relating to eligibility for work release, compensation, custody, and penalties for violating the terms of work release. These requirements shall commence as pilot programs beginning July 1, 2005, and ending July 1, 2006. Commission's involvement: Tracking	DJJ is promulgating regulations and will report on the progress of these programs to the General Assembly in 2006.
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 330-F of the State Budget is the continuing workgroup designated in budget language to develop a comprehensive plan for children's services across disabilities. Commission's involvement: Member of Committee	The report from this workgroup is due to the money committees by June 30 each year. DMHMRSAS plans to finalize this report in the next couple of weeks.
Mental	Office of	The State Executive Council (SEC) governs the Office	In 2004, the SEC met five times and plans to hold a retreat

Health/Juvenile Justice/Education	Comprehensive Services	and establishes 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 children/youth and their families in the least restrictive, appropriate environment. Commission's involvement: Tracking	some time this spring. The SEC is planning a spring retreat in April. In addition, the 2005 General Assembly passed HB 2787 (Johnson) which adds two General Assembly members to the State Executive Council for Comprehensive Services for At-Risk Youth and Families.
Mental Health	Virginia Association of Community Services Boards (VACSB)	Virginia Child and Family Services Council (through the Virginia Association of Community Services Boards) addresses issues pertaining delivery of services to children and their families. Commission's involvement: Tracking	The Child and Family Services Task Force, comprised of local CSBs, is working on training for the additional \$50,000 per CSB for non-mandated services. The Task Force is working on the implementation of this initiative and how to train all CSBs. Their other focus has been on working on the Special Population Task Force and representing VACSBs on all statewide activities.

Topic	Lead Agency	Description	Status
Mental Health/Juvenile Justice/Education/Child Welfare	Legislative Services	HJR 685 (Hall) creates a Joint Subcommittee to study private youth and single family group homes in the Commonwealth to analyze the licensing requirements and enforcement of licensing standards, the need to notify localities of licensing violations in those localities, the rationale for and impact of concentrations of homes in certain communities, the appropriate sitting requirements for such homes, and other issues that affect the integration of youth group home residents into the community; and study the excessive concentration of single family group homes in certain neighborhoods, the adverse effects of this concentration on the residents of single family group homes, the adverse effects of this concentration on those neighborhoods, and feasible regulatory alternatives that would result in more appropriate locations of single family group homes for the mutual benefit of the residents thereof and the affected neighborhoods. Commission's involvement: Tracking	The Joint Subcommittee is limited to four meetings for the 2005 interim and is to complete its meetings by November 30, 2005. The chairman of the Joint Subcommittee is submit to the Division of Legislative Automated Systems an executive summary of its findings and recommendations no later than the first day of the 2006 Regular Session of the General Assembly. The 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.
Mental Health/Juvenile Justice/Education	State and Local Agencies	Virginia Association for Local Human Services Officials (VALHSO) is comprised of state and local representatives. Commission's involvement: Tracking	Commission staff presented at VALHSO's winter and spring meeting. VALHSO's next meeting is September 30 - October 1 in Virginia Beach. The theme will be "Leadership in a Changing Environment." Topics include succession planning for the future, dealing with change in human services on the local and state level, how demographics impact how we work and how we can be leaders in the changing world around us.
Mental Health/Juvenile Justice/Education	State and Local Agencies	The State and Local Advisory Team (SLAT) is responsible for making recommendations to the SEC on interagency programs and fiscal policies. It also offers training and technical assistance to state agencies and localities. Commission's involvement: Tracking	The SLAT, which generally meets monthly, has received many presentation regarding the state and local activities for children's services. The Commission presented to the SLAT in April regarding our Collection of Evidence-Based Treatments Resource.

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