

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

**Department of Social Services  
Central Regional Office  
1604 Santa Rosa Road  
Richmond, Virginia 23229**

**February 16, 2022**

**Attending:** Mr. Clyde Santana (Chair), Ms. Mona Malik (Vice Chair), Mr. John Kines (Secretary), Mr. Kent Willis, Ms. Jennifer Slack, Ms. Megan Miloser, Ms. Lou Ali, Mr. William Boone, Ms. Zulma Santos, Ms. Sheryl Garland.

**Absent:** Ms. Rachna Sizemore Heizer

**Also in Attendance:** Dr. Danny Avula (Commissioner) and Ms. Ellen Malenke (Assistant Attorney General).

**Meeting called to order at 10:00am** – Clyde Santana

Mr. Santana thanked the board members, directors, social services workers, and community action agencies for being in attendance. He also welcomed Dr. Danny Avula, new VDSS Commissioner.

**Review of Agenda** – Gena Boyle, Deputy Commissioner

**Comments from the Commissioner** – Dr. Avula

Dr. Avula expressed it is an honor to serve as the Commissioner and he is eager to work with the Board. He provided updates on the priorities of the new administration. He also provided local, state, and federal updates.

**2022 Legislation Update** – Gena Boyle provided an overview of the 2022 legislation update.

**Immigrant Resettlement Update** – Fran Inge provided an update on the immigrant resettlement.

**Allocation Formula Update** – Gena Boyle provided an update on the allocation formula.

**COMMENT PERIOD**

There were no comments from the public.

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

**Comment from the Virginia League of Social Service Executives** – Andy Crawford, President  
Mr. Crawford spoke about the local offices weathering the storm in regards to their staffing needs. There have been more meetings with directors and leadership about finding and keeping employees.

Tiffany Gordon, Director of Mathews DSS and Chair of the Benefit Programs Committee for VLSSE, recognized February is Benefit Worker Appreciation Month. She provided updates on the Public Health Emergency and SNAP.

### **ACTION ITEMS**

1. Approved December 2021 Meeting Minutes  
***On Motion Duly Made***, (Ms. Malik), second (Mr. Kines), motion approved with all in favor.
2. Resolution to Recognize April 2022 as Office Services Support Month  
***On Motion Duly Made***, (Ms. Slack), second (Mr. Willis), motion approved with all in favor.
3. 22VAC40-160, Fee Requirements for Processing Applications – Fast Track Regulation  
***On Motion Duly Made***, (Ms. Ali), second (Mr. Boone), motion approved with all in favor.
4. 22VAC40-151, Standards for Licensed Children’s Residential Facilities – Proposed Regulation  
***This regulation is still with the Attorney General’s Office and is not ready for action at this time.***
5. 22VAC40-680, Virginia Energy Assistance Program-Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program – Notice of Intended Regulatory Action  
***On Motion Duly Made***, (Mr. Kines), second (Ms. Ali), motion approved with all in favor.
6. 22VAC40-141, Minimum Standards for Licensed Independent Foster Homes – Periodic Review Report of Findings  
***On Motion Duly Made***, (Ms. Garland), second (Ms. Miloser), motion approved with all in favor.
7. 22VAC40-191, Background Checks for Child Welfare Agencies – Withdraw Action  
***On Motion Duly Made***, (Mr. Kines), second (Ms. Malik), motion approved with all in favor.
8. Resolution Recognizing April 2022 as Child Abuse Prevention Month  
***On Motion Duly Made***, (Mr. Boone), second (Ms. Miloser), motion to correct the date on the Resolution from April 2021 to April 2022, was approved with all in favor.

### **Appointment of Committee to Draft Investigation Procedures – Clyde Santana**

Mr. Santana appointed Kent Willis and William Boone as the committee to draft investigation procedures.

### **Board Member Requests for Future Information**

Mr. Boone requested to hear the number of staffing vacancies at the local agencies, in particular service staff. He requested an update on the streaming options for the Board meetings. He would like to know how department can support local agencies to use families in foster care placements.

Mr. Santana requested information on the location of the June Board meeting.

Ms. Santos requested information on the SNAP increase in the communities and the community outreach.

**Meeting adjourned at 11:56 am.**