

Commonwealth of Virginia
State Board of Social Services

Warren County Community Center
538 Villa Avenue
Front Royal, Virginia

June 21, 2023 Meeting Minutes

Attending: Buckey Boone (Chair), John Kines (Vice Chair), Megan Miloser (Secretary), Leslie Ford, Maria Benjamin, Don Carey, Jennifer Slack, DeRonda Short, Zulma Santos, and Sheryl Garland.

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

Meeting called to order at 10:00am – Chairman Boone

The Chairman thanked Jon Martz, Director of the Warren County Department of Social Services, for hosting the June 20 reception and the Board meeting.

The Chairman announced that Rachna Heizer requested to participate by telephone. Ms. Heizer stated she was participating remotely from Millipedes, CA, due to a death in the family. **On Motion Duly Made**, (John Kines), second (Zulma Santos), motion to participate remotely approved with all in favor.

Jon Martz provided opening remarks and welcomed everyone to Front Royal. He provided demographics about the county and shared information about the staffing of his agency.

Christa Shifflett, Executive Director of the Warren Coalition

Ms. Shifflett explained the Coalition’s work in prevention, treatment, and recovery services and their “We See You Warren County” campaign.

Comments from the Commissioner – Dr. Avula provided local, state, and federal updates.

COMMENT PERIOD

Hayden Ashworth, Vice Chair of the Warren County DSS Advisory Board, extended his appreciation to the Board for meeting in Warren County and for hearing from state agency partners.

Comment from the Virginia League of Social Service Executives – Rebecca Morgan, President
Ms. Morgan recognized the morale and spirit of Warren County DSS. She spoke about economic conditions impacting service delivery, VaCMS, the need to invest in local workforce and technology, and Medicaid unwinding. She noted the League’s top priority for the 2024 General Assembly will be VaCMS.

Comments from VLSSE Legislative Committee - Jon Martz, Chair, VLSSE Legislative Committee
Mr. Martz explained the structure and activities of the committee.

ACTION ITEMS

1. Approve April 2023 Meeting Minutes
Chairman Boone requested a correction in the minutes, relative to action item #10, Establish Board Committee.
On Motion Duly Made, (John Kines), second (Don Carey), motion to approve the minutes as amended was approved with all in favor.
2. Resolution to Recognize August as Child Support Awareness Month
On Motion Duly Made, (Jennifer Slack), second (Maria Benjamin), motion approved with all in favor.

Ms. Short noted the term “fatherhood initiatives” in the 4th paragraph and that in many cases, mothers are the payors. Ms. Slack suggested replacing “fatherhood” initiatives with “parenthood” initiatives.

On Motion Duly Made, (Jennifer Slack), second (Deronda Short), motion to approve the amended resolution was approved with all in favor.

3. 22VAC40-675, Personnel Policies for Local Departments of Social Services - Exempt Regulation
Don Carey moved to approve the exempt action and John Kines seconded the motion.

There was discussion about proposed changes to 22VAC40-675-180 A. and B., the regulatory changes being made through an exempt action, and approving the regulation without seeing the updates to the personnel manual.

On Motion Duly Made, (John Kines), second (Leslie Ford), the Board deferred the action until the August 2023 meeting. Motion approved, with Jennifer Slack opposed. It was agreed that the attorney who reviewed the regulation will be invited to the August meeting.

4. Election of New Board Officers
The Nominating Committee (Leslie Ford and Maria Benjamin) recommended maintaining Buckey Boone as Chair, John Kines as Vice-Chair, and Megan Miloser as Secretary. **On Motion Duly Made**, (Leslie Ford), second (Zulma Santos), motion approved with all in favor.

Post-Pandemic Unwinding & Workforce Services – Deputy Commissioner Carl Ayers

Mr. Ayers presented information on the VIEW Program, SNAP Employment and Training Program, work participation and the impact of the COVID response.

Meeting adjourned at 1:36pm