



**FAIRFAX-FALLS CHURCH CHILDREN'S SERVICES for
AT-RISK CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILIES**

June 28, 2024

Community Policy and Management Team (CPMT)

Location

Meeting Minutes

Attendees: Gloria Addo-Ayensu, Lesley Abashian, Michael Becketts, Terri Edmunds-Heard, Dana Jones, Joe Klemmer, Richard Leichtweis, Chris Leonard, Dawn Schaefer, Daryl Washington,

Absent: Michael Axler, Annie Henderson, Rebecca Sharp, Matt Thompson, Lloyd Tucker,

HMF Attendees: Hilda Calvo Perez

CSA Management Team Attendees: Barbara Martinez, Patti Conway, LaVurne Williams, Kelly Conn-Reda, Mary Jo Davis

Stakeholders and CSA Program Staff Present: Janet Bessmer, Sarah Young, Samira Hotochin, Kelley Willis

1. **MINUTES: Approve minutes of May 31, 2024.** *Motion made by Rick Leichtweis; seconded by Dawn Schaefer; all members agree, motion carries.*
2. **ITEMS:**
Administrative Items:
3. **Item A – 1: Parental Contribution Scale Revision-** Presented by Janet Bessmer. Due to the economic conditions in the County, a new co-payment scale has been developed by CSA staff. The updated scale increases the income which a family must pay a co-pay and minimizes the increases between tiers. The overall fiscal impact is estimated to be a decrease of no more than \$100,000. Lesley Abashian asked how CSA came up with the cost for the \$400,000 and above tier. Janet Bessmer responded it was based on the percent increase used for the other tiers. Rick Leichtweis asked is the scale per day? Janet Bessmer responded it's based on the family's ability to pay. Families pay one flat fee per month based on the scale (the fee is adjusted if services cost less than the copay). Chris Leonard asked if there was consideration in making the first tier start at the median household income in Fairfax County which is \$140K. Janet Bessmer suggested removing tier B, so the starting income begins with \$150. Rick Leichtweis stated that when families pay something, even a small amount, they are generally more engaged, therefore there should be some payment even if it is a small amount. *Motion to approve made by Lesley Abashian; seconded by Rick Leichtweis; all members agree, motion carries.*

Item A – 2: Establish Audit Steering Committee – Presented by Janet Bessmer. CSA is preparing for the OCS Triennial FY25 Audit and is requesting a subcommittee of CPMT members to oversee the process. Members would be responsible for providing input into the planning process, meeting with auditors (entry and exit interviews) and overseeing corrective action plans (if any). Daryl Washington asked if it has to be a CPMT member, or can it be an agency representative assigned to the committee? Janet

Approved: July 26, 2024



Bessmer stated in the past it has been CPMT members. Dana Jones, Rick Leichtweis, Michael Becketts, Dawn Schaefer, Joe Klemmer have all volunteered to serve on the subcommittee. *Motion to approve made by Rick Leichtweis; seconded by Daryl Washington; all members agree, motion carries.*

- **CSA CONTRACT ITEMS:**

Item C – 1: Out of State Residential Child Specific Contract Activity – Presented by Barbara Martinez. Since the last meeting 4 Child Specific requests were processed for out of state residential services. There are currently 5 active Child Specific Contracts for youth in out of state facilities (two youth were discharged since the report was developed).

- **CSA INFORMATION ITEMS:**

Item I – 1: Public Comment on Proposed OCS Policy Changes -Presented by Janet Bessmer. CSA suggests that CPMT offer public comments supporting the policies (provided by VML) that were previously reviewed. CPMT agreed to comment as suggested by CSA.

Item I – 2: Implementation of New Electronic Case Management and Fiscal System for CSA. Presented by Ferdous Hakim. DFS is replacing their software system with a new electronic case management system. The first phase of the new system is scheduled to go live the first week of July, and the second phase (for case manager training) will be implemented in the Fall. Daryl Washington asked if this new system would have the capability to store/enter clinical reports, etc. Michael Becketts responded that in the first phase it will only be used as Harmony is currently being used.

Item I – 3: Budget Report – Presented by Patti Conway. Review of April 2024 budget and expenditures. There are 24 children waiting to be placed at private day schools and 20 potential students that may need private day school. Dawn Schaefer commented that the schools are revising their restraint policy to be able to refer to more private day schools.

Item I – 4: CSA Coordinator's Report – Presented by Janet Bessmer. Recently there have been several incidents where providers did not notify the case manager or CSA in a timely manner. DPMM is waiting for approval for requested rate increases for FY25. The estimated increase for local expenditures is \$318K. Local utilization of residential services has increased since COVID due to more children entering foster care, decrease in foster care homes willing to accept youth with complex needs, staffing shortages, and capacity issues. CSA has reviewed the proposed revisions to OCS Allocation and Supplemental process and supports the new process, if implemented.

- **NOVACO – Private Provider Items** – none
- **CPMT Parent Representative Items** – none
- **Cities of Fairfax and Falls Church Items** – Lesley Abashian was reappointed to the State and Local Advisory team.
- **Public Comment** – none
- **Staff Comment** – Daryl Washington announced that the CSB RFP is closed. The state eliminated the Priority One waitlist. CSB will be working with Leland House to ensure they can serve youth with greater needs. Chris Leonard announced that Mary Jo Davis (FCPS) is retiring.

Next Meeting: July 26, 2024, 1:00 – 3:00pm (Virtual)

Adjourn 2:00pm: *Motion to adjourn made by Rick Leichtweis; seconded by Daryl Washington; all members agree, motion carries.*

Approved: July 26, 2024