



Activities in State Government Related to Youth and Families 2010

COMPREHENSIVE SERVICES • CHILD WELFARE • KINSHIP CARE, ADOPTION & FOSTER CARE • CHILD CARE • PUBLIC SAFETY
JUVENILE JUSTICE • SUBSTANCE ABUSE • MENTAL HEALTH • EDUCATION • HEALTH • HUMAN SERVICES

Prepared by the Virginia Commission on Youth

The Virginia Commission on Youth is a standing, bipartisan legislative commission of the General Assembly which, by mandate, provides a legislative forum in which complex issues may be explored and resolved. The Commission was enacted in 1989 and began operations in 1991. According to the *Code of Virginia*, the role and function of the Commission is "to study and provide recommendations addressing the needs of and services to the Commonwealth's youth and families." The Commission monitors the development of laws and policies in federal, state and local governments which impact youth and their families and contribute to the General Assembly's ability to make sound policy decisions based on well-studied and reasoned recommendations.

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GENERAL

Lead Agency	Description	Status
Governor's Office	<p>The Council on Virginia's Future (Council) is established by Code as an advisory council in the executive branch. The purpose of the 18-member Council is to advise the Governor and General Assembly on the implementation of the Roadmap for Virginia's Future as part of the larger state budgeting process. The Council was enacted in 2003 to develop a vision and long-term goals for Virginia's future. It was also tasked with developing a performance leadership and accountability system for state government that aligns with and supports achievement of the vision.</p> <p>Its mandated purpose is to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • provide a long-term focus on high-priority issues; • create an environment for improved policy and budget decision-making; • increase government accountability and transparency; • improve government performance; and • engage citizens in dialogue about Virginia's future. <p>The Council regularly reviews progress on implementation of the Roadmap process and updates the Roadmap as needed.</p> <p>To facilitate assessment, it has developed as its premier initiative Virginia Performs, a performance leadership and accountability system whose most public face is the website, Virginia Performs. This "scorecard" for Virginia aligns agency-level outcomes with broader statewide goals for the Economy, Education, Health & Family, Public Safety, Natural Resources, Transportation, Government & Citizens. Three new indicators have been recently added: energy, civic engagement, and government operations.</p> <p>There are eight legislative members and ten non-legislative members. General Assembly membership includes the Senate President Pro Tempore, the House Speaker, the Senate and House Majority and Minority Leaders, and chairs of the money committees. Other Council members include Cabinet staff and leaders from the private sector. The Governor serves as chair.</p> <p>The Council is assisted by the Department of Planning and Budget, the Joint Legislative Audit and Review Commission, the Auditor of Public Accounts, and the money committees.</p> <p>Commission's involvement: Senator Miller, as Senate Finance Committee member, serves on the Council.</p>	<p>2010 areas of focus include integrating the Administration's priorities into its workplan, working with the Administration to strengthen the performance and productivity improvement management structure, integrating the new <i>Executive Progress Report</i> into agency planning processes, and broadening the membership of the Productivity Investment Fund oversight group.</p> <p>Legislators interested in receiving their annual Community Snapshot cards can now request these on-line at the Virginia Performs website—www.vaperforms.virginia.gov. Launched in January 2007, this site integrates access to all measures and allows users to quickly view the complete listing for each category. The Spring 2010 issue features Vision Hampton Roads' strategic plan to position the region as a leader in the global economy, a new commission created by Governor McDonnell to study issue related to under-achievement in educational attainment in Virginia higher education, and other topics.</p> <p>The Code requires the Council to submit to the Governor and the General Assembly an annual executive summary of the interim activity and work of the Council no later than the first day of each regular session of the General Assembly. The executive summary shall be submitted as provided in the procedures of the Division of Legislative Automated Systems for the processing of legislative documents and reports and shall be posted on the General Assembly's website. The Council's <i>Virginia Report 2010</i> report is available on-line at future.virginia.gov.</p> <p>Persons wishing to receive quarterly newsletters by email can be added to the listserve at future.virginia.gov/newsletterSignup.php.</p>

GENERAL (continued)

Lead Agency	Description	Status
Governor's Office	<p>A Commission on Government Reform and Restructuring was established in January 2010 by Executive Order 2 for the purpose of conducting a thorough review of Virginia state government:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify opportunities for creating efficiencies in state government, including streamlining, consolidating, or eliminating redundant and unnecessary agency services, governing bodies, regulations and programs; • Explore innovative ways to deliver state services at the lowest cost and best value to Virginia taxpayers; • Seek out means to more effectively and efficiently perform core state functions, including potential privatization of government operations where appropriate, and restore focus on core mission oriented service; and • Examine ways for state government to be more transparent, user friendly and accountable to the citizens of the Commonwealth. <p>The Commission consists of up to 20 citizen members representing finance, planning, business and government. Its eight legislative members are Delegates William Howell, Robert Brink, Glenn Oder, and Lee Ware and Senators Louise Lucas, Ryan McDougle, Mark Obenshain, and Mary Margaret Whipple. The Secretaries of Administration and Finance, and the Vice-Chair of the Council on Virginia's Future, serve as ex officio, non-voting members.</p> <p>Commission's involvement: Delegate Brink serves on the Committee.</p>	<p>The first full meeting of the Commission was June 4. A live stream of the meeting was made available on both the Governor's website – www.governor.virginia.gov – and the Reform Commission's website – www.reform.virginia.gov.</p> <p>As directed by the Executive Order, the Commission will make its first set of recommendations by July 16, 2010.</p> <p>The Commission shall submit a final report of its activities and recommendations by December 1, 2010.</p>
Criminal Justice Services/Office of the Attorney General	<p>The Virginia Department of Criminal Justice Services (DCJS), in cooperation with the Office of the Attorney General (OAG), has developed trainings in the new law-related education for teens program, Virginia Rules. The lessons, designed for middle and high school students, will educate young Virginians about the law and help them develop skills needed to make sound decisions, to avoid breaking laws, and to become active citizens of their schools and communities.</p> <p>Training for the curriculum is available to teachers, school administrators, school resource officers (SROs), and school security officers (SSOs) serving the middle and high school environments.</p> <p>In addition, Virginia Rules offers a comprehensive website with law-related resources and tools for use by students, parents, and instructors. From the website, instructors will access and download lessons with student worksheets, student topical handouts, and supplemental materials. User-specific educational portals will also be available for use by students and parents.</p> <p>Commission's involvement: Tracking</p>	<p>Four on-site training sessions were conducted in March 2010 in Manassas, Central Shenandoah, Southwest Virginia, and Roanoke.</p> <p>Curriculum topics include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction to Laws, Virginia's Judicial System, Juvenile Justice in Virginia • Introduction to the Courtroom • Criminal Law; Civil and Contract Law; Crimes Against Persons; Property Crimes • Student Responsibilities • Driving • Parent, Child, and Family Relationships and the Law • Bullying • Gangs • Violence (including Dating Violence) • Alcohol, Tobacco and Other Drugs • Internet Safety Laws • Victim's Rights • Teens and Crime Prevention

COMPREHENSIVE SERVICES

Lead Agency	Description	Status
Office of Comprehensive Services	<p>The State Executive Council's (SEC) purpose is to assure 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 and their families in the least restrictive, appropriate environment. Further, the SEC assures that the Governor and Cabinet Secretaries are well-informed in matters related to these areas.</p> <p>Item 274-B-4 of the 2011-12 Biennial Budget mandates that the Secretary of Health and Human Resources, in consultation with the Secretary of Education and Workforce and the Secretary of Public Safety, shall direct the action of all applicable agencies to implement, as part of ongoing information systems development and refinement, changes necessary for state and local agencies to fulfill CSA reporting needs.</p> <p>The 2010 General Assembly Session passed Senate Bill 286 adding a second parent representative to be appointed by the Governor to the SEC. This brings SEC membership to 20.</p> <p>Senator John A. Edwards serves on the Council; a second legislative seat is vacant.</p> <p>Commission's involvement: Tracking</p>	<p>SEC meetings are scheduled by the Secretary of Health and Human Resources. Pursuant to § 2.1-746, the SEC is required to meet at least quarterly.</p> <p>Its first 2010 meeting on March 25 focused on 2010 and prior years' Session bills and budgetary items, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SB 1181 (2009), which requires the Office of Comprehensive Services (OCS) to report to the SEC all expenditures associated with serving children who receive pool-funded services. This year's report included services delivered during the 2009 program year. • SB 286 (2010) added a 2nd parent representative to the Council; and • Critical Service Gaps Survey Report, which is mandated by Code and available on the CSA website, reflects gaps and barriers in services needed to keep children in the local community reported annually by CPMTs. <p>The SEC approved both the Pool Fund Carve-out and the CSA Family Engagement Policies developed by SLAT. The latter is designed to promote best practices in family engagement and decrease the burdens on FAPTs.</p> <p>Other 2010 meetings are scheduled for June 24, September 30, and December 16. The Council has asked that crisis intervention be placed on the June 24th agenda.</p> <p>The SEC is required to by Code to biennially publish and disseminate to the General Assembly and CPMTs a biennial progress report on comprehensive services for children, youth and families and a plan for such services for the succeeding biennium. This report is required in odd-numbered years, thus the next report is due in December 2011.</p>
Office of Comprehensive Services	<p>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 State Executive Council (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.</p> <p>Commission's involvement: Tracking</p>	<p>On March 4, 2010 SLAT reviewed draft policies developed by its workgroups for the Pool Fund Carve-Out and the Family Engagement Policies, as directed by SEC in 2009. Approved with minor revisions, drafts were referred to the SEC for review and approval at the SEC's March 25 meeting.</p> <p>At its May 6 meeting, SLAT reviewed the Family Engagement guidelines, the Multidisciplinary Team process and alternative options, and the draft report to the SEC regarding family due process.</p> <p>Other 2010 meetings are scheduled for July 1, September 2, and November 4.</p>

COMPREHENSIVE SERVICES (continued)

Lead Agency	Description	Status
Secretary of Health and Human Resources	<p>Item 283-C-3a of the 2010-2012 Appropriation Act directed the Secretary of Health and Human Resources to establish a Workgroup to address a Financial Incentive System and Local CSA Match Rates. The 2010 General Assembly did not include the mandate in the 2010-2012 Appropriation Act.</p> <p>The previously-enacted budget language mandated that the financial incentive system use the methodology in place on July 1, 2007 for calculating the base rate for each locality. Localities were charged with reviewing their caseloads for those individuals who can be served appropriately by community-based services and transition those cases to the community for services.</p> <p>Commission's involvement: Tracking</p>	<p>Known as the Match Rate Workgroup and overseen by the State Executive Council (SEC), the group has completed its work and had its recommendations approved.</p> <p>To monitor the shift in the effective local match rate, the Office of Comprehensive Services (OCS) created an Effective Match Rate report, tracking the shift in match by locality). Beginning July 1, 2010, the local match rate for congregate care cost increased to 25 percent above the locality base rate.</p> <p>The mandated 2009 report from the SEC to the Governor and the Chairmen of the House Appropriations and the Senate Finance Committees was published as <i>Report Document 437, A Status on the Implementation of the Comprehensive Services Act Match Rate Incentive for Residential Care</i> (2009). The second year report on the outcomes of this initiative is due by October 1, 2010. As there will be two years of expenditure/census comparability data, this report will provide a more detailed analysis of the incentive system.</p>
Office of Comprehensive Services	<p>Utilization of Residential Facilities for Treatment of Children – Pursuant to § 2.2-5200 of the Code, Community Policy and Management Teams (CPMTs) 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 must submit to the Office of Comprehensive Services (OCS) information on utilization of residential facilities for treatment of children and length of stay in such facilities.</p> <p>This mandate evolved from the Joint Legislative Audit and Review Commission (JLARC) study on utilization of children's residential facilities, which led to establishment of a Task Force convened by the Secretary of Health and Human Services to review the adequacy of regulations related to children's residential facilities and a change in funding to increase the stipend paid to foster families by 13 percent.</p> <p>Commission's involvement: Tracking</p>	<p>Item 274-B-d of the 2010-2012 Appropriation Act requires the OCS 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 15 of each year.</p> <p><i>Report Document 45 Residential Services for Children in the Comprehensive Services Act – Utilization, Length of Stay and Expenditures, Statewide and by Locality – Program Year 2009 (2010)</i> reports that, because Program Year (PY) 09 categorical costs are reported differently in PY09, comparison to historical trends is not available. Additional analysis of residential costs will occur in PY10, when there will be two years of consistent reporting.</p>

COMPREHENSIVE SERVICES (continued)

Lead Agency	Description	Status
Office of Comprehensive Services/ Behavioral Health and Developmental Services	<p>The Intensive Care Coordination (ICC) initiative was developed following enactment by the 2008 General Assembly of SB 487 (Hanger)/HB 503 (Hamilton), requiring the State Executive Council (SEC) to oversee the development and implementation of mandatory uniform guidelines for intensive care coordination for children who are at risk of entering, or placed in, residential care through the CSA program.</p> <p>The 2009 General Assembly added language in the 2009 Appropriation Act (Special Session) to require that the SEC, local CPMTs and CSBs work collaboratively in their service areas to develop a local plan for ICC services. Language further stipulated that local CPMTs and CSBs work together to determine the most appropriate and cost-effective provider of ICC services for children in their community who are placed in, or at risk of being placed in, residential care. The SEC and OCS were also directed to establish guidelines for reasonable rates for ICC services and provide training and technical assistance to CPMTs and fiscal agents regarding these services.</p> <p>The 2010 General Assembly continued this initiative as 274-C-3d in the 2010-2012 Appropriation Act.</p> <p>Commission's involvement: Tracking</p>	<p>ICC has been implemented in three phases. The first two (Development of Guidelines and the Implementation Workgroup) have been completed. Phase 3 – Technical Assistance and Training – began in February 2009. An Intensive Care Coordinators (ICC) Network was formed to assist localities with implementation of ICC. Tracking of the implementation status at each CSB and providing technical assistance is on-going.</p> <p>After the ICC Guidelines were developed and adopted, an Implementation Workgroup was formed to address the issues of role confusion and functions, rates for ICC and provision for technical assistance. In 2009, the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services (DBHDS) sponsored a forum to provide information and answer questions.</p> <p>As part of the Children's Services System Transformation, ICC now functions as a statewide initiative to create more in-home services and community resources for children who are at risk of being placed or who are currently placed in a group facility. All children receiving ICC services are also to be a part of a Family Assessment and Planning Team (FAPT) which helps coordinate services and identify what will be most helpful within the child's home. Community Service Boards (CSBs) across Virginia provide ICC, along with other private providers.</p> <p>ICC nine's communities include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hampton-Newport News; • New River Valley (Montgomery, Floyd, Giles and Pulaski Counties, and Radford); • Loudoun County; • Roanoke, Craig, and Botetourt Counties, Salem, and Roanoke City; • Wise, Lee, and Scott Counties, and Norton; • Portsmouth • Lynchburg; • Harrisonburg and Rockingham County; and • Alexandria. <p>Further information about ICC is available on the Transformation website at www.vafamilyconnections.com.</p>

COMPREHENSIVE SERVICES (continued)

Lead Agency	Description	Status
Office of Comprehensive Services	<p>Technical Assistance to Localities Item 274-B-6 of the 2010-2012 Appropriation Act allocates \$50,000 for each year for a combination of regional and statewide meetings for technical assistance to local CPMTs, FAPTs, and local fiscal agents.</p> <p>Training shall include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • cost containment measures; • building community-based services; • utilization management; • use of alternative revenue sources; and • administrative and fiscal issues. <p>Commission's involvement: Tracking</p>	<p>SEC is required to approve a training plan before the beginning of each fiscal year. Budget language also requires that OCS create and maintain a calendar of training events, which must be made available to local governments. OCS is planning to implement a web-based cross-system CSA Interagency Training Calendar.</p> <p>The calendar, which is a collaborative effort of the Departments of Social Services, Education, Medical Assistance Services, and OCS, can be accessed at www.csa.state.virginia.gov/csacal/maincal.cfm.</p> <p>The Act requires that CSA report on all regional and statewide training sessions in the fiscal year to the Chairmen of the House Appropriations and Senate Finance Committees and to the members of the State Executive Council by December 1 of each year.</p>
Office of Comprehensive Services	<p>Educational Services for Students in Treatment Item 274-K of the 2010-2012 Appropriation Act stipulates that the State Executive Council shall work with the Department of Education to ensure that CSA funding is sufficient to pay for educational services for students placed in or admitted to state or privately operated psychiatric or residential treatment facilities in order to meet the educational needs of the students as prescribed in the students' Individual Educational Plan (IEP).</p> <p>Commission's involvement: Tracking</p>	<p>The SEC received an update on the progress of the workgroup at its July 9 meeting. DOE and OCS collaboration has included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DOE analysis of data on special education private day placements. • Eight training sessions, led by DOE and supported by OCS, were conducted statewide on "Improving Coordination and Communication between Schools and the CSA."
Office of Comprehensive Services	<p>SB 1180 (2009, Hanger) required the State Executive Council (SEC) to report and analyze expenditures associated with children who do not receive pool funding and have emotional and behavioral problems.</p> <p>The bill also required the Council to identify funding streams used to purchase services in addition to pooled, Medicaid, and Title IV-E funding.</p> <p>Both reporting requirements will be included in the biennial state progress report on comprehensive services to children, youth, and families delivered to the General Assembly and community policy and management teams.</p> <p>Commission's involvement: Tracking</p>	<p>The SEC is receiving updates on the progress of meeting this directive. At its July 9, 2010 meeting, OCS staff reported that OCS will begin to routinely report these expenditures.</p> <p>The biennial report to the Governor and the Chairmen of the House Appropriations and Senate Finance Committees, published as <i>Report Document 64</i> (2010), can be accessed on the Legislative Information System website.</p>

COMPREHENSIVE SERVICES *(continued)*

Lead Agency	Description	Status
Office of Comprehensive Services	<p>SB 1181 (Hanger, 2009) amended the Code to require the Director of the Office of Comprehensive Services to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • report to the State Executive Council all expenditures associated with serving children who receive pool-funded services, including all services purchased with pool funding, all treatment, foster care case management, and residential care funded by Medicaid, and all child-specific payments made through the Title IV-E program; • report to the State Executive Council on the nature and cost of all services provided to the population of at risk and troubled children identified by the Council as within the scope of the CSA program; • develop and distribute model job descriptions for the position of Comprehensive Services Act Coordinator and provide technical assistance to localities and coordinators to help them guide localities in prioritizing the coordinators' responsibilities toward activities to maximize program effectiveness and minimize spending; and • develop and distribute guidelines, approved by the State Executive Council, regarding the development and use of multidisciplinary teams to encourage utilization of multidisciplinary teams in service planning. <p>Commission's involvement: Tracking</p>	<p>The initiative was announced to SEC members at its March 25, 2009 meeting and, in the months following, the Office of Comprehensive Services planned, organized, and trained for compliance.</p> <p>Now in place, the legislative initiative has resulted in OCS providing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>A Comprehensive Services Act For At-Risk Youth and Families Policy Manual</i>, updated April 2010, includes a chapter which details establishing a Multidisciplinary Team; the Policies and Expenditure of Funds; and Duties and Responsibilities of a Team. • A CSA Statistics webpage listing all current statistical reports mandated by the Code. This can be accessed through the Office's website at www.csa.virginia.gov.

CHILD WELFARE

Lead Agency	Description	Status
Commission on Youth	<p>As part of its 2010 legislative initiatives, the Commission on Youth has approved a study of Juvenile Offender Re-entry in Virginia. The study will address issues surrounding juveniles in the justice system, the majority of whom have complex needs, including mental health and substance abuse, and are frequently involved in multiple service systems, including child welfare, special education, mental health, and juvenile justice. The study will focus on processes for successful community reintegration to lessen the likelihood of re-offending.</p> <p>Serving on the Advisory Group are representatives of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Secretaries of Public Safety, Education, and Health and Human Resources; • Virginia's Prisoner Re-Entry Coordinator; • Executive Secretary of the Supreme Court; • Departments of Juvenile Justice, Criminal Justice Services, Social Services, Correctional Education, and Behavioral Health and Developmental Services; • Commonwealth Attorneys' Services Council; • Public Defenders; • Detention Centers; • Virginia Council on Juvenile Detention; • Court Service Units; • School Resource Officers; • Chiefs of Police and Virginia Sheriffs' Association; • Superintendent of Public Instruction; • Local school officials; • Higher education officials; • Virginia Alternative Educators Association; • Virginia Municipal League and Virginia Association of Counties; • Virginia Chamber of Commerce; • Business/industry; • Advocacy organizations; • Community organizations; • Virginia Association of Community Services Boards; • Virginia parent representatives; and the • Faith-based community. <p>Commission's involvement: Commission Initiative</p>	<p>The Commission received a presentation on Juvenile Offender Re-entry at its June 8, 2010 meeting. Presenting were the Director of the Department of Juvenile Justice and the Office of the Secretary of Public Safety's Prisoner Re-entry Coordinator</p> <p>The newly-formed Advisory Group will hold its first meeting in Richmond on July 7. From this group, four subcommittees will be formed to examine issues specific to Female Offenders, Education, Mental Health, and Community/Family.</p> <p>Commission staff will report findings and recommendations to the Commission prior to the 2011 General Assembly Session.</p>

CHILD WELFARE *(continued)*

Lead Agency	Description	Status
<p>Secretary of Public Safety</p>	<p>Governor McDonnell has renamed the Virginia Prisoner Re-entry Policy Academy, established pursuant to Executive Order 97 (2009), as the Virginia Prisoner and Juvenile Offender Re-Entry Council to strengthen its mission of promoting re-entry strategies for adult and juvenile offenders.</p> <p>The Secretary of Public Safety will chair the Council. As defined by the new Executive Order 10 (2010), the Council shall have the following functions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify barriers that exist in each member’s department or agency that may impede successful transition of offenders returning to their communities; and develop and implement procedures to overcome such barriers, to include job training, education, housing, and substance abuse treatment. • Improve collaboration and coordination of transitional services, including providing cross-training; sharing information among state agencies; and developing policies, procedures, and programs with well-defined, performance-based outcomes that enhance re-entry management. • Establish partnerships between community colleges and the business sector to promote employment and transitional jobs for released offenders. • Engage local agencies, community-based social service providers, community organizations, faith-based organizations, as well as other stakeholders, in promoting successful re-entry policies and programs. • Submit a status report of actions taken to improve offender transitional and re-entry services to the Governor and the Chairmen of the House Appropriations and Senate Finance Committees no later than December 15 of each year. <p>The Prisoner Re-entry Coordinator, in working with the Council, shall develop a long-term strategic plan for achieving the goal of reducing offender recidivism for those released from incarceration. The plan, which is required to have measurable goals and specific outcome performance measures, will set out comprehensive strategies to be employed while offenders are incarcerated and to continue following their release. The plan shall identify methods of improving communication, sharing of information, and collaborating between state and local agencies.</p> <p>The Council and the appropriate work group shall work collaboratively with the Juvenile Re-entry Advisory Group established by the Virginia Commission on Youth on improving the success and safety of juveniles returning to their community.</p> <p>Commission’s involvement: Tracking</p>	<p>The Governor has created the position of Statewide Prisoner Re-entry Coordinator for Virginia. The appointee, announced March 19, 2010, will work across secretariats, with state agencies, local and federal partners, as well as faith-based and non-profit organizations, to develop and implement a comprehensive plan for prisoner re-entry in Virginia. The goals encompass youth, as well as adult, offenders.</p> <p>The Council’s membership is being established in accordance with the Executive Order. Work groups and subcommittees will subsequently be established to implement the provisions of the strategic plan and other re-entry reforms of the Commonwealth to assist offenders with jobs, housing, substance abuse treatment, medical care, and mental health services, with specific inclusion of women, juveniles, and veterans.</p> <p>The Prisoner Re-entry Coordinator, will serve on the Commission on Youth’s Advisory Group for the Juvenile Offender Re-Entry study, will present on the work of the Council at the Commission’s meeting on June 8, 2010.</p> <p>The Secretary’s website - www.publicsafety.virginia.gov – has indicated its intent to update frequently to provide users with current information on the Council’s work. At present, the site provides a link for individuals to submit a comment, question or suggestion regarding prisoner reentry.</p> <p>The Council’s strategic plan shall be submitted to the Governor for approval no later than December 31, 2010, and shall be updated by December 31 of each succeeding year.</p>

CHILD WELFARE (continued)

Lead Agency	Description	Status
Social Services/ Correctional Education	<p>Prisoner Re-entry Programs Item 327-H of the 2010-2012 Appropriation Act directs the Department of Social Services (DSS), in conjunction with the Department of Correctional Education, to identify and apply for federal, private and faith-based grants for pre-release parenting programs for non-custodial incarcerated parent offenders committed to the Department of Corrections.</p> <p>Budget language requires DSS to identify certain grant programs including, but not limited to the following: Promoting Responsible Fatherhood and Healthy Marriages, State Child Access and Visitation Block Grant, Serious and Violent Offender Re-entry Initiative Collaboration, Special Improvement Projects, §1115 Social Security Demonstration Grants, and new grant programs authorized under the federal Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) block grant program.</p> <p>Commission's involvement: Tracking</p>	<p>Section 2.2-213.2 of the Code, amended in 2006, stipulates that the Secretary of Health and Human Resources, with the Secretary of Public Safety, shall establish an integrated system for coordinating the planning and provision of services for children with incarcerated parents among state, local, nonprofit agencies, and faith-based organizations to provide such children with services needed to continue parental relationships with the incarcerated parent, where appropriate, and encourage healthy relationships in the family and community.</p> <p>In 2007, the Joint Subcommittee Studying the Commonwealth's Program for Prisoner Re-entry to Society (SJR 327, Puller) also reviewed proposals to facilitate the successful reintegration of prisoners to their communities.</p> <p>To test the recommendations of the Prisoner Re-entry Policy Academy, DSS has established seven pilot programs to work with those incarcerated in Virginia correctional facilities and/or local jails. The feedback will help decisions makers develop effective pre- and post-re-entry services.</p> <p>Included on the DSS webpage for Prisoner Re-entry Pilot Programs is a link to a presentation titled "Realistic Child Support Policies that Support Successful Re-entry."</p> <p>Inmates now learn skills that accelerate rehabilitation through a new DSS partnership called SOS Pen Pals Program. Inmate-handlers at five correctional facilities transform unwanted, shelter dogs into companions.</p>
Criminal Justice Services	<p>Virginia CARES is a non-profit statewide organization funded in part through Department of Criminal Justice Services (DCJS), federal CSB block grants and other funds. CARES is one of nine providers eligible to receive grants from DCJS for pre- and post-release services to Virginia offenders and ex-offenders. CARES was an outgrowth of another Roanoke organization and continues to have its offices there.</p> <p>Other providers are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Northwestern Regional Jail; • Colonial Community Corrections Transitional Services; • Northern Neck Regional Jail; • O.A.R. (Arlington, Fairfax, Jefferson Area, and Richmond offices); and • STEPUP, Inc. <p>Commission's involvement: Tracking</p>	<p>Virginia CARES maintains statistics on, among other issues, participants who complete and implement life plans that change their futures and are establishing responsible relationships with their families and children.</p> <p>For a number of years, CARES in Roanoke has focused on mentoring children of prisoners in partnership with New Vision Youth Services, a regional organization which provides the mentoring services. New Vision serves on the Board of Roanoke Adolescent Health Partnership.</p> <p>Its recent statewide advocacy events have included a February 23, 2010 rally in Capitol Square to address felon voting rights. Legislative members speaking at the organization's February 23, 2010 rally were Delegates Onzlee Ware, Algie Howell, and Kenneth Alexander, and Senator Mamie Locke.</p> <p>CARES' website - www.vacares.org/index.html - provides organizational updates.</p>

CHILD WELFARE (continued)

Lead Agency	Description	Status
Office of the Governor	<p>Virginia's Early Childhood Advisory Council, formerly the Governor's Working Group on Early Childhood Initiatives, was established to coordinate executive branch efforts of early childhood programs and strengthen public and private programs. The Council, chaired by the Secretary of Education, brings together high-level staff from cabinet offices and State agencies in the areas of Education, Health and Human Resources, Economic Development, Finance and Policy.</p> <p>The entity, created by Executive Order 91 in September 2009, remains in effect until December 31, 2011. Staff support for the Council is provided by the Office of Early Childhood Development, the Virginia Early Childhood Foundation, and related agencies and offices. Responsibilities of the Council are expanded to complement and coordinate existing efforts related to early childhood initiatives.</p> <p>Commission's involvement: Tracking</p>	The Working Group meets every other month to provide oversight to the coordination of the Alignment Project components.
Social Services	<p>The Alignment Project, started in February 2006 and spearheaded by the Department of Social Services, now involves a team of professionals from many agencies under four secretariats, other agencies, and organizations from throughout Virginia. It functions under the oversight of the Early Childhood Advisory Council, which is discussed in the preceding section.</p> <p>The Alignment Project is the umbrella for Virginia's early childhood initiatives: Smart Beginnings, Start Strong, and the Star Quality Initiative. These are discussed in the sections which follow.</p> <p>Commission's involvement: Tracking</p>	<p>New publications recently released through the Alignment Project are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Milestones of Children Development • Competencies of the Early Childhood Professional • Related to Virginia's Star Quality (Quality Rating and Improvement System) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Virginia's Star Quality Standard for Center-Based Classrooms - Brief Overview of Virginia's QRIS <p>With support from Capital One, Virginia's Star Quality Initiative provides quality standards for early learning programs on a five star scale. It offers a market-based solution to facilitate quality consistency among early childhood programs, support continuous quality improvement in partnership with public and private early education providers, and encourage a continuum of care and education throughout various provider settings, so that all children arrive in kindergarten ready to succeed. There is an Advisory Team overseeing the Quality Rating and Improvement System (QRIS) Pilot Demonstration and providing guidance and strategic recommendations for Virginia's Star Quality Initiative.</p>

CHILD WELFARE (continued)

Lead Agency	Description	Status
<p>Virginia Early Childhood Foundation</p>	<p>Smart Beginnings – a component of the Alignment Project – is a statewide collaboration with the broad goal of sharing information and efforts to direct new and improved resources to families with children from birth to age five.</p> <p>At the state level, leadership for Smart Beginnings is provided by the Governor’s Working Group on Early Childhood Initiatives (GWG) in the public sphere and the Virginia Early Childhood Foundation (VECF) in the private sphere. The planning process for Virginia’s early childhood system of services involves approximately 50 partners statewide in both private and public sectors.</p> <p>The initiative highlights the health, social and emotional and cognitive needs of very young children, and urges partners in every community to plan and partner strategically for a strong early childhood system to meet these needs. It focuses on parent education, including new parent information, and consumer education information regarding selecting and accessing quality child care and preschool programs. A key component of this initiative is public education messages about the correlation between high quality, early childhood education and a competitive workforce and vital economy.</p> <p>Commission’s involvement: Tracking</p>	<p>The Smart Beginnings plan is designed to provide practical guidelines, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • prioritized goals, measurable objectives and strategies; • outcomes to measure progress; and • clear accountability and communication of results. <p>Details of Smart Beginning’s plan are on their website www.smartbeginnings.org.</p>
<p>Office of the Governor/ Social Services</p>	<p>Virginia Early Childhood Foundation (VECF) is a public-private partnership with a mission to provide collaborative leadership to foster Smart Beginnings for all young children in Virginia. As a nonprofit organization, the VECF provides grants, training and technical assistance to local communities to build their capacity to provide early childhood services.</p> <p>The Foundation was recommended by the Early Learning Council Task Force, which was charged with recommending strategies to improve Virginia’s ability to provide early learning experiences to children from birth to age five. In making the recommendation, the Council cited the need for a state-level 501(c)(3) entity to lead an aggressive agenda to build the State’s infrastructure for an effective early childhood system. In response, the Foundation was created in December 2005.</p> <p>VECF relies on the shared leadership of local councils to provide strategic planning, effective integration of programs and services, decision-making and accountability for local delivery, implementation and outcomes.</p> <p>Commission’s involvement: Tracking</p>	<p>The required VECF 2009 Annual Report is posted on both the Smart Beginnings website and the Legislative Information System website as <i>Report Document 260</i> (2009). The Annual Report addresses its legislative mandates and financial operation.</p> <p>The 2010-2012 Appropriation Act Item 333 allocated \$1,275,000 each year to support the VECF, with the goal of promoting programs that enhance the health, safety and well-being of Virginia’s youth. Also, on or before October 1 of each year, VECF is required to submit to the Governor and the Chairmen of the House Appropriations and Senate Finance Committees a report on the actual amount, by fiscal year, of private and local government funds received by the Foundation.</p>

CHILD WELFARE (continued)

Lead Agency	Description	Status
<p>Secretary of Health and Human Resources</p>	<p>The Council on Reform (CORE) was established in 2008 based on Virginia’s Services reform efforts initiated by then-First Lady Anne Holton and her <i>For Keeps Initiative</i> and was a recommendation from the Annie E. Casey Foundation.</p> <p>The critical reform areas that CORE is designed to address relate to a statewide philosophy that is family-focused, child-centered and community-based, issues related to permanency, congregate (residential) care and quality issues.</p> <p>CORE is comprised of the 13 localities, DJJ, DOE, CSBs and CSA. CORE works with these localities to develop a shared vision for children’s services and best practices at state and local levels.</p> <p>Commission’s involvement: Tracking</p>	<p>CORE had its first meeting in December 2007. It established workgroups to address various aspects of best practice for child welfare. CORE workgroups included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Managing by Data: Provide local agencies with the data necessary to guide practice change; • Resource Family Development: Develop a standard practice to recruit, support and retain foster and kinship families; • VDSS Training and Best Practices: Conduct statewide assessment of current training system using a competency based assessment tool; • Private Providers: Educate the provider community regarding the Transformation process; • Comprehensive Services Act (CSA) Best Practices: Evaluate a continuum of care that best serves VA youth; • Richmond Approach: Learning laboratory for implementing best practice; • Community Resource Development: Evaluate CSA best practice; and • Family Engagement: Identify best practice in family engagement. <p>CORE approved a Strategic Plan for the Transformation Initiative on December 10, 2008.</p> <p>As a direct result of the work done by the Special Advisor for Children’s Services and the success of CORE, the Transformation gained momentum statewide across all child-serving agencies. At the beginning of 2009, the Executive Team was established to help expand the practice model, develop common outcome measures, and develop strategies to expand the Transformation to all localities. The Executive Team, which served as the governing body of the Transformation, included the Special Advisor, the Director of Family Services for VDSS, the Manager of Child and Family Services for DBHDS, the Program Development Manager for the Division of Community Programs for DJJ, the Director of Financial and Data Services for DOE, and the Executive Director of OCS.</p> <p>To start the second phase of Transformation implementation, leadership hosted a series of Transformation Kickoff Forums across the state. The forums provided localities with an opportunity to learn more about the Transformation work to date, plans for implementation statewide, and how localities can benefit and become involved in the Initiative. They also offered an opportunity for people to provide input on the Transformation process.</p> <p>As the year progressed, there was new focus on information sharing, training, and building regional capacity in order to improve permanency outcomes for children and improve the way services are delivered to kids and families. The Governor’s Conference on Children’s Services System Transformation, held at the end of 2009, was attended by over 600 children’s services stakeholders and featured over 40 break-out sessions covering a wide range of topics. Focus of the conference was to recognize and celebrate the progress that was made around Transformation outcomes and continue promoting system change.</p>

CHILD WELFARE (continued)

Lead Agency	Description	Status
Social Services	<p>The Board of Social Services consists of nine members appointed by the Governor based on qualifications and experience that demonstrate each member's suitability to consider and act upon the various needs and decisions within the board's area of responsibility.</p> <p>Members of the board are appointed for a term of four years, and no member is eligible to serve more than two successive full terms. The board includes a member from each of the welfare regions of the state.</p> <p>The Board has three standing committees: Adult Services; Child Services; and Poverty.</p> <p>A Strategic Planning Committee operates under the name Virginia Social Services System (VSSS) and serves as a partnership of key organizations responsible for the administration, supervision and delivery of social services. The System has implemented strategic planning to set a course and measure progress. Members representing local departments of social services, the Virginia Community Action Partnership (V-CAP) and DSS are responsible for developing strategic goals, objectives and measures for DSS. The Committee operates under a charter which provides detailed information on the committee, its roles and responsibilities.</p> <p>Commission's involvement: Tracking</p>	The Board generally meets once each quarter and has met most recently on April 14, 2010. The next meeting is scheduled for June 16-17 in Richmond.
Social Services	<p>Child Protective Services Out of Family Advisory Group is established in § 63.2 of the Code for the purpose of advising the Board of Social Services on the effectiveness of the policies and standards governing out-of-family investigations.</p> <p>Commission's involvement: Tracking</p>	The Advisory Group meets quarterly in Charlottesville. (The DSS website indicates that the Advisory Group is currently not meeting, pending guidance from the Board.)
Social Services	<p>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, including 4 legislative members and 11 nonlegislative citizen members.</p> <p>Commission's involvement: Panel Member</p>	<p>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 Code which requires the Panel to review and report its findings on the guidelines to the General Assembly.</p> <p>The Panel meets next on September 15, 2010.</p>

CHILD WELFARE (continued)

Lead Agency	Description	Status
<p>Education/Social Services</p>	<p>The Office of Early Childhood Development (OECD) coordinates programs and services for young children and their families with the goal of maximizing opportunities for Virginia’s children to reach kindergarten healthy and prepared for school success. OECD, which represents an interagency approach to managing services for young children and their families, spans the Virginia Departments of Education and Social Services and links to the Department of Health (VDH).</p> <p>The Office’s goal is to expand access to and coordinate Virginia’s system of early childhood development programs – birth to age five – and to provide a continuum of services and education to Virginia’s neediest children and their families. OECD addresses both child day and preschool.</p> <p>The Office’s objectives include interagency coordination and program alignment, development of a coordinated professional development system for the early childhood workforce, and an integrated data system to improve policy, programming, and budget decisions.</p> <p>Commission’s involvement: Tracking</p>	<p>Created in spring 2008, the Office began coordinating state early childhood programs on July 1, 2008. Its website at www.earlychildhood.virginia.gov details its work.</p> <p>Daycare programs currently include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Child Care Services at VDSS ▪ Department of Social Services—Licensing • Virginia Child Care Resource and Referral Network (VACCRRN) <p>Preschool programs include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Virginia Preschool Initiative ▪ Head Start in Virginia ▪ Start Strong Initiative ▪ Head Start State Collaboration Office ▪ Early Childhood Special Education <p>Also, OECD works through a liaison with the VDH to ensure the integration of health-related programs. To further goals of interagency collaboration, OECD is engaged in a three-year project designed to develop an integrated interagency data system that enables policymakers to assess the impact of OECD initiatives on the quality of child care available for, and used by, low-income working parents and at-risk families. In partnership with Virginia Tech, OECD was awarded a Child Care State Research Capacity-Cooperative Agreements Grant. The federal grant and matching funding support collaborative data gathering involving VDSS, VDH, Virginia Department of Education, Virginia Tech, local departments of social services and school districts, Head Start, and others. The grant, valued at approximately \$850,000 is provided by the Administration for Children and Families, Office of Planning, Research, and Evaluation.</p>
<p>Voices for Virginia’s Children</p>	<p>KIDS COUNT data system is an on-going nationwide effort to monitor key statistical indicators of the well-being of children. Supported by the Annie E. Casey Foundation, KIDS COUNT gives policy makers, researchers, government and elected officials, funders and others ready access to more than 100 up-to-date statistical indicators of health status, educational achievement, poverty and socio-economic status, family and community demographics reflecting overall child-being and risk factors that threaten well-being. The data is presented such that Virginia data can be compared to other states and national trends.</p> <p>Commission’s involvement: Advisory Group Member</p>	<p>Voices for Virginia’s Children, a non-profit organization, is part of the KIDS COUNT national network. An Advisory Group of professionals has been convened to assess data needs in Virginia. Voices maintains a KIDS COUNT on-line data center to make accessing and portraying data easier for users. The data center can be accessed from Voices’ website http://vakids.org/work/kcdata.htm.</p> <p>Data is categorized by the following factors:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Education 2. Economic Well-Being 3. Health 4. Safety and Risky Behaviors

CHILD WELFARE (continued)

Lead Agency	Description	Status
Social Services	<p>The Child Welfare Advisory Committee (CWAC) is the primary organization to advise the Department of Social Services' Director of the Division of Family Services on child welfare issues. It helps ensure that all child welfare activities are child-centered, family-focused and community-based. Objectives include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • advising on child welfare program, policy, training and practice issues; • advising on the development of the five-year Child and Family Services Plan and annual progress reports, as well as other state plans under the responsibility of Family Services; and • guiding development and implementation of Virginia's Program Improvement Plan (PIP) for any element that Virginia does not meet requirements of the Child and Family Services Review. <p>The CWAC was created in 2003 to assist in the Federal Child and Family Services Review that was conducted in July of that year. The Review subsequently indicated that Virginia needed improvement in several key areas, which led to expanded CWAC responsibilities for providing guidance and direction to the PIP. The PIP's corrective phase ended January 2007, but CWAC has continued its work. Committee membership includes advocacy groups, private providers, local and state public agencies and foster/adoptive parents.</p> <p>Commission's involvement: Committee Member</p>	<p>Child welfare programs of the Department of Social Services which are addressed by CWAC include Adoption, Child Protective Services, Family Preservation, Foster Care, and Interstate Compact on the Placement of Children (ICPC).</p> <p>CWAC meetings are generally held on the third Friday of each month. 2010 meetings to date have been held January 22, February 19, April 16, and May 21.</p> <p>At its May meeting, members heard updates on Casey Re-engineering, DFS Training, and the Family Engagement DVDs. A review of Longitudinal Data was also provided.</p> <p>In April, members discussed legislative initiatives from the 2010 General Assembly Session and their impact on child welfare programming. Among other updates: Annie E. Casey Strategic Consulting Group has changed its name and is reengaging with Virginia around permanency issues. The new name is Casey Child Welfare Strategy Group. In addition, Poverty Law Center staff is exploring a proposal where Legal Aids could partner with local departments to send referrals for families that are involved with family presentation activities, but not involved with the juvenile courts. Referrals could include civil issues such as dealing with access to benefits, domestic violence or sub-standard housing. The partnerships could also benefits departments trying to work with kin placements in the future.</p> <p>At its February meeting, members discussed the Agents of Change leadership program, co-sponsored by DSS and Annie E. Casey Foundation. There are 58 participants in five cluster areas from all of the Transformation partner agencies: Fredericksburg, Charlottesville/Albemarle, Winchester/Frederick/Clarke, Harrisonburg/Rockingham and Richmond (state). Information about Family Engagement efforts is available at www.vafamilyconnections.com under the Building Block links. Technical assistance in the form of roundtables for localities is being offered as the first phase of implementation goes forward. These will be held quarterly in each region, beginning with Phase One localities.</p>
Social Services	<p>The scope of Virginia's programs is presented in DSS' quarterly Virginia Child Protection Newsletter (VCPN). The scholarly periodical, which provides service providers and educators with detailed descriptions of Virginia programs, current research, and national trends, is published by DSS Child Protective Services Unit and James Madison University's Department of Psychology.</p> <p>Commission's involvement: Tracking</p>	<p>The Spring 2010 issue - "35 Years of Progress and Intervention" – reported on the evolution of child abuse and neglect initiatives. This issue followed up on the discussion in the Winter 2009 edition on the long-term effects of maltreatment.</p> <p>Current and past issues are available at www.psychweb.cisat.jmu.edu/graysojh.</p>

CHILD WELFARE (continued)

Lead Agency	Description	Status
Social Services	<p>Senate Joint Resolution 45 (2010, Puller) encourages the Department of Social Services (DSS) to work with public and private partners to conduct a comprehensive public awareness and education programs on the identification, prevention, and reporting of abuse, neglect, and exploitation of adults and children who have a disability.</p> <p>The resolution directs the DSS Commissioner to disseminate copies of the resolution to constituents so they are aware of the program.</p> <p>Commission's involvement: Tracking</p>	<p>DSS has reported that, for fiscal year 2009, there were 34,768 accepted reports of child abuse or neglect, resulting in 22,761 family assessments, 10,104 investigations, 8,661 findings of services need and 3,857 findings of abuse or neglect.</p>
Social Services	<p>Established in Code by the 2009 General Assembly, the Virginia Child Protection Accountability System (CPS) collects and makes available to the public information on the response to reported cases of child abuse in the Commonwealth. Code provisions have been amended as of July 1, 2010 by House Bill 736 (Albo), which adds state police and circuit courts to the list of agencies required to report cases of child abuse and neglect into the System. The intent of the legislation was to increase communication and cooperation among law enforcement agencies and help officials see whether some localities fail to pursue people who prey on children.</p> <p>The <i>Code of Virginia</i> requires that the System include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> the total number of complaints alleging child abuse, neglect, or a combination thereof received; the total number of complaints deemed valid pursuant to § 63.2-1508; the total number of complaints investigated by the Department pursuant to subsection I of § 63.2-1503 and § 63.2-1505; the total number of cases determined to be founded cases of abuse or neglect; and the total number of cases resulting in a finding that the complaint was founded resulting in administrative appeal. (Information reported shall be reported by total number of appeals to the local department, total number of appeals to the Department, and total number of appeals by outcome of the appeal.) <p>For each category of information required by this subdivision, DSS shall also report the total number of cases by type of abuse, by gender, age, and race of the alleged victim, and by the nature of the relationship between the alleged victim and alleged abuser.</p> <p>Commission's involvement: Tracking</p>	<p>The 2nd quarter CPS report for Fiscal Year 2010 (data for October-December 2009) is provided on the DSS website www.dss.virginia.gov/geninfo/reports/children/cps/accountability.cgi</p> <p>The system, as described by DSS: collects and makes available to the public information on the response to reported cases of child abuse and neglect in the Commonwealth. Quarterly reports provide information on the number of referrals received, accepted, investigated, founded and appealed by locality and for the State as a whole.</p>

CHILD WELFARE (continued)

Lead Agency	Description	Status
Social Services	<p>The Family & Children's Trust Fund of Virginia (FACT) was created in the Code of Virginia in 2002 with the mandate "to provide for the support and development of services for the prevention and treatment of violence within families." The stated intent was that the goal be achieved through public and private collaboration.</p> <p>FACT is administered by a Board of Trustees comprised of 15 members appointed by the Governor and subject to confirmation by the General Assembly. The Commissioner of Social Services serves as a permanent member of the Board. Partners include the Department of Social Services, Prevent Child Abuse Virginia, the Center for Injury and Violence Prevention, Virginia Sexual and Domestic Violence Action Alliance, Department of Corrections – Victim Services, Virginia Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA), and other governmental entities, advocacy organizations.</p> <p>Funding comes from a variety of sources, including KIDS FIRST license plates and merchandise. Also, Virginia law allows taxpayers to voluntarily donate all or part of their income tax refund to FACT via their state tax return or on-line designation. Funds received are subsequently re-distributed for local programs throughout Virginia.</p> <p>Commission's involvement: Tracking</p>	<p>FACT will host a one-day conference on Community Collaboration in Preventing Family Violence on June 15, 2010 in Richmond. FACT's new report - <i>Violence at Home</i> - will be introduced, with breakout workshops. Topics include a range of topics, including <i>Addressing Co-occurrence of Child/Adult Abuse and Domestic Violence</i>.</p> <p>To encourage applications from smaller organizations in less populated localities or lacking staff with professional grant-writing experience, FACT offered a pre-proposal conference for applicants before its January 19, 2010 deadline for proposals for Family Violence Prevention, Treatment and Public Awareness Projects.</p> <p>Grant funding supports innovative and creative service delivery to prevent or treat family violence, including child abuse and neglect, adult abuse and neglect, domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence and suicide. A list of project descriptions for local services receiving funding is available on FACT's website - www.fact.state.va.us.</p>
Criminal Justice Services	<p>The Department of Criminal Justice Services (DCJS), the University of Richmond, and the Criminal Injuries Compensation Fund sponsor cooperatively the 2010 Basic Virginia Victim Assistance Academy. The Academy is open to applicants who are victim services providers, and allied professionals such as law enforcement officers, prosecutors, probation and parole officers, volunteers, sexual assault advocates, domestic violence advocates, victim/witness staff, and others. Successful completion of the Academy will make participants eligible to apply for Provisional Advocate Credentialing through the National Advocate Credentialing Program.</p> <p>Commission's involvement: Tracking</p>	<p>The event will be held July 26-30, 2010 at the University of Richmond.</p> <p>Individuals interested in being considered for admission in 2011 should refer periodically for information on the DCJS website at https://www.dcjs.virginia.gov.</p>
Social Services	<p>The Department of Social Services (DSS) has launched a series of Public Service Announcements as on-line podcasts designed for individual, organizational or media use.</p> <p>Podcasts related to youth issues address:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Domestic Violence • 2-1-1 Virginia (two spots) • Putative Father Registry and "Most Wanted" Initiative • Kinship Care <p>Commission's involvement: Tracking</p>	<p>Available on the DSS website, the PSAs utilize a contemporary media format. They are available at no cost.</p> <p>Individuals and organizations can register to receive new podcasts as they become available; each of those archived can be listened to (or used) separately.</p> <p>Information about the service is available at www.dss.virginia.gov/news/podcasts/podcasts.xml.</p>

CHILD WELFARE (continued)

Lead Agency	Description	Status
Social Services	<p>Prevent Child Abuse Virginia (PCAV) is a statewide, private nonprofit organization leading a coalition of community partners across the Commonwealth. It coordinates Healthy Families Virginia (HFV), a statewide system of support and information for all new families about parenting and community resources. It makes home visiting services available to families who need personal guidance. Other direct service programs include Hugs and Kisses and Nurturing Programs. In addition, Prevent Child Abuse Virginia provides Awareness Activities, such as Child Abuse Prevention Month promotions and a “Together for Children” newsletter, as well as educational opportunities and advocacy.</p> <p>Prevent Child Abuse Virginia’s outreach extends into Virginia’s adult correctional facilities to reach incarcerated parents of minor children. Mothers Inside Loving Kids (MILK), in operation since the 1980s, transferred to Fluvanna Correctional Facility for Women when it opened in 1998. The program is a series of day-long mother/child visits which develops skills in mothers who have completed required parenting classes. There are currently approximately 40 incarcerated mothers who were first identified by staff and ultimately approved after interviews with the Board of Directors.</p> <p>DSS administers both the Virginia Family Violence Prevention Program (VFVPP) and Community Based Child Abuse Prevention (CBCAP) program grants for child abuse and neglect prevention. The VFVPP Program was established in 1982 for purposes stated in the Code of Virginia, § 63.2-1502.3: “to assist in developing programs aimed at discovering and preventing the many factors causing child abuse and neglect.”</p> <p>Commission’s involvement: Tracking</p>	<p>Item 333-C of the 2010-2012 Appropriation Act provides \$2,925,501 the second year from the general fund and \$4,139,820 the first year and \$3,358,306 (<i>sic</i>) the first year from the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) block grant to support Health Families Virginia. The Department of Social Services is directed to allocate funds from this item to the statewide office of Prevent Child Abuse Virginia (PCAV) for providing the coordination, technical support, quality assurance, training and evaluation of the Healthy Families Virginia program.</p> <p>April 2010 was commemorated as Child Abuse Prevention Month with activities held throughout the state. On its redesigned website, PCAV outlines its on-going educational opportunities and direct service programs. Links to <i>Developing Parent Leadership through Parent Engagement</i> and other relevant topics are available at www.preventchildabuseva.org.</p> <p>Healthy Families Virginia is holding training sessions January through June 2010 in Richmond. Topics include Cultural Sensitivity, Core Training (for FSWs and Program Supervisors/Managers) and Boundaries.</p> <p>PCAV was recognized by Healthy Families America (HFA), for successful quality management of the Virginia Healthy Families (HFV) sites. All eligible sites have successfully completed the accreditation process. As a result, PCAV and the HFV sites have been invited to go through the process of accreditation as a state system rather than on an individual basis. This option has only been offered to state government agencies in other states that fund a network of Healthy Families sites. The lengthy process will be complete in late 2010, with re-certification of PCAV and 60 percent of the individual sites every four years.</p>

CHILD WELFARE (continued)

Lead Agency	Description	Status
Social Services	<p>The Virginia Information and Referral (I&R) System has existed for almost a quarter of a century. Section 63.2-222 of the Code established a statewide I&R system, which is designed to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Collect and maintain accurate and complete resource data on a statewide basis; ▪ Link citizens needing human services with appropriate community resources to satisfy those needs; ▪ Assist in planning for human services delivery at the local, regional and state levels; and ▪ Provide information to assist decision-makers in allocating financial and other resources to respond to State and local human service priorities. <p>The 2010-2012 Appropriation Act appropriated the Department of Social Services \$473,844 from the general fund and \$781,791 from the federal trust fund to support statewide implementation.</p> <p>Item 333-F-1-3 of the Appropriation Act direct DSS to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Request that all state and local child-serving agencies be included in the Virginia Statewide I&R System, as well as any agency or entity that receives state general fund dollars and provides services to families and youth. The Secretaries of Health and Human Resources, Education, and Public Safety shall assist in this effort by requesting all affected agencies within their Secretariats to submit information to the statewide I&R System and ensure that such information is accurate and updated annually. Agencies shall also notify the Virginia I&R System of changes in services that occur throughout the year. ▪ Communicate with Virginia child-serving agencies about the availability of the statewide I&R System. This information shall also be communicated via the DSS' broadcast system on their agency-wide Intranet so that all local and regional offices can be better informed about the Statewide I&R System. Information on the Statewide I&R System shall also be included within the Department's electronic mailings to all local and regional offices at least biannually. <p>Commission's involvement: Commission Initiative</p>	<p>In Fall 2004, the Commission on Youth, as part of a two-year legislative initiative on Strengthening Families, approved a study recommendation supporting the statewide Information & Referral System for 2-1-1. The Commission subsequently adopted 2-1-1 as a stand-alone initiative for the 2005 study year.</p> <p>On February 11, 2008, Northern Virginia was added to the 2-1-1 network, making 2-1-1 available statewide. Effective July 1, 2008, 2-1-1 began offering services statewide, 24 hours, 7 days a week.</p> <p>Virginia service providers are the Council of Community Services (Roanoke), Family Resource & Referral (Staunton), Crisis Link (Northern Virginia), the Planning Council (Norfolk), United Way of Central Virginia (Lynchburg), and United Way of Greater Richmond & Petersburg. Centers are certified through AIRS, the international Alliance of Information and Referral Systems. Virginia's AIRS is a statewide association of organizations, agencies and individuals committed to ensuring that all Virginians have access to quality health and human services information.</p> <p>2-1-1 offers callers a connection to a trained professional who provides referrals to health and human services, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Basic human needs; • Work initiatives (including GED preparation and educational/vocational training programs); • Support to seniors and those with disabilities (including relative caregiver information); • Support for children, youth and families (including after-school programs, tutoring, mentorships, protective services, early childhood learning programs, child care referral centers); and • Volunteer service opportunities (including donated goods). • Physical and mental health resources (including pre-natal care, children's health insurance, support groups). <p>In anticipation of Virginia public schools being out for the summer, 2-1-1 offers callers a comprehensive list of available child care in those areas. Information about this new service is being promoted on the Department of Social Services' website under "Kids out of School? Need child care?".</p> <p>The organization has updated its website for user-friendly on-line inquiries and added Spanish as a second language option. Its user web address is http://www.211virginia.org.</p>

CHILD WELFARE (continued)

Lead Agency	Description	Status
Social Services	<p>Through Virginia Child Care Resource and Referral Network, which receives funding through DSS' Division of Child Care and Development, the Virginia Partnership for Out-of-School Time (VPOST) supports the efforts of out-of-school time programs and advocates for improvement and enhancement of quality out-of-school programs throughout Virginia.</p> <p>Commission's involvement: Workgroup Member</p>	<p>At its April 21, 2009 meeting, the group reached consensus that Virginia needs to create networks to build a strong coalition to support the group's goals.</p> <p>On May 19, VPOST hosted a statewide summit for stakeholders on the topic Virginia's Out-of-School Time Leadership Summit in Richmond. Topics include "What is a Good Quality System" and "Importance of a Statewide Afterschool Network." Delegate Chris Peace was a featured speaker.</p> <p>Meetings are being hosted by the Virginia Alliance for Boys and Girls Clubs.</p>
Social Services	<p>Kids Out of School? Need Child Care? Provides parents and caregivers with an on-line search tool for child care providers in their areas. The link allows users to specify zip code, locality or the name of a specific facility. Records of inspections, compliance, and violation history for licensed child care facilities are also posted.</p> <p>Parents can also call 1-866-KIDS-TLC or dial 2-1-1 for a comprehensive list of available child care.</p> <p>Commission's involvement: Tracking</p>	<p>The Department of Social Services' homepage can be accessed at www.dss.virginia.gov/index.html.</p>
Housing and Community Development	<p>A Child Care for Homeless Children program and the Child Services Coordinator Grant are established in conjunction with State Shelter Grant and Emergency Shelter Grants. Funding for the program is, in part, through the Department of Social Services' Child Care and Development funds.</p> <p>The grants assist homeless families with the cost of child care while they are employed or enrolled in an educational/job training program. They provide support for the shelters' child services coordinator and ensure that children in shelters receive health and mental health care and that their educational needs are met. Awards are designated for the operation, administration and supportive services for both emergency shelter and transitional housing facilities.</p> <p>Commission's involvement: Tracking</p>	<p>Grant recipients are nonprofit and local government providers of emergency shelter and transitional housing for the homeless. Grants are provided through four program areas: State shelter Grants, federally funded Emergency Shelter Grants, Child Service Coordinator Grant, and the Child Care for the Homeless Children Grant program. A complete listing of shelters and localities receiving funding is provided on the Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) website at www.dhcd.virginia.gov.</p>

CHILD WELFARE (continued)

Lead Agency	Description	Status
Social Services	<p>Virginia Community Action Partnership (VACAP) is the statewide membership association for Virginia's thirty non-profit private and public community action agencies which work to fight poverty and build self-sufficiency for strong families and communities.</p> <p>Item 333-A-3 of the 2010-2012 Appropriation Act directs VACAP to support the Virginia Earned Income Tax Coalition and provide grants to local organizations to provide outreach, education and tax preparation services to citizens who may be eligible for the federal Earned Income Tax Credit.</p> <p>Commission's involvement: Tracking</p>	Budget language requires the Department of Social Services to report its findings no later than December 1 of each year to the Governor and the Chairmen of the Senate Finance and House Appropriations Committees and the Chairman of the Joint Legislative Audit and Review Commission.
Social Services	<p>The Community Builders' Network of Virginia (CBN) is a non-profit organization which serves as a network of community-based coalitions.</p> <p>The coalitions which make up this organization collectively offer alternative activities to youth and adults that focus on eliminating alcohol and substance abuse, strengthening family structure and other positive activities.</p> <p>CBN offers financial and technical support, networking opportunities, and educational training and collaborates with all member coalitions to provide technical assistance, planning, education and training as a means for facilitating coalition based activities.</p> <p>Commission's involvement: Organizational Partner and Participant</p>	The 7 th Annual Statewide Conference is planned for June 24-25, 2010 in Richmond. Delegates Robert Brink and Chris Peace will serve as legislative panel members to discuss topics of interest to participants.

KINSHIP CARE, FOSTER CARE & ADOPTION

Lead Agency	Description	Status
Commission on Youth	<p>The Commission on Youth has approved as a 2010 legislative initiative a study of Barriers to Kinship Care in Virginia to assess barriers to foster and kinship care placements. The study will address policies, training and funding factors affecting kinship care placements and determine whether Virginia's barrier crime laws impact placements in foster and kinship care.</p> <p>The Commission will convene a work group from stakeholders, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Secretary of Health and Human Resources; • Virginia Departments of Social Services, Behavioral Health and Developmental Services, Criminal Justice Services, Aging, and Education; • State Executive Council and Office of Comprehensive Services; • Virginia Association of Community Services Boards. • Local Departments of Social Services; • Virginia League of Social Service Executives; • Virginia's Court Improvement Program – Supreme Court of Virginia; • Virginia Juvenile and Domestic Relations Judiciary; • CASA representatives. • Virginia Association of Counties and Virginia Municipal League; • Faith-Based community; • Private child placing agencies; • Advocacy organizations; and • Parent Representatives. <p>Commission's involvement: Commission Study</p>	<p>The Commission approved the study plan at its April 21, 2010 meeting. The study plan, which details issues and activities, can be accessed at the Commission on Youth website at http://coy.state.va.us.</p> <p>The Department of Social Services will present on Virginia's kinship care system and Department initiatives at the June 8, 2010 Commission on Youth meeting.</p> <p>The newly-formed Advisory Group will convene July 7, 2010 in Richmond.</p> <p>Findings and recommendations will be reported to the Commission prior to the 2011 General Assembly Session.</p>
Social Services	<p>House Bill 718 (2010, Peace) requires the Governor and the Department of Social Services (DSS), together with other appropriate executive branch agencies, to develop a plan to increase permanent placements of children with families to reduce the number of children in foster care by 25 percent by 2020.</p> <p>Commission's involvement: Tracking</p>	<p>On April 21, 2010, the Commission on Youth approved its study plan for Barriers to Kinship Care in Virginia, which includes, as one activity, the monitoring of this plan.</p>

KINSHIP CARE, FOSTER CARE & ADOPTION *(continued)*

Lead Agency	Description	Status
Social Services	<p>The Children’s Services System Transformation is seeking to address kinship care across the entire child welfare continuum. To further this goal, the Department of Social Services (DSS) has developed a strategic work plan that addresses the following areas where kinship care affects the foster care system:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kinship as diversion; • Kinship as foster care placement; • Kinship as a step down option; and • Kinship as permanence. <p>One of the key performance outcomes for the Transformation is to “Increase the number of children placed with relatives,” i.e., the number of children in local Departments of Social Services (LDSS) custody that are placed with approved relatives as their foster parents. Virginia currently ranks last in the nation regarding relative care, with fewer than 5 percent of children falling into this placement category (the national average is 24 percent). Because children in kinship placements yield the highest permanency rates, shortest length of stay, and best placement stability of all placement types, social services leadership has determined that improving performance on this measure is critical.</p> <p>To this point, DSS has been unable to measure the work that takes place on the front end of our system, i.e., kinship placements, but preliminary results of a recent study conducted by the Outcome Based Reporting and Analysis Unit (OBRA) suggest that LDSS divert anywhere from 2,100 – 3,000 children annually by placing them with relatives. DSS plans to compile and disseminate a list of best practices observed regarding foster care diversion to relatives.</p> <p>Commission’s involvement: Tracking</p>	<p>DSS Division of Family Services (DFS) has adapted their scope of work to address kinship as foster care placement. Because Virginia’s Children’s Services Practice (CSP) Model indicates that children do best when raised in families, in early 2010, DFS will be developing strategies to assist LDSS in examining children in placements that are not family based. These strategies will focus heavily on the use of data to drive decision making, file mining, and youth and family involvement, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Revise foster care guidance to provide clear direction for diligent search for family and other individuals significant to the child; • Develop guidance and provide training around Family Partnership meetings to LDSS to involve family members throughout the life of the case; • Revise CPS policy and guidance manual to include identifying and locating kin for all cases determined to be high risk of placement; and • Study perceived placement barriers for kinship care. <p>In December 2009 a DFS work group recommended that subsidized custody be included as a permanency option for children in foster care that cannot be reunified with the family from which they were removed and when adoption by a relative has been ruled out. DSS is currently formalizing strategies to make subsidized custody a permanency option in Virginia.</p>
Social Services	<p>The Kinship Care Task Force – co-chaired by Senator Yvonne Miller and the Commissioner of DSS – 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.</p> <p>Commission’s involvement: Senator Yvonne Miller co-chairs the Task Force; Commission staff serves as a member.</p>	<p>DSS has developed two brochures about kinship care: <i>A Guide to Exploring the Kinship Care Options</i> and <i>Virginia’s Legal Options For a Relative When a Child Cannot Live With His Parents</i>.</p> <p>DSS re-engaged in 2009 with Casey consultants to address kinship care issues under the umbrella of the Family Engagement initiative. In anticipation of a plan to strengthen kinship care across the continuum of child welfare, there is discussion at DSS about working towards consolidating and streamlining its kinship care initiatives.</p>

KINSHIP CARE, FOSTER CARE & ADOPTION *(continued)*

Lead Agency	Description	Status
Aging	<p>The Kinship Care Initiative is a statewide Task Force and information network which focuses on inter-generational activities, as well as communication issues among the kinship care community.</p> <p>Sponsored by the Brookdale Foundation's Relatives as Parents Program (RAPP), the Initiative offers support groups and information for relatives serving as parents. It also works closely with other state agencies and private organizations to meet the service needs of kinship care families. One of these groups, the Virginia Cooperative Extension, has developed a curriculum and lecture series entitled <i>Grandparents Raising Grandchildren: Rights and Responsibilities</i>.</p> <p>Commission's involvement: Task Force Member</p>	<p>In observance of April as the Month of the Grieving Child, events held throughout the state acknowledged children who have experienced a loss and for parents who have lost a child.</p> <p>Caring for Children who have Experienced Trauma is a PowerPoint-based training curriculum from the National Child Traumatic Stress Network designed to be taught by a mental health professional and foster parent as co-facilitators. The curriculum includes nine case studies of representative foster care children from 8 months to 15 years in age and explores case studies of secondary traumatic stress in parents. The initiative is being offered as a resource for parents helping their children move forward from traumatic pasts.</p> <p>At its May 20 meeting, held jointly with the all-volunteer Virginia Caregiver Association, members heard presentations on recent developments in DSS' Kinship Care Program and on Catholic Charities of Southeastern Virginia's initiatives. A Brookdale Foundation representative updated members on national developments in kinship care and on its Relatives as Parents Program.</p>
Medical Assistance Services	<p>Treatment Foster Care and Residential Psychiatric Services Training – Item 297-O of the 2010-2012 Appropriation Act requires the Department of Medical Assistance Services (DMAS), in cooperation with the State Executive Council, to offer semi-annual training to local Comprehensive Services Act teams on procedures for using Medicaid for residential treatment and treatment foster care services.</p> <p>Commission's involvement: Tracking</p>	<p>DMAS publishes an on-line newsletter available at https://dmas.kepro.org which provides program updates and other announcements.</p>
Social Services/ Education	<p>Educational Advocacy Training Initiative is designed to support workers, parents and youth by offers training opportunities for workers and families by</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Providing each participant with a better understanding of the educational rights of all children in Virginia regarding special education, enrollment, school discipline, and the quality of their education; • Helping develop a better understanding of the specific educational protections afforded children in foster care, with a particular emphasis on both federal and state law providing for immediate enrollment or the ability to remain in one's school even after a placement change outside of the attendance zone; and • Informing participants how to successfully use the information obtained pursuant to the first two objectives to benefit the children they serve. <p>Commission's involvement: Tracking</p>	<p>Education Law and Advocacy Training participants will learn advocacy strategies for use with schools and with courts that will lead to improved educational outcomes for children. The 2010 series offers one-day training sessions presented by the JustChildren program. Sessions have been scheduled for each regional office: Northern (March 24); Eastern (April 9); Central (April 21); Piedmont (April 1 and June 25) and Western (April 7 and June 11). There is no cost to participants.</p>

KINSHIP CARE, FOSTER CARE & ADOPTION *(continued)*

Lead Agency	Description	Status
Social Services	<p>FACES (Family Advocacy, Collaboration, Empowerment, and Support) of Virginia Families, the organization seeks to establish a grassroots effort for kinship parents, foster and adoptive parents in Virginia. Formerly the Virginia Foster, Adoptive and Kinship Parents Association, FACES is a not-for-profit association funded by the Virginia Department of Social Services.</p> <p>FACES supports recruitment and retention of foster, kinship and adoptive parents and provides information to the State about what families need in terms of support and training. FACES also advocates for the needs of youth and families.</p> <p>Commission's involvement: Tracking</p>	<p>In 2008, FACES developed a legislative proposal for a Foster Care Code of Ethics and Mutual Responsibility in order to consistently, across all localities, ensure that foster parents, workers, and administrators are mutually agreeing to support one another. The agreement was implemented across Virginia on July 1, 2009. A new FACES Board of Directors was installed on April 25, 2010.</p> <p>FACES has established the Open Arms Initiative as an effort to assist families in adopting children from the Virginia foster care system and assist children currently in the system find a family that might be of interest to them.</p> <p>In May, FACES, in collaboration with local departments of social services, provided training opportunities for families and professionals as part of Foster Care Appreciation Month. In addition, the organization is developing a Virginia Foster Care Guide Book for Parents, an Adoption Toolkit, a Fostering Housing Project, and Walk Me Home: An Awareness & Celebration Event.</p> <p>FACES maintains a toll-free phone number for families (877-VAFACES or 877-823-2237), made possible under a Department of Social Services family support contract. A Kinship Care resources kit is available on-line at www.facesofvirginia.org.</p>
Social Services	<p>Foster Care Training</p> <p>Item 326-A of the 2010-2012 Appropriation Act directs the Department of Social Services, in collaboration with the Office of Comprehensive Services, to provide training to local staff serving on Family Assessment and Planning Teams (FAPTs) and Community Policy and Management Teams (CPMTs). Training shall address federal and state requirements pertaining to the provision of the foster care services funded under § 2.2-5211 of the Code. Training, which shall also include written guidance on which services remain the financial responsibility of the local departments, shall be provided on a regional basis at least annually.</p> <p>Commission's involvement: Tracking</p>	<p>DSS and the Independent Living Coordinators Committee, Central Region, scheduled special training for those who work with teens in foster care on June 6 in Richmond. The "Permanency for Teens in Foster Care" program was designed for foster parents, community partners, mental health support workers, in-home workers and stakeholders. Speakers addressed brain development, stress, trauma and effective ways to heal youth within the foster home. Speakers also discussed the importance of permanency for older youth in foster care, what it means to be a "forever family," understanding the difference between legal adoption and moral adoption and strategies to prevent disruptions.</p>

KINSHIP CARE, FOSTER CARE & ADOPTION *(continued)*

Lead Agency	Description	Status
Social Services	<p>The Fostering Connections to Success and Increasing Adoptions Act (H.R. 6893/P.L. 110-351) addresses the needs of youth in foster care by promoting permanent families for them through relative guardianship and adoption and improving education and health care. Additionally, it will extend federal support for youth up to age 21. The Fostering Connections Act, as it is known informally, will also offer for the first time many American Indian children federal protections and support. The Act includes provisions for the following:</p> <p><u>Ensuring Permanent Placements with Relatives</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kinship guardianship assistance payments for children living in foster care with relatives • Licensing standards for relatives <p><u>Increasing Adoptive Families for Children</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Federal support for adoption assistance for more children with special needs • Expanding the Adoption Incentives Program • Making older children who exit foster care eligible for additional supports • Outreach about the adoption tax credit <p><u>Maintaining Sibling Ties and Other Family Connections</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Placing siblings together • Family Connection Grants <p><u>Improving Outcomes for Older Youth in Foster Care</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continuing federal support for children in foster care after age 18 • Helping older youth successfully transition from foster care to independence <p><u>Improving the Quality of Staff Working with Children in the Child Welfare System</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Extending federal training to more staff <p><u>Increasing Access to Federal Funding to Promote Better Outcomes for Indian Children</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Allowing Indian tribes direct access to federal foster care and adoption assistance funds <p><u>Addressing Children’s Health and Education Needs</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Developing health oversight and coordination plans • Promoting educational stability <p>Commission’s involvement: Tracking</p>	<p>Although this is a federal initiative, it is included because of its far-reaching impact on future state initiatives in the Commonwealth.</p> <p>Commission on Youth staff participated in a web-based technical assistance conference call sponsored by the National Governors Association (NGA) Center for Best Practices and the National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL) held on May 27, 2010. Participants heard an overview of the challenges and opportunities presented by the Fostering Connections Act and discussed state strategies for developing cost models, as well as funding issues for the implementation of the extension of care provision.</p>

HUMAN SERVICES

Lead Agency	Description	Status
State and Local Agencies Representatives	<p>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. VALHSO advises state agency heads or members of the General Assembly members on these topics.</p> <p>Commission's involvement: Tracking</p>	VALHSO generally meets quarterly; however, additional meetings are added as needed for specific areas of interest.

CHILD CARE

Lead Agency	Description	Status
Social Services	<p>Automation of Day Care Assistance Program – Item 327-L of the 2010-2012 Appropriation Act expresses the General Assembly's intent that the Department of Social Services automate day care assistance programs. Under this budget, the program will receive \$750,000 each year to create the automated management and payment system.</p> <p>Commission's involvement: Tracking</p>	<p>In January 2009, DSS issued a Request for Information (RFI) to determine whether baseline requirements developed for the automated child care system could be met with existing technology and to discover new functionalities to make program management more efficient. Information compiled from responses to the RFI was used to develop a Request for Proposal (RFP), which was posted in May 2009. Negotiations and award of a contract took place in November 2009.</p> <p>Budget language requires the Department report on the status of the adequacy of the automation system and needed action to the Governor and the General Assembly by October 15 1 of each year. The Department's 2009 report was published <i>Report Document 244</i>.</p>
Social Services	<p>The Child Day Care Council (CDCC) is authorized by the Code to adopt regulatory standards for licensure and operation of child day care centers in Virginia. Also, in collaboration with the Virginia Recreation and Park Society and the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services, CDCC is charged with promulgating regulations for therapeutic recreation programs. The regulations are to be developed in consultation with representatives of the affected entities and are not to require the adoption of a specific teaching approach or doctrine.</p> <p>The CDCC, which operates under the supervision of the Secretary of Health and Human Resources, is comprised of a minimum of 28 members appointed by the Governor and representing a variety of interests from around the state. The Council is guided by its 2006-2011 Strategic Plan.</p> <p>Commission's involvement: Tracking</p>	<p>CDCC generally meets six times per year on the 2nd Thursday of every other month, opposite meetings of the Board.</p> <p>At its March 11, 2010 meeting, the agenda focused primarily on 2010 General Assembly actions and CDCC work related to the Regulation Report dated March 10 2009. In conjunction with that, CDCC has formed the following workgroups:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction and Administration (#1); • Staffing Qualifications and Training: Staffing & Supervision (#2); • Physical Plan/Programs (#3); and • Special Care Provisions and Emergencies/Special Services (#4). <p>Workgroup meetings are being held separately from those of the full Council. Since the full Council met in March, Workgroup #2 has met April 27 and May 13.</p>

PUBLIC SAFETY

Lead Agency	Description	Status
Virginia State Police	<p>Senate Bill 620 (2010, Deeds) establishes in the state treasury the Internet Crimes Against Children Fund and provisions in the Code of Virginia to fight online sexual predators.</p> <p>The law, which went into effect July 1, 2010, will assess an additional \$10 fee on each felony and misdemeanor conviction. The money will go into Virginia's Internet Crimes Against Children Fund to support the work of investigators. The fee is expected to generate at least \$1.5 million a year for the fund, which will be administered by the Virginia State Police.</p> <p>Moneys in the Fund shall be disbursed in the following manner, each showing the percentage against the total annual deposits:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> to the Virginia State Police, 33.3333 percent to support the Northern Virginia Internet Crimes Against Children program (Fairfax County); to the Department of Criminal Justice Services, a) 33.3333 percent to support the Southern Virginia Internet Crimes Against Children program (Bedford County); and b) 27.7777 percent to support grants and training and equipment for local law-enforcement agencies' use in investigating and prosecuting Internet crimes against children; and the Department of Social Services, 5.5555 percent to support the Virginia Child Protection Accountability System. <p>All fees collected pursuant to this section shall be deposited into the state treasury and credited to the Internet Crimes Against Children Fund.</p> <p>Commission's involvement: Tracking</p>	<p>Internet Crimes Against Children units have been established in Fairfax and Bedford counties. They each will receive one-third of the money from the fund. Most of the remaining third will be available as grants to other local law-enforcement agencies.</p>
Criminal Justice Services	<p>The 2010 General Assembly, through Item 384-H-1 of the 2010-2012 Appropriation Act, appropriated \$1.7 million each year for the Crimes Against Children.</p> <p>Two task forces are designated for funding: the Southern Virginia Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force and the Northern Virginia Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force.</p> <p>Commission's involvement: Tracking</p>	<p>Operation Blue Ridge Thunder through the Bedford County Virginia Sheriff's Office is comprised of a cooperative group of law enforcement agencies on the international, federal, regional, state and local levels. The Operation's mission is to safeguard children from Internet crime by weaving a seamless web of protection around them. The unit's commander and investigators have made over 100 presentations to administrators, teachers, parents, community groups and law enforcement professionals nationally and internationally.</p> <p>The Northern Virginia Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force (NOVA ICAC) is responsible for Northern Virginia and Washington, D.C.</p>

PUBLIC SAFETY (continued)

Lead Agency	Description	Status
University of Virginia	<p>The University of Virginia's Curry School of Education's Virginia Youth Violence Project addresses the range of youth violence prevention and school safety issues and provides training and support to schools educators through the Commonwealth. Bullying is included in the project's scope, as are more traditional public safety issues: Violence in the Schools, Threat Assessment, Prevention and Juvenile Violence.</p> <p>Commission's involvement: Tracking</p>	<p>On March 25, 2008, the University released the results of its Virginia High School Safety Study as the first statewide effort to assess student attitudes toward and perceptions of their school environments. The survey reflects responses from approximately 296 public high schools and approximately 7,400 on-line survey responses from 9th grade students and 2,500 9th grade teachers.</p> <p>A synopsis of the study findings, as well as state and national legislative initiatives, can be accessed at www.youthviolence.edschool.virginia.edu.</p>
Secretary of Public Safety	<p>The Community Profile Database, created by the Governor's Office for Substance Abuse Prevention (GOSAP), with its GOSAP Collaborative, is a one-stop, web-based, interactive tool that provides easy access to a variety of community-level data and prevention resources. It assists state and local prevention professionals, service providers, and the faith community in assessing needs, targeting resources, and planning services for youth and families to combat gang activity.</p> <p>Commission's involvement: Tracking</p>	<p>The Community Profile Database is recognized with a national "Best of the Web" award for innovation. The database provides:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Community planners with consistent, easily accessible data to help them assess local needs; ▪ Both public and private organizations with uniform, comparable data to use in developing grant applications; ▪ Objective data for use in benchmarking and monitoring progress toward achieving targeted outcomes; ▪ Community risk factors for gang activity (by age group, race/ethnic group, gender, city or county, zip code, where available); ▪ Resources for addressing gang problems: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - evidence-based programs serving Virginia's youth and families; - links to best practices for addressing gang problems; - links to network with other people involved in gang prevention and early intervention activities; and - training opportunities to instruct individuals how to use the database. <p>Each activity is evaluated to monitor outcomes and improve effectiveness.</p>
Criminal Justice Services	<p>Approximately \$6 million in grant awards for FY 2010 to improve criminal justice programs and services in Virginia have been announced. In total, 101 grants were approved and awarded to state agencies and non-profit entities. Funds include state funds appropriated by the General Assembly, as well as federal funds allocated to Virginia. Grants fund school resource officers, juvenile delinquency prevention programs, sexual assault programs, criminal justice system improvements, victim witness and sexual assault programs, school resource officers, campus safety programs, crime prevention programs, offender re-entry transitional services, residential substance abuse programs, and comprehensive community corrections programs.</p> <p>Commission's involvement: Tracking</p>	<p>Awards for FY 2010 programs targeting youth include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Byrne Justice Assistance Grant Program – 4 awards totaling \$216,924 (federal); • Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) – 27 awards totaling \$1,873,179 (state); • School Resource Officers – 28 awards totaling \$1,328,225 (state); • Juvenile Accountability Block Grant – 24 awards \$1,286,852 (federal and state); • Juvenile Justice Delinquency Prevention Title II – 18 awards totaling \$1,206,359 (federal) <p>Details about the grant programs can be found on the DCJS website at www.dcjs.virginia.gov/grants/directory.ctm.</p>

JUVENILE JUSTICE

Lead Agency	Description	Status
Board of Juvenile Justice	<p>The State Board of Juvenile Justice, as specified in the Code, consists of seven members appointed by the Governor. The Board governs the Department of Juvenile Justice.</p> <p>Appointments are subject to confirmation by the General Assembly if in session and, if not, then at its next succeeding session.</p> <p>Commission's involvement: Tracking</p>	<p>The Board held a public hearing on April 6, 2010 in Richmond, with additional time for public comment provided during its regularly scheduled meeting on April 7. The public hearing was intended to hear concerns, questions or suggestions on the following regulations: 6VAC35-41 Regulation Governing Juvenile Group Homes and Halfway Houses; 6VAC35-71 Regulation Governing Juvenile Correctional Centers; and 6VAC 35-101 Regulation Governing Juvenile Secure Detention Centers.</p> <p>Board policies and a long-range plan (adopted 2009) are available on the Department of Juvenile Justice website at www.djj.virginia.gov.</p> <p>Upcoming 2010 Board meetings are scheduled for June 9, September 8, and November 10.</p>
State and Local Juvenile Justice Agencies	<p>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.</p> <p>Commission's involvement: Tracking</p>	<p>The Council meets quarterly. Its next meeting is June 13, 2010 in Virginia Beach</p>
Juvenile Justice	<p>Founded in 1966, the Virginia Juvenile Justice Association is administered by an elected board of directors comprised of professionals from court services, DJJ Administration, indigent defense, the judiciary, secure detention, juvenile correctional facilities, halfway houses, group homes, private providers and others with an interest in youth and family services. The Association, which participates as a member of the Virginia Juvenile Justice Coalition, is committed to child advocacy and advancing the professional interests and competencies of its members.</p> <p>Commission's involvement: Tracking</p>	<p>This Association has established a Facebook group to provide an online forum for juvenile justice professionals to share information about recent juvenile justice publications and articles and upcoming juvenile justice events. Further information is available at www.VJJA.org.</p> <p>A series of state and local training events is offered; a statewide conference is held annually in November.</p>

MENTAL HEALTH

Lead Agency	Description	Status
Commission on Youth	<p>SJR 358 (2003) directed the Commission on Youth to update biennially its publication, the <i>Collection of Evidence-based Practices for Children and Adolescents with Mental Health Treatment Needs</i> (House Document 9, 2003). The purpose of the <i>Collection</i> is to identify effective treatment modalities and practices for children, including juvenile offenders, with mental health treatment needs. Moreover, utilization of evidence-based practices in the field of children's mental health may offer the Commonwealth cost savings.</p> <p>Commission's involvement: Commission Study</p>	<p>The Commission partnered with School of Psychology at Virginia Commonwealth University for the biennial update of the <i>Collection</i>, 4th Edition. Publication of the <i>Collection</i> in paper form is pending. Its Internet version will be launched in early summer in conjunction with the introduction of the Commission's newly-designed website. Technological advances and Commission web redesign will offer readers a range of new user-friendly improvements to the on-line <i>Collection</i>.</p> <p>On April 21, the Commission on Youth approved the 2010 Study Plan for dissemination of information about the new <i>Collection</i> and planning by the Advisory Group for the <i>Collection</i>, 5th Edition.</p>
Behavioral Health and Developmental Services	<p>Item 304-M of the 2011-2012 Appropriation Act directs the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services (BHDS) to implement a comprehensive planning process to identify concrete steps to provide children's mental health services as close to the children's homes as possible. Budget language directs the BHDS to include includes a wide variety of stakeholders (including families and advocates) to ensure that there are community-based children's mental health services throughout the Commonwealth.</p> <p>The target population is children through age 17 who:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • have a mental health problems; • may have co-occurring mental health and substance abuse problems; • may be in contact with the juvenile court system; • may require emergency services; or • may require long term community mental health and other supports. <p>The process is intended to identify the MH/SA services that are needed to help families keep their children at home and functioning in the community and should define the role that the Commonwealth Center for Children and Adolescents will play in this effort. The plan should establish and rank recommendations based on greatest priority and identify future funding associated with each recommendation. Participants should include input from community services boards, state and private and in-patient facilities, the Department of Social Services, Juvenile Justice, Education, and Medical Assistance Services.</p> <p>Commission's involvement: Tracking</p>	<p>The Commissioner shall report interim findings to the Chairmen of the House Appropriations and Senate Finance Committees by October 1, 2010 and a final report by 2011.</p>

MENTAL HEALTH *(continued)*

Behavioral Health and Developmental Services	<p>Item 304-M of the 2011-2012 Appropriation Act directs the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services (BHDS) to submit an annual report on the operation of Virginia's publicly-funded behavioral health and developmental services system. The report shall include a brief narrative and data on the numbers of individuals receiving state facility services of CSB services, including purchased inpatient psychiatric services, the types and amounts of services received by these individuals, and CSA and state facility service capacities, staffing, revenues, and expenditures.</p> <p>The annual report shall also describe major new initiatives implemented during the past year and information on the accomplishment of systemic outcome and performance measures during the year.</p> <p>Commission's involvement: Tracking</p>	<p>The BHDS is to submit its report to the Governor and the Chairmen of the House Appropriations and Senate Finance Committees no later than December 1 of each year for the preceding fiscal year. The first annual report shall be submitted no later than December 1, 2010 for FY 2010.</p>
Office for Protection and Advocacy	<p>The Virginia Office for Protection and Advocacy has an Advisory Council for the Protection and Advocacy for Individuals with Mental Illness Program (PAIMI). This Council, which is federally-funded, promotes the provision of legal and advocacy services for adults and children with mental illness who live in a hospital or other facility providing care and treatment for their illness.</p> <p>Commission's involvement: Tracking</p>	<p>The Advisory Council is comprised of 15-20 members representative of Virginia's diverse culture and geography. Membership includes individuals who have received or are receiving mental health services and family members (at least 60 %), attorneys, mental health professionals, individuals knowledgeable about mental illness, service providers, and at least one parent of a minor child with mental illness.</p>
Association of Community Services Boards	<p>Virginia Child and Family Services Council, which is one of six councils of 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 Council collaborates with the Department of Behavioral Health and Development Services and other relevant state agencies to assure consistent policies, protocols, procedures and data collection methods in service delivery and reporting.</p> <p>Commission's involvement: Tracking</p>	<p>The Council meets quarterly on the first Friday of the month.</p>
Behavioral Health and Developmental Services	<p>The 2009 Appropriation Act directed the System of Care Advisory Team (SOCAT) — formerly the Child and Family Behavioral Health Policy and Planning Committee for Children's Services — to work toward an Integrated Policy and Plan to improve access by children (including juvenile offenders) to mental health, substance abuse, and mental retardation services.</p> <p>The Department of Behavioral Health and Development Services (BHDS) and the Departments of Juvenile Justice and Medical Assistance Services, in cooperation with the Office of Comprehensive Services (CSA), Community Services Boards, Court Service Units (CSUs), and representatives of community policy and management were directed to develop the plan.</p> <p>Commission's involvement: Tracking</p>	<p>The enacting budget language was not included in the 2010-2012 Appropriation Act and the Team has met March 11 and April 8, 2010 to conclude its work. BHDS is directed to report to the Chairmen of the Senate Finance and House Appropriations Committees by June 30, 2010. The plan is expected to identify costs and funding sources for services needed, strengths/weaknesses of the current delivery system and administrative structure, and CSA rules impeding rural localities from developing local programs for children who are often referred elsewhere for treatment.</p>

MENTAL HEALTH *(continued)*

Lead Agency	Description	Status
<p>Voices for Virginia's Children</p>	<p>1in5kids.org, or the Campaign for Children’s Mental Health, is coordinating Virginia partners in child mental health to address Virginia’s child mental health system so that more children are able to obtain needed services. The campaign is premised on the finding that children who receive services as soon as they begin to show symptoms are less likely to escalate to the point of crisis, which reduces the need for more expensive and restrictive treatments.</p> <p>Through a three-year, vigorous advocacy campaign, Voices and its partners have established the following policy goals:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase the array of community-based services (both public and private), particularly those that are more intensive than outpatient counseling and can help avoid over-reliance on residential treatment services. • Establish an integrated and consolidated system within state government with clear authority and adequate resources. • Increase uniformity of the system statewide so that families throughout Virginia, regardless of the jurisdiction in which they live, can access appropriate services. • Enhance the training of the current workforce and the capacity of the future workforce to treat children with evidence-based, best practice services. <p>The Campaign is funded by Bon Secours Virginia Health System, Carillion Foundation, HCA Virginia Health System, Consumer Health Foundation, and Inova Health System.</p> <p>Voices is working a wide variety of partners, including family members, treatment professionals, mental health service delivery organizations, child advocacy organizations, and policy experts to form a broad coalition to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recruit and mobilize parents as partners, advocates, and campaign leaders; • Cultivate key legislators and members of the McDonnell administration to champion this cause; • Persuade state and local mental health officials to advocate for needed reforms; • Mobilize the grassroots to support the cause; and • Educate the public about the importance of reforming the children’s mental health system. <p>Approximately 40 Virginia organizations, service providers, and other entities are partners. Steering committee members are Voices, the Federation of Families, a program of Mental Health America-Virginia, National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) of Virginia, and Virginia Association of CSBs.</p> <p>Commission’s involvement: Tracking</p>	<p>The campaign uses “1in5kids.org” as both its website and campaign slogan.</p> <p>From April 21-May 19, 2010 the campaign and the Children’s Services System Transformation co-hosted a series of 10 regional forums throughout the state. These involved and informed parents and family members, private child mental health providers, local departments of social services, CSBs, CSUs and CSA, educators, local government officials involved with CPMTs and others. Participation (even for those including meals) was free to attendees. Voices is offering stipends to family members of children who have mental health challenges.</p> <p>Forums were held in Abingdon, Danville, Norfolk, Loudoun, Fairfax, Williamsburg, Lynchburg, Roanoke and Richmond.</p> <p>The campaign’s organizational partnership met March 23. Three committees are being formed: a policy “think tank” will be led by John Morgan and Robert Cohen of Virginia Commonwealth University; a Best Practices Committee led by NAMI and Federation of Families, and a Family and Youth Involvement Committee led by the Virginia Association of Community Service Boards (VACSB).</p> <p>Information on the campaign is at www.1in5kids.org.</p>

MENTAL HEALTH (continued)

Lead Agency	Description	Status
Behavioral Health and Developmental Services	<p>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, Virginia Federation of Families (formerly Parents and Children Coping Together [PACCT]) 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 non-profit coalition is funded by the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services (DBHDS) and the federal Center on Medicare and Medicaid Services Block Grant funds.</p> <p>Commission's involvement: Committee Member</p>	<p>The VA INFO coalition meets bi-monthly.</p> <p>The May 14, 2010 conference was co-sponsored by Strong Roots and the DBHDS is described in the following section.</p>
Behavioral Health and Developmental Services	<p>The Behavioral Health and Developmental Services (DBHDS) and the Strong Roots Conference Planning Committee co-sponsored a one-day conference on May 14, 2010 on "Treatments that Work for Youth: What Families and Professionals Need to Know about Evidence-Based Practices." The conference provided networking and learning opportunities for families and professionals involved with children and adolescents having special health care needs.</p> <p>Keynote speaker was Dean Fixsen, co-director of the National Implementation Research Network and the State Implementation and Scaling up Evidence-based Practices Center.</p> <p>Commission's involvement: Tracking</p>	<p>The forum agenda included a discussion of evidence-based practices and copies of the Commission on Youth's the <i>Collection of Evidence-based Treatment Modalities for Children and Adolescents with Mental Health Treatment Needs</i> were made available to attendees, along with bookmarks promoting the <i>Collection's</i> use.</p>
Virginia Commonwealth University	<p>Virginia Commonwealth University (VCU) sponsored a Child Psychiatry Spring Forum, with the theme "Growing up, Moving up: Mental Health Services for Transition Age Youth."</p> <p>Commission's involvement: Participant</p>	<p>The event - VCU's 48th - was held in Richmond on May 7, with keynote address by Dr. Maryann David of the University of Massachusetts Medical Center.</p>
Virginia Commonwealth University	<p>The Child and Adolescent Psychiatry Division of the Virginia Commonwealth University Department of Psychiatry sponsors each year a day-long educational program for a broad audience of child mental health professionals, parents, and laypersons. The program focuses on a single subject of concern to stakeholders. The goal is to increase awareness and understanding of the topic, and to provide 'gold standard' assessment and treatment tools for those working with young people and their families.</p> <p>Commission's involvement: Participant</p>	<p>The "Growing up, Moving up: Mental Health Services for Transition Age Youth" 2010 annual Spring forum was held May 7 in Richmond. The event was sponsored jointly by the Commonwealth Institute for Child and Family Services, Virginia Treatment for Children, Children's Hospital, and the Department of Psychiatry. Copies of the Commission on Youth's <i>Collection of Evidence-based Treatment Modalities for Children and Adolescents with Mental Health Treatment Needs</i> were made available to interested persons.</p>

HEALTH

Lead Agency	Description	Status
Social Services	<p>House Bill 411 (2010, Oder) addresses shaken baby syndrome and its effects, as well as resources for help and support to caretakers. The legislation mandates that the Virginia Department of Social Services (DSS) develop resources in printable format, as well as information about how to acquire such information in an audiovisual format, available on a website maintained by DSS, and to inform every child welfare program licensed by DSS about available information.</p> <p>Further, information about shaken baby syndrome shall be made available to foster and adoptive parents and staff of child day programs and children's residential facilities.</p> <p>Commission's involvement: Tracking</p>	The Department's website is www.dss.virginia.gov .
Joint Commission on Health Care	<p>House Joint Resolution 27 (2010, Purkey) directs the Joint Commission on Health Care (JCHC), over a two-year period, to determine:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The volume of indigent health care provided by private, specialty, and not-for-profit hospitals in the Commonwealth; • The financial cost of indigent health care to private, specialty, and not-for-profit hospitals in the Commonwealth; and identify and analyze potential tax and other incentives that may be offered to private and specialty hospitals and other health care providers to encourage the provision of care to indigent individuals. <p>Technical assistance is provided to the JCHC by the Department of Health.</p> <p>Commission's involvement: Tracking</p>	The JCHC met on May 26 to take action on its proposed work plan for 2010.
Joint Commission on Health Care	<p>Senate Bill 266 (2010, Whipple), which was referred to the Joint Commission on Health Care (JCHC) by letter, directs a review of issues surrounding changing eligibility levels in Family Access to Medical Insurance Security Plan (FAMIS) from children in families with an income at or below 200 percent of the federal poverty level to those with an income at or below 225 percent of the federal poverty level.</p> <p>The General Assembly made passage of this bill contingent upon there being funds appropriated.</p> <p>Technical assistance is provided to the JCHC by the Department of Medical Assistance Services.</p> <p>Commission's involvement: Tracking</p>	The JCHC met on May 26 to take action on its proposed work plan for 2010.

HEALTH (continued)

Lead Agency	Description	Status
Health	<p>House Bill 270 (2010, Englin) requires the Department of Health (VDH) to include in its vaccination plans procedures to ensure the prompt vaccination of all persons of school age in the Commonwealth, without preference regarding the manner of compliance with the compulsory school attendance law, upon declaration of an emergency involving a vaccine-preventable disease and consent of the parent of the person of school age, or the person of school age if such person is not a minor.</p> <p>This bill also requires the plans developed be consistent with applicable guidelines developed by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and be subject to the same review and update requirements as the State Emergency Operations Plan.</p> <p>Commission's involvement: Tracking</p>	2010 meetings of the Board of Health are being held on April 23, July 16 and October 15.
Board of Education	<p>Senate Bill 414 (2010, Vogel) requires the Board of Education, in cooperation with the Department of Health, to promulgate and periodically update regulations setting nutritional guidelines for all competitive foods sold to students during regular school hours.</p> <p>The bill also requires the Board to adopt either the Alliance for a Healthier Generation's Competitive Foods Guidelines or the Institute of Medicine's Recommended Standards for Competitive Foods in Schools as the initial statewide standard for competitive foods.</p> <p>Commission's involvement: Tracking</p>	The Board will report to the General Assembly on the final regulations by December 1, 2011.
Health	<p>Virginia Early Childhood (VECCS) Comprehensive Systems functions as a statewide strategic planning Work Group 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.</p> <p>This public/private partnership is part of a five year initiative launched by the federal Maternal and Child Health Bureau (MCHB) to support states' efforts to build comprehensive early childhood systems.</p> <p>Commission's involvement: Tracking</p>	VECCS has successfully completed the process of writing the grant for the two-year implementation phase, which has an annual budget of approximately \$150,000. The project has seen growth in all five component areas since its inception; however, parent education and data and evaluation have become the primary focuses for the final year of implementation. The funding period for this phase ended August 31, 2008.

HEALTH (continued)

Lead Agency	Description	Status
Health	<p>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, 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 (VDH) on its suicide prevention activities.</p> <p>The VDH Division of Injury and Violence Prevention's Suicide Prevention Program coordinates statewide training for school personnel, human service providers, faith communities and others on suicide prevention and intervention, including identification of persons at-risk of suicide, screening, counseling and referral.</p> <p>The Code contains policy addressing suicidal students in K-12 educational settings and institutions of higher learning.</p> <p>Commission's involvement: Committee Member</p>	<p>Suicide prevention efforts in Virginia are a collaborative effort headed by the Department of Health (VDH), which involves participants from many disciplines. The program was a recommendation of the Commission on Youth's Suicide Prevention Plan, <i>House Document 29</i> (2001).</p> <p>In addition to the committee's quarterly meetings, VDH has established a Work Group 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.</p> <p>A brief overview of VDH programs and resources can be viewed at www.vahealth.org. Suicide prevention programs are currently funded through the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, pursuant to the Garrett Lee Smith Memorial Act, and the Preventive Health and Health Services Block Grant.</p>
Health	<p>Bright Futures Virginia was developed in 2000 as a broad Department of Health initiative to address child and adolescent health. Convened as a public-private Advisory Board, Bright Futures was implemented as the state standard for child and adolescent comprehensive health care in 2001. It was subsequently identified by Healthy Virginians 2010 as a strategy for achieving 18 of the 54 state objectives.</p> <p>Bright Futures' goals are to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Foster partnerships between families, health professionals, and communities; • Promote desired social, developmental, and health outcomes of infants, children, and adolescents; • Increase family knowledge, skills, and participation in health-promoting and prevention activities; and • Enhance health professionals' knowledge, skills, and practice of developmentally appropriate health care in the context of family and community. <p>Since its inception, Bright Futures has been funded by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services under the direction of the Maternal and Child Health Bureau.</p> <p>Commission's involvement: Tracking</p>	<p>Healthy Virginians 2010 identified Bright Futures implementation as a strategy for achieving 18 of its 54 stated objectives.</p> <p>Bright Futures' guidelines for child health in Virginia support the national Healthy People promotion and disease prevention objectives for mothers, infants, children and adolescents. These guidelines were developed as a resource for child health professionals and ancillary staff, public and private insurers, health departments, community health centers, schools, child development programs, parents, educators, leaders of managed care organizations, and others.</p> <p>Bright Futures has launched a website - www.healthyfutures.va.com - in cooperation with James Madison University and the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP), as well as a six-module web course - Promoting Child and Adolescent Health: Bright Futures and EPSDT.</p>

HEALTH (continued)

Lead Agency	Description	Status
Health	<p>Healthy Child Care Virginia (HCCV) focuses on initiatives related to healthy behaviors in childcare. Its goal is to promote the healthy development of all children in child care, including those with special health needs, to increase access to preventive health services, and to create safe physical environments for children.</p> <p>Objectives of the program include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promoting a safe and healthy child care environment for all children, including those with special health needs • Reducing the spread of communicable diseases • Reducing medically attended injuries • Increasing up-to-date immunizations • Increasing nutritional status • Improving knowledge among families and providers about the inclusion of special health needs children in child day care. This includes children with asthma, speech and other developmental disabilities, neurobehavioral needs (ADHD, ADD, etc.), nutrition and physical activity and other diagnosed conditions (i.e., diabetes) • Optimizing mental health for children • Increasing oral hygiene practices • Increasing the number of children with health insurance coverage <p>Commission's involvement: Tracking</p>	<p>The Spring 2010 Virginia video conference meeting for child care health consultant professionals (CCHC) was held June 4. A link to the Power Point presentation on Promoting Social, Emotional and Behavioral Health in Early Childhood is available on the HCCV website at www.vahealth.org.</p> <p>The Fall 2010 CCHC 4-day course will be held in Richmond. The interactive course offers health professionals tools and skills needed to provide expert guidance and technical assistance to child care providers on a wide range of health and safety topics through a series of expert speakers, small group activities and field work.</p> <p>HCCV promotes on its website a range of resources for child care:</p> <p>A new program is being offered to underserved communities via radio waves. "Child Health and Safety Radio" expands the availability of health and safety information by leveraging new media and social networking. The program features interviews with the nation's leading experts, researchers and advocacy groups on issues related to children's health and safety. Each addresses a health/safety topic and how it directly impacts children in childcare and elementary schools, as well as at home. Interviews, which are updated at least every two weeks, can be accessed at www.childhealthonline.org/radio.html.</p> <p>The American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) Children and Disasters website is a comprehensive source of information on AAP and other resources related to pediatric emergency preparedness in the context of child care programs. An in-depth handout will be released in the Fall of 2010.</p> <p>Also available are Resources on Reducing SIDS (an online module for caregivers), and Tips for Early Education and Child Care Professionals who want to partner with a child care health consultant.</p>
Health	<p>Section 32.1-46F of the Code requires the Board of Health to review vaccines included in the Recommended Childhood and Adolescent Immunization Schedules developed by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices, the Academy of Pediatrics and the American Academy of Family Physicians. It also addresses the minimum vaccine requirements for school and day care attendance.</p> <p>Commission's involvement: Tracking</p>	<p>Since the Board's August 2006 review, meningococcal vaccine for 11 and 12 year old children has been added to the recommendations. Adoption of the recommendation did not require legislative action. Currently, no state has a middle school mandate for this vaccine, but the Commissioner has indicated that adding the vaccine as a school requirement would be, in his opinion, good public health practice.</p> <p>There was no action by the 2009 General Assembly to mandate vaccinations in Virginia middle schools.</p>

HEALTH (continued)

Lead Agency	Description	Status
Health	<p>The Council on Virginia's Future was begun in 2004 as a joint venture of the Office of the State Health Commission, the Office of Health Policy Planning, and specific state agencies. Strategies, action steps and desired outcomes were developed, with responsibility assigned to the Department of Health to coordinate the effort and provide expertise to monitor these health status objectives, policies and practices.</p> <p>The Council on Virginia's Future has identified objectives first identified by the Initiative. One of the objectives set by the Council is to reduce the infant mortality rate to no more than 7 deaths per 1,000 live births. Virginia is accomplishing this objective by eliminating disparities among racial and ethnic groups with infant mortality rates above the national average. Public health agencies are continuing to monitor infant mortality trends for all racial and ethnic groups, and are focusing on modifying the behaviors, lifestyles and conditions that affect birth outcomes, such as smoking, substance abuse, poor nutrition, lack of prenatal care, medical problems and chronic illness.</p> <p>Commission's involvement: Tracking</p>	<p>The Council reports on Virginia's progress in meeting its goals on the Virginia Performs website at vaperforms.virginia.gov. Infant Mortality has been identified as one Health & Family issue requiring attention.</p> <p>The VDH and other state entities addressing health issues administer programs aimed at improving perinatal outcomes for Virginia's families, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The Regional Perinatal Councils is a collaborative network of providers of perinatal services with the goal of providing risk appropriate care for pregnant women. The network conducts regional needs assessments including the ongoing efforts of the Fetal and Infant Mortality Review (FIMR) programs, develops strategic plans to address needs annually, and provides health education/training at no or low cost to perinatal professionals. As part of this initiative, the State Health Commissioner formed a Working Group on Infant Mortality in 2008 to address Virginia's infant mortality rate. This, along with the Department of Medical Assistance Services' FAMIS MOMs Program and the state employees' Future Moms Program, was credited by Governor Kaine in his announcement on August 4, 2009 that Virginia's infant mortality rate has declined to its lowest level, with 6.7 per 1,000 live births in 2008, down from 7.7 in 2007. The rate among the African American population was also reduced, with 12.2 deaths per 1,000 in 2008, down from 15.5 in 2007. ▪ The State Child Fatality Review Team reviews the circumstances of child death and develops recommendations to prevent similar deaths and to improve the report and investigation of these fatalities. ▪ All maternal deaths that occur within one year of termination of pregnancy are identified and reviewed by the Maternal Mortality Review Team; ▪ The Resource Mothers Program is a community-based effort where community home visitors mentor pregnant teenagers through the prenatal period until the infant's first birthday; ▪ The Virginia Health Start Initiative/Loving Steps Program is a community-driven program to reduce infant mortality and low birth weight by involving community leaders, health care providers and parents; ▪ The Sudden Unexplained Infant Death Referral Program provides information and counseling for families that have experienced an infant death including SIDS within one year of birth; ▪ The Comprehensive Sickle Cell Services Program provides supplemental funding to four centers to diagnose, educate, and case manage children identified through the Newborn Screening Program; ▪ The Infant and Toddler Connection of Virginia, a program of the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services; ▪ The VCU/MCV Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NiCu) has the capacity to care for 40 premature infants and newborns; and ▪ UVA's 45-bed Newborn Intensive Care Unit. <p>The public is informed via on-line dissemination of <i>Healthy Virginians 2010</i>, which is updated annually. The web address for program descriptions and announcements is www.healthyvirginians.virginia.gov.</p>

HEALTH (continued)

Lead Agency	Description	Status
Virginia Foundation for Healthy Youth	<p>The Virginia Foundation for Healthy Youth (VFHY) (formerly the Virginia Tobacco Settlement Foundation), has established Regional Advisory Boards to provide a local connection between VFHY and communities throughout the state. VFHY is funded through Virginia's share of the 1998 Master Settlement Agreement.</p> <p>Nine boards oversee the review process to select grantees that will receive funding to implement youth tobacco use prevention programs.</p> <p>Established by the Virginia General Assembly in 1999, the Foundation has historically led a statewide effort to reduce and prevent youth tobacco use. The 2009 General Assembly changed both the Foundation's name and expanded its mission to include reducing childhood obesity in the Commonwealth (HB 2456 (O'Bannon)/SB 1112 (Northam)).</p> <p>The Foundation promotes healthy living habits to Virginia's children and adolescents through a variety of efforts, including: statewide educational prevention programs in schools, community centers and afterschool programs; youth-targeted marketing and advertising; funding research and enforcement of Virginia's tobacco access-laws.</p> <p>Commission's involvement: Regional Advisory Board Member</p>	<p>With a change in name and mission, the Foundation and related Advisory Boards began work in 2009 to expand outreach into initiatives which reduce childhood obesity.</p> <p>In anticipation of a new grant year, Regional Advisory Board members from throughout the state convened March 15-16 in Staunton for training in grant review processes.</p> <p>A series of regional training workshops at six Virginia sites were offered April 6-30, 2010 to provide training in topics ranging from Managing Behaviors in Youth to Assessing Student Learning. The Virginia Department of Behavioral Health & Developmental Services (DBHDS) is offering five scholarships for training to each of the 40 Community Service Boards.</p> <p>As part of its campaign to promote healthy youth, VFHY has launched a pilot program in Southeast Virginia, encouraging exercise among at-risk urban African-American teens.</p> <p>Working in conjunction with the CDC, the Foundation commissions a survey every two years to assess youth tobacco use in Virginia. Since 2001, smoking among Virginia high school students has been cut nearly in half. Smoking among middle schoolers has fallen from 10.6 percent in 2001 to 4.6 percent.</p> <p>The Foundation co-hosted with Prevention Connections the Virginia Statewide Summit on Childhood Obesity on May 17-18 in Richmond. Initiatives related to childhood obesity are being developed.</p>
Health	<p>The Virginia Department of Health's Commonwealth's Healthy Approach and Mobilization Plan for Inactivity, Obesity and Nutrition (CHAMPION) has completed work towards a comprehensive statewide plan to reduce obesity in Virginia through nutrition and exercise.</p> <p>Commission's involvement: Tracking</p>	<p>Following VDH Family Health Services Review, the working document has been presented to the new State Committee being appointed by the Governor. The Obesity Reduction Plan is available in both summary and as a full report on the VDH's website www.vahealth.org.</p>
Medical Assistance Services	<p>The Child Health Insurance Program (CHIP-PAC) Advisory Committee, which was established by the 2005 General Assembly, works to improve outreach and enrollment of FAMIS and to provide input on policies, operations, utilization of services and the health outcomes of children in FAMIS and FAMIS Plus (the state Medicaid program).</p> <p>Commission's involvement: Tracking</p>	<p>The Advisory Committee meets quarterly, most recently on June 3. Additional 2010 meetings are September 2 and December 2.</p> <p>In addition, Retention, Access, and Utilization subcommittees meet periodically as needed.</p>

HEALTH (continued)

Lead Agency	Description	Status
Health	<p>All state-funded early childhood home visiting programs have come together at the state level through the Home Visiting Consortium, which has as its goals to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Examine the role of home visiting in improving the health and well-being of young children; • Review the current publicly funded Virginia home visiting services for pregnant women and families with children ages 0-5 years; • Increase local and state collaborative efforts in order to increase the efficiency and effectiveness of Virginia's home visiting services; and • Recommend changes in home visiting system which will improve birth outcomes and enhance early childhood development. <p>Commission's involvement: Tracking</p>	Information about the Home Visiting Consortium is available on the Department of Health website.
Prevention Connections	<p>Prevention Connections, a Virginia-based 501(c)(3) organization since 2004, was established to work with individuals and communities to achieve optimal health through tobacco-use and childhood-obesity prevention initiatives.</p> <p>Its Board of Directors consists of nine volunteer members, including three interlocking directors from the Board of Trustees of the Virginia Foundation for Healthy Youth (VFHY).</p> <p>Working in collaboration with the Virginia Department of Health, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the VFHY, Prevention Connections is beginning work on large-scale initiatives such as reducing smoking on college campuses and providing cessation services to parents of young children.</p> <p>Commission's involvement: Tracking</p>	Prevention Connections co-hosted with the Virginia Foundation for Healthy Youth (VFHY) the Virginia Statewide Summit on Childhood Obesity in Richmond on May 17-18, 2010. The conference was attended by health, government and educational professionals and policy makers and featured nationally recognized experts in school, community, and health care initiatives. Using the theme "Weight of the State," the summit focused on the myriad of complex issues which are affecting childhood obesity in Virginia. Virginia's First Lady Maureen McDonnell was honorary chair for the summit.

SUBSTANCE ABUSE

Lead Agency	Description	Status
Legislative Services	<p>SJR 73 (2010, Hanger) continues the Joint Subcommittee to study strategies and models for substance abuse prevention and treatment that reduce the costly service demands created by substance abuse. The extension is for one year.</p> <p>To assist the Joint Subcommittee in its work, the Bureau of Insurance shall collect data and information on the coverage provided by health insurers, health services plans, and health maintenance organizations for substance abuse treatment services. The Department of Health Professions shall collect data and information about utilization of the Prescription Monitoring Program by prescribers and dispensers of controlled substances and responses to notification sent by the Department to prescribers. Both the Bureau and the Department must report their findings.</p> <p>The Joint Subcommittee has set four 2010 goals:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Develop a comprehensive list of priorities for improvement of substance abuse prevention and treatment services in the Commonwealth. 2) Explore options for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • funding a full range of treatment services including services for adolescents, pregnant and parenting women, and the elderly; • developing and implementing of a voucher model for delivery of substance abuse services; • identifying a mechanism for reimbursing recovery organizations; • funding of jail- and community-based recovery and reentry programs for offenders, in order to reduce rates of recidivism and bring about fiscal savings; • developing a mechanism to ensure that all necessary wrap-around and support services are provided by physicians providing medication assisted substance abuse treatment; • facilitating the sharing of information contained in the Prescription Monitoring Program amongst pharmacists and prescribers, in order to identify and mitigate substance abuse problems; Increasing access to the Prescription Monitoring Program in pharmacies throughout the Commonwealth, and to increase use of the Program; • increasing availability of educational opportunities focused on the topics of pain management, prescription drug abuse, and substance abuse treatment and prevention generally to prescribers and pharmacists; • establishing student assistance professional positions in schools throughout the Commonwealth, including development of training and certification requirements for student assistance professionals and requirements for student assistance programs; and • continuing the work undertaken by the Joint Subcommittee, through a permanent entity in the future. 3) Coordinate with the Department of Education to identify barriers to implementation of a random, anonymous, statewide, school-based survey to collect information about substance use and abuse trends, and to facilitate implementation of such a study. 4) Receive and review information about the defunded SABRE program to identify effective elements of that program that should be re-implemented in the Commonwealth. <p>Commission's involvement: Tracking</p>	<p>The Joint Subcommittee – now entering its third year – was established pursuant to SJR 77 (2008), following completion of a JLARC study pursuant to HJR 683 and SR 395 (2007). The Joint Subcommittee through SJR 318 (2009) continued its study for a second year.</p> <p>Senate Document 8 (2009) and Senate Document 5 (2010) <i>Executive Summary of the Joint Subcommittee to Study Strategies and Models of Substance Abuse Treatment and Prevention</i> have been published to summarize the findings and recommendations of the Joint Committee's work in 2008 and 2009, respectively.</p> <p>The Joint Subcommittee shall complete its meetings by November 30, 2010, and the chairman shall submit to the Division of Legislative Automated Systems an executive summary of its findings and recommendations no later than the first day of the 2011 Regular Session of the General Assembly.</p>

SUBSTANCE ABUSE (continued)

Lead Agency	Description	Status
Behavioral Health and Developmental Services	<p>The Interagency Adolescent Substance Abuse Workgroup, formerly Project TREAT, is managed through the Office of Child and Family Services of the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services.</p> <p>The workgroup's goal is to develop and improve coordination of substance abuse and/or co-occurring treatment services for adolescents across Virginia.</p> <p>Commission's involvement: Workgroup Member</p>	<p>The workgroup last met December 2009.</p> <p>In April 2010, a questionnaire was administered to members to help the Advisory Group prioritize the identified goals. The workplan is over two-years old and, via the questionnaire, workgroup members offered suggestions, such as areas of focus, membership, meeting venue, and frequency of meetings.</p>
Alcohol Beverage Control/Health/Behavioral Health and Developmental Services	<p>On the state level, Community Coalitions of Virginia, which receives Safe and Drug-Free Schools funding, reflects partnerships on the state and local level to prevent substance abuse.</p> <p>On the national level, the Strategic Prevention Framework (SPF) for Building Effective Coalitions was created by the federal Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) to assist coalitions in developing the infrastructure for community-based, public health approaches to effective and sustainable reductions in alcohol, tobacco and other drug use and abuse.</p> <p>Coalition initiatives are to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create activities free from substance abuse and violence; • Prevent alcohol, drug, and tobacco use by youth; • Teach our children how to be safe and resist peer pressure; • Enhance our sense of family and community; and • Promote positive character development. <p>Commission's involvement: Tracking</p>	<p>To reduce underage drinking throughout the Commonwealth, ABC will be awarding grants up to \$10,000 in its 2010-2011 grant cycle. The Community Coalition Grant is offered annually to support collaboration between local businesses, community organizations and state agencies, as they strive to promote zero tolerance for underage alcohol consumption through the use of prevention initiatives. Virginia's local and state agencies, police departments, schools and non-profit community organizations are eligible to apply. Funding is through a federal grant from the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP).</p> <p>The grant cycle for the 2009-2010 Community Coalition grants to advance the goals of "Real Faces with Real Solutions" ended May 2010.</p> <p>In addition, Community Coalitions offers Operation Undergrad, a grant program designed to assist Virginia's colleges and universities develop initiatives that prevent underage and high-risk drinking and enforce Virginia's alcohol laws. For the 2010-2011 academic year, ABC will award up to \$9,000 per grant to colleges and universities.</p>
Alcohol Beverage Control	<p>Youth Alcohol and Drug Abuse Prevention (YADAPP) is a youth leadership program empowering teens to become involved in keeping their schools and communities alcohol and drug free. Each year YADAPP holds its Summer Leadership Conference for approximately 600 Virginia high school students and adults. Since 1984, YADAPP seeks to help teens change their lives through leadership opportunities.</p> <p>Commission's involvement: Tracking</p>	<p>More information on YADAPP is provided at www.yadapp.com. Youth can also become a "friends" of YADAPP Guy on the official YADAPP Facebook page.</p> <p>ABC credits its "Do Not Sell" stickers with preventing underage sales. Last year, the compliance rate went up four percentage points to 90 percent compliance. The 2010 stickers are easy-to-read tools that help sellers check IDs. Similar to the 2009 stickers, the new stickers were created using two different colors, one for alcohol, one for tobacco. Bold colors were used to make the dates clearly visible to consumers and sellers.</p> <p>Another compliance tool is the "Ask 4 ID" training video, a four-minute film to help sellers and servers prevent underage alcohol and tobacco sales ID. This is available for preview at www.youtube.com/vaabc.</p>

SUBSTANCE ABUSE (continued)

Lead Agency	Description	Status
Secretary of Public Safety	<p>The Governor's Office for Substance Abuse Prevention (GOSAP) awards and administers federal grant funds apportioned to Virginia under the Governor's discretionary portion of Safe and Drug-Free Schools and Communities Act (SDFSCA) funds allocated to Virginia by the U.S. Department of Education, under the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001. Under the SDFSCA program, GOSAP annually makes approximately \$600,000 available for local program grants.</p> <p>The GOSAP Collaborative, comprised of 12 state agencies and the Governor's Office, was formally established under Executive Directive 4 in November 2006. It serves as the principal representative body within the Virginia prevention system for state-level prevention specialists, leaders and program-fund administrators.</p> <p>Commission's involvement: Tracking</p>	<p>Participating state agencies are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Department of Alcohol and Beverage Control (ABC) • Department of Criminal Justice Services (DCJS) • Department of Education (DOE) • Department of Fire Programs (DFP) • Department of Health (VDH) • Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) • Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services (DBHDS) • Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) • Department of Social Services (DSS) • Virginia National Guard (VNG) • Virginia State Police (VSP) • Virginia Foundation for Healthy Youth (VFHY) <p>Each participating agency has some significant degree of involvement in the Commonwealth's alcohol, tobacco and other drugs prevention efforts, either through funding provided to local- and community-level organizations, direct service provision to youth and families, or direct policy development at the state and/or federal levels to guide Virginia's overall prevention community.</p> <p>GOSAP has recently announced its 2010-2011 Safe and Drug-Free Schools and Communities Act (SADFSCA) Grant Program. GOSAP SADFSCA grant programs are intended to supplement the SADFSCA funds that flow directly from the DOE to local school divisions for youth substance abuse, gang involvement and violence prevention programming. For this award cycle, emphasis is on programs targeting prevention of gang involvement. Information, including locations of and directions to workshops, is at the GOSAP website at www.gosap.virginia.gov.</p>

EDUCATION

Lead Agency	Description	Status
Education	<p>Senate Bill 737 (2010, Newman)/House Bill 1390 (2010, Lingamfelter, Peace, Dance), passed by the 2010 General Assembly, establish in the Code a Pre-certification by the Board of Education and Appeal Process for charter applicants denied by local School Board. The initiative is first of three components of Governor McDonnell's "Opportunity to Learn" education reform agenda.</p> <p>This legislation requires the public charter school applicant to submit its proposed charter application to the Board of Education (BOE) for review, comment, and a pre-certification recommendation prior to the submission of such application to a local school board. The BOE review must include a recommendation as to whether the application should be approved by the local school division. The legislation also allows a public charter school applicant to appeal a local school board decision to the BOE.</p> <p>Commission's involvement: Tracking</p>	The Governor's Office has opted not to apply in 2010 for Race to the Top federal grant funds.
Education	<p>Senate Bill 738 (2010, Newman)/House Bill 1388 (2010, Bell, Richard P.), passed by the 2010 General Assembly, establish guidelines for virtual school programs for local school boards throughout the Commonwealth to offer their students. The initiative is the second component of Governor McDonnell's "Opportunity to Learn" education reform agenda.</p> <p>The intent of the legislation is to expand the reach of virtual school programs such that students from anywhere in Virginia can receive the services of highly qualified, Virginia-certified teachers without being limited by classroom walls. This new program will also provide an alternative to students who might struggle in traditional classroom environments but who, under the new law, can learn in an environment that better suits their needs. At-risk or disadvantaged students will be afforded increased access to innovation and opportunities.</p> <p>Commission's involvement: Tracking</p>	Any Virginia college or university which operates an approved teacher education program can establish virtual school program partnerships with eligible public schools. Teachers working in these colleges/universities must be employees of those colleges/universities and be licensed by the Board or eligible for such license.

EDUCATION *(continued)*

Lead Agency	Description	Status
Education	<p>Senate Bill 736 (2010, Newman)/House Bill 1389 (2010, McClellan and Peace), passed by the 2010 General Assembly, establish in the Code the College Partnership Laboratory Schools which will encourage cooperation and coordination between institutions of higher education and K-12 education. The initiative is third component of Governor McDonnell's "Opportunity to Learn" education reform agenda. The legislation is patterned after the legislation originally offered by former Delegate Dwight Jones.</p> <p>College lab schools are said to foster flexibility, innovation, and autonomy outside of the traditional public school system, thus giving students K-12 an opportunity to attend a school that best fits their individual learning style, be there a need for remedial help or advanced specialized study. Students attending lab schools will be able to benefit from the resources available to higher education institutions without the limitations or administrative constraints of more traditional schools.</p> <p>The laboratory schools are being created by a contract between the higher education institute and the Board of Education.</p> <p>Commission's involvement: Tracking</p>	<p>Students must be residents of Virginia in order to qualify. Selection is made by a lottery system.</p>
Joint Legislative Audit and Review Commission	<p>Senate Joint Resolution 32 (2010, McDougle) directs JLARC staff to conduct a two-year study of the role of the Secretary of Education in improving coordination between K-12, community colleges, and four-year institutions with the goal of better aligning the education and training of students with the State's workforce needs. (Under current law, the Secretary is responsible for the Department of Education and the State Council for Higher Education [SCHEV] but does not have statutory responsibility for coordination of education.)</p> <p>In conducting its study, JLARC will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review the statutory authority and duties of the Secretary of Education in overseeing education from K-12 through higher education; • Consider possible ways to improve coordination of education; and • Consider how to better direct students toward education and training that will meet the State's workforce needs. <p>Commission's involvement: Tracking</p>	<p>JLARC plans to brief its members at a Fall 2011 meeting.</p> <p>JLARC must submit an executive summary of its findings and recommendations to the Governor and 2011 and 2012 Sessions of the General Assembly.</p>

EDUCATION (continued)

Lead Agency	Description	Status
Joint Legislative Audit and Review Commission	<p>Senate Joint Resolution 3 (2010, Miller, J.C.) directs the Joint Legislative Audit and Review Commission (JLARC) to conduct a two-year study of ways to promote and ensure early reading proficiency and comprehension among third graders in the public schools.</p> <p>In conducting its study, JLARC will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Determine the number of third graders who read at grade level; • Rank the school divisions according to the number of third graders who passed the most recent third grade reading test; • Identify best practices utilized by school divisions with the highest percentage of third graders who read at grade level; • Examine the findings and recommendations of state and national studies pertaining to the efficacy of early reading proficiency and comprehension and its relationship to academic success, and offer recommendations appropriate for implementation in Virginia; and • Determine strategies to increase the number of third graders who pass the third grade reading test and ways to improve and sustain the early reading proficiency of third grade students. <p>Commission's involvement: Tracking</p>	<p>JLARC plans to brief its members at a 2010 meeting.</p> <p>JLARC must submit an executive summary of its findings and recommendations to the Governor and 2011 and 2012 Sessions of the General Assembly.</p>
Legislative Services	<p>The Advisory Council on Career and Technical Education is mandated by Code Section 30-198 to recommend an integrated and coordinated multi-agency approach for delivery of quality career and technical education (CTE) programs and services in public schools.</p> <p>The legislative Council has as its powers and duties to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Facilitate the coordination of public school career and technical services, workforce training programs, and efforts among Commonwealth agencies and institutions; • Receive information and advice from state agencies, authorities and other organizations addressing CTE and workforce development as necessary; • Recommend policies, legislation, and funding that are needed to support CTE in the Commonwealth; and • Promote public-private partnerships and collaboration for CTE programs throughout the Commonwealth. <p>The Council, which is scheduled to expire July 1, 2012, is an 18-member body comprised of three Senate and five House of Delegates members, four gubernatorial appointees and ex-officio members from the Secretariats.</p> <p>Commission's involvement: Delegate Peace serves on the Council.</p>	<p>The Council is directed by Code to submit its recommendations annually to the Governor and the General Assembly. The 2009 Report is currently not published. The 2010 Report, due December 1, 2010, will be posted on the Legislative Information System website.</p>

EDUCATION (continued)

Lead Agency	Description	Status
Education	<p>The Virginia Advisory Committee for Career and Technical Education (CTE) represents a Board of Education standing committee of educators and representatives of the private sector.</p> <p>In partnership with the Virginia Department of Education Office of Career and Technical Education Services, the 14-member Committee each year recognizes the outstanding work of one business/industry partnership and one advisory council/committee for each of the eight Superintendent's Regions.</p> <p>New in 2009, the grants established the state's first Governor's Career and Technical Academies, which will provide instruction in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM). The Academies represent partnerships among school divisions, employers, business organizations and higher education.</p> <p>Commission's involvement: Tracking</p>	<p>The Department has concluded its solicitation of nominations for the 2010 Virginia Career and Technical Education Creating Excellence Awards. Decision-making is a three-tiered process, with judging first at the local level. From there, the nominations go for regional review. DOE selects state winners from among the regional selections.</p> <p>The three program finalists are Arlington Career Center (Automotive Technology), Hayfield Secondary School (Education for Employment), and Massanutten Technical Center (Fire and Rescue). Awards will be presented late June or July 2010. The recipients' portfolios will be made available on a public website.</p> <p>The Advisory Committee meets next on June 17, 2010.</p>
Education	<p>Know How Virginia is an initiative of the Virginia Career Education Foundation, in partnership with the Virginia Department of Education, Virginia Community College System, State Council of Higher Education, and the Virginia Employment Commission. It presents a long-term public awareness campaign designed to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Inform students and their parents, teachers, and counselors of rewarding career opportunities, particularly in high-demand and emerging fields; ▪ Promote quality Career and Technical Education (CTE) in middle and high schools to support career exploration and preparation; and ▪ Ensure a larger pool of qualified, motivated applicants for Virginia businesses and industries. <p>The campaign has two components:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ An Umbrella Campaign that provides basic information on careers, career exploration, and the benefits of CTE; ▪ Career-specific campaigns underwritten by private-sector partners seeking to cultivate greater pools of qualified candidates for specific types of jobs. <p>Commission's involvement: Tracking</p>	<p>The partnership's website—www.knowhowvirginia.org—provides an overview of the program's activities. In addition, the website gives information about one-time events and ongoing programs available in each region or throughout the state. Information is given on career fairs, student organization events, and numerous other career building opportunities.</p> <p>The initiative is a public-private partnership, with contributions from Virginia business. SB 326 (Wagner, 2008) required the Board of Education to develop a plan for increasing the number of students receiving industry certification and state licensure as part of their career and technical education.</p>

EDUCATION *(continued)*

Lead Agency	Description	Status
Education	<p>The Commission on Civics Education was created in 2005 as an advisory committee in the executive branch. It is comprised of 23 members including the Governor, Lieutenant Governor, legislators, executive branch officials and citizens. The 2008 General Assembly Session extended the sunset provision of the Commission to July 1, 2010.</p> <p>Advisory committee goals are to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 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. <p>Commission's involvement: Tracking</p>	<p>The chair 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. The 2009 report has as yet not been published by the Division of Legislative Automated Systems.</p>
Education	<p>The Virginia Board of Education is the nine-member governing and policy-making body for the Virginia system of public elementary and secondary education. Its work touches all facets of education from accountability and evaluation to curriculum and teacher education.</p> <p>The Board's members are appointed by the Governor, subject to confirmation by the General Assembly. Members are appointed to serve a term of four years. No member shall be appointed to more than two consecutive four-year terms.</p> <p>Commission's involvement: Tracking</p>	<p>The Board of Education meets monthly. Its most recent meeting was May 27; upcoming 2010 dates are June 24, July 22, September 23, October 28, and November 18.</p> <p>At its April 14 meeting, the Board received presentations on the Child Welfare Transformation and Levels of Child Care.</p> <p>The Board posts an on-site video of highlights of each meeting. These are on the Department's website at www.doe.virginia.gov.</p>
Education	<p>The 12-member Student Advisory Committee to the Board of Education represents and serves the students of Virginia by acting as a liaison between students and the board, understanding and voicing the concerns and issues facing students, giving a fresh perspective to the board members, and providing a collective voice to provide feasible solutions.</p> <p>Commission's involvement: Tracking</p>	<p>The Committee meets three times a year with two meetings coinciding with regularly scheduled board meetings. The Committee includes high school students from each of the Department of Education's eight administrative regions and four middle school students selected at-large.</p>

EDUCATION (continued)

Lead Agency	Description	Status
Education	<p>Project HOPE is Virginia's program for the education of Homeless Children and Youth. The College of William and Mary administers the program for the Department of Education. Funding is authorized under the McKinney-Vento Homeless Education Act, Title X, Part C of the No Child Left Behind Act (P.O. 107-110).</p> <p>Commission's involvement: Tracking</p>	<p>Project HOPE's annual seminar "Strengthening Connections: the Whole Child, Family, School, and Community" was held April 19-21, 2010 in Staunton. Co-sponsor of the 2010 seminar was the Virginia Department of Education Office of Student Services. Among the issues addressed were Early Warning System for Dropout Prevention, Coordinated School Services and School/Community Collaborative Initiatives, Older Youth Experiencing Homelessness, and the Fostering Connections Act of 2008. Handouts of the presentations are available at www.wm.edu/hope. In addition, organizations receive technical assistance through scheduled conference calls.</p> <p>The program is monitoring the impact of mortgage foreclosure, increases in food prices and other economic issues on homeless children and youth.</p>
Education	<p>On March 18, 2010, the Virginia Board of Education considered a draft of the Economics and Personal Finance Curriculum Framework. This document is being reviewed to reflect the new Economics and Personal Finance Standards of Learning adopted by the Virginia Board of Education on November 17, 2009. The Standards of Learning at the top of each page have already been approved by the Board of Education. The curriculum framework is intended to further explain these standards.</p> <p>Commission's involvement: Tracking</p>	<p>The Board conducted its first review of the document and received public comment on the draft from March 10 to April 23, 2010.</p> <p>During the 2010 General Assembly Session, three House bills, (including Delegate Mark Cole's bill which was incorporated) were passed. These bills delayed implementation of statutes and regulations upon which the accreditation of schools is based that were not already in effect on June 30, 2008, with the exception of the graduation and completion rate index, until July 1, 2011, unless required specifically by federal code or regulation or court action.</p>
Education	<p>High Schools That Work (HSTW) was originally created in 1987 by the Southern Regional Education Board (SREB) in partnership with an 11-state consortium, including Virginia. HSTW is the nation's first large-scale initiative to emphasize a program of study that includes both academic courses and modern career and technical studies to prepare students for a broad career field and further education.</p> <p>The HSTW initiative is a comprehensive approach to school improvement that complements the state's educational goals. As a research and assessment-based reform initiative, HSTW is guided by a framework of goals, key practices, and key conditions to improve school practices, instruction, and student achievement. The HSTW vision requires its stakeholders (administrators, faculty and staff, parents, leaders of community/civic organizations, representatives of business/ industry, and postsecondary education) to rethink school routines.</p> <p>Commission's involvement: Tracking</p>	<p>Of the 1,200 HSTW sites nationally, Virginia has 28. Virginia is also one of 26 states participating in the Southern Regional Education Board's National HSTW Network.</p>

EDUCATION *(continued)*

Lead Agency	Description	Status
Criminal Justice Services	<p>The Virginia Center for School Safety (VCSS) of the Department of Criminal Justice Services is a resource and training center for information and research about national and statewide school safety efforts and reflects Virginia’s commitment to providing safe and productive learning environments.</p> <p>Through the VCSS, schools and communities have access to proactive trainings, topical resources, public-private partnerships, data collection and evaluation.</p> <p>Commission’s involvement: Tracking</p>	The Department of Criminal Justice Services uses the Center’s webpage— www.dcjs.virginia.gov/vcss —to publicize training events and certification opportunities. There is also an extensive resource list for individuals involved in school safety efforts.

To access reports submitted to the Governor and to the General Assembly, visit the Legislative Information System’s website at <http://legis.state.va.us>. Click “Studies and Commissions” in the menu bar on the left. Then click “Reports to the General Assembly.”



Activities in State Government Related to Youth and Families

is an annual publication of the Virginia Commission on Youth which is updated throughout the study year. The Commission extends its appreciation to staff members in the Legislative, Executive and Judicial Branches who lend their invaluable assistance in providing information on an on-going basis.

Commission staff welcomes comments at any time and invites submission of material for its *2010 Activities in State Government Related to Youth and Families*.

Virginia Commission on Youth

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