

Virginia Family Impact Seminar (VaFIS)

Ann Nichols-Casebolt, Mary Secret & Janet Hutchinson,
co-directors

Commission on Youth Meeting

May 29, 2009



Background on Family Impact Seminars (FIS)

- Virginia 1 of 25 sites in network of states conducting Seminars
 - VA joined network in Fall 2007
 - Housed in VCU Center for Public Policy
- Policy Institute for Family Impact Seminars (PINFIS) provides technical assistance
 - Based in Madison, Wisconsin
 - Currently funded by W.K. Kellogg Foundation; Annie E. Casey Foundation; and David & Lucile Packard Foundation



Goal of FIS

- ❑ Strengthen family policy by connecting state policymakers with research knowledge
- ❑ Provide nonpartisan, solution-oriented research and a family impact perspective on issues being debated by state policy-makers
- ❑ Develop ongoing partnership between state legislators and university faculty in identifying family related state-level problems, possible policy solutions, & political feasibility



Connecting Policymakers and Professionals to Build Research-Based Family Policy



Policymakers

Designed specifically for busy policymakers and government staff, this scaled-down version of our website includes:

- State Seminars
- Publications
- Family Data
- Family Impact

[Enter Site Here](#)



Professionals

Designed for researchers, instructors, Extension faculty, students, and others, this portal includes everything on the Policymaker Portal, plus:

- Teaching Family Policy
- Skill Building
- Policy Links

[Enter Site Here](#)

The Policy Institute for Family Impact Seminars aims to strengthen family policy by connecting state policymakers with research knowledge and researchers with policy knowledge. The Institute provides nonpartisan, solution-oriented research and a family impact perspective on issues being debated in state legislatures. We provide technical assistance to and facilitate dialogue among professionals conducting Family Impact Seminars in 25 sites across the country. If you are a PINFIS Affiliate, please [click here](#) to login.

The Policy Institute for Family Impact Seminars is currently funded by the [W.K. Kellogg Foundation](#) and the [Annie E. Casey Foundation](#). Past supporters include the [David and Lucile Packard Foundation](#).



Connecting Policymakers and Professionals to Build Research-Based Family Policy

- [STATE SEMINARS](#)
- [PUBLICATIONS](#)
- [FAMILY DATA](#)
- [FAMILY IMPACT](#)

Virginia Family Impact Seminars

The Virginia Family Impact Seminars are directed by Ann Nichols-Casebolt at the Virginia Commonwealth University. They were recently accepted into the network and will be trained in October 2007.

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The FIS model

- Input from key state legislators and other policy-makers to identify family related state-level issues
- Provide nonpartisan, solution-oriented research on the policy issue
- Implement seminar with briefing reports and discussion sessions to disseminate information on legislator-identified policy issue each year



Virginia FIS Advisory Board

- Role of Advisory Board:
 - Help us identify new avenues for connecting research and policymaking
 - Assist us in assuring relevance of seminars
 - Assist in encouraging participation at seminar
 - Advise us on securing funding for supporting the seminars
 - Provide feedback on improving seminars

FIS Advisory Committee Members

- ❑ Viola Baskerville, Secretary of Administration, Commonwealth of Virginia
- ❑ William Bosher, Distinguished Professor, Wilder School of Government and Public Affairs, Educational Leadership Faculty, School of Education. Virginia Commonwealth University
- ❑ Thomas Chewning, Executive Vice President and CFO, Dominion Resources Incorporated
- ❑ Michael Evans, Special Assistant to the First Lady, Children and Family Initiatives
- ❑ William H. Fralin, Delegate, Virginia House of Delegates, 17th District
- ❑ Robert Holsworth, Consultant & former Professor of Political Science at VCU
- ❑ Catherine Howard, Vice Provost, Division of Community Engagement, Associate Professor, Department of Psychology, Virginia Commonwealth University
- ❑ Philip A. Leone, Director, Joint Legislative Audit and Review Commission, Virginia General Assembly
- ❑ Jennifer McClellan, Delegate, Virginia House of Delegates, 71st District
- ❑ Paul McWhinney, Director of Family Services, Virginia Department of Social Services
- ❑ Yvonne B. Miller, Senator, Senate of Virginia, 5th District
- ❑ William C. Mims, Attorney General, Commonwealth of Virginia
- ❑ Anne G. “Panny” Rhodes, Community member
- ❑ Marilyn B. Tavenner, Secretary of Health and Human Resources, Commonwealth of Virginia

Virginia 2008 FIS

- Topic: Truancy and school dropout prevention
- Date: October 22, 2008
- Speakers: Dr. Jim Kemple, Dr. John Tyler & Judge Frank Somerville
- Partnered with Commission on Youth for Inaugural Seminar
- Supporting Organizations: VCU School of Education Center for School-Community Collaboration and the Governor's Office on Substance Abuse Prevention (GOSAP)

2008 VA FIS participants

- 111 participants,
 - 13 legislators
 - School personnel
 - State-level administrators
 - VCU faculty & students
- 6 legislators, one citizen and two staff members of the Virginia Commission on Youth attended researcher/legislator luncheon following seminar



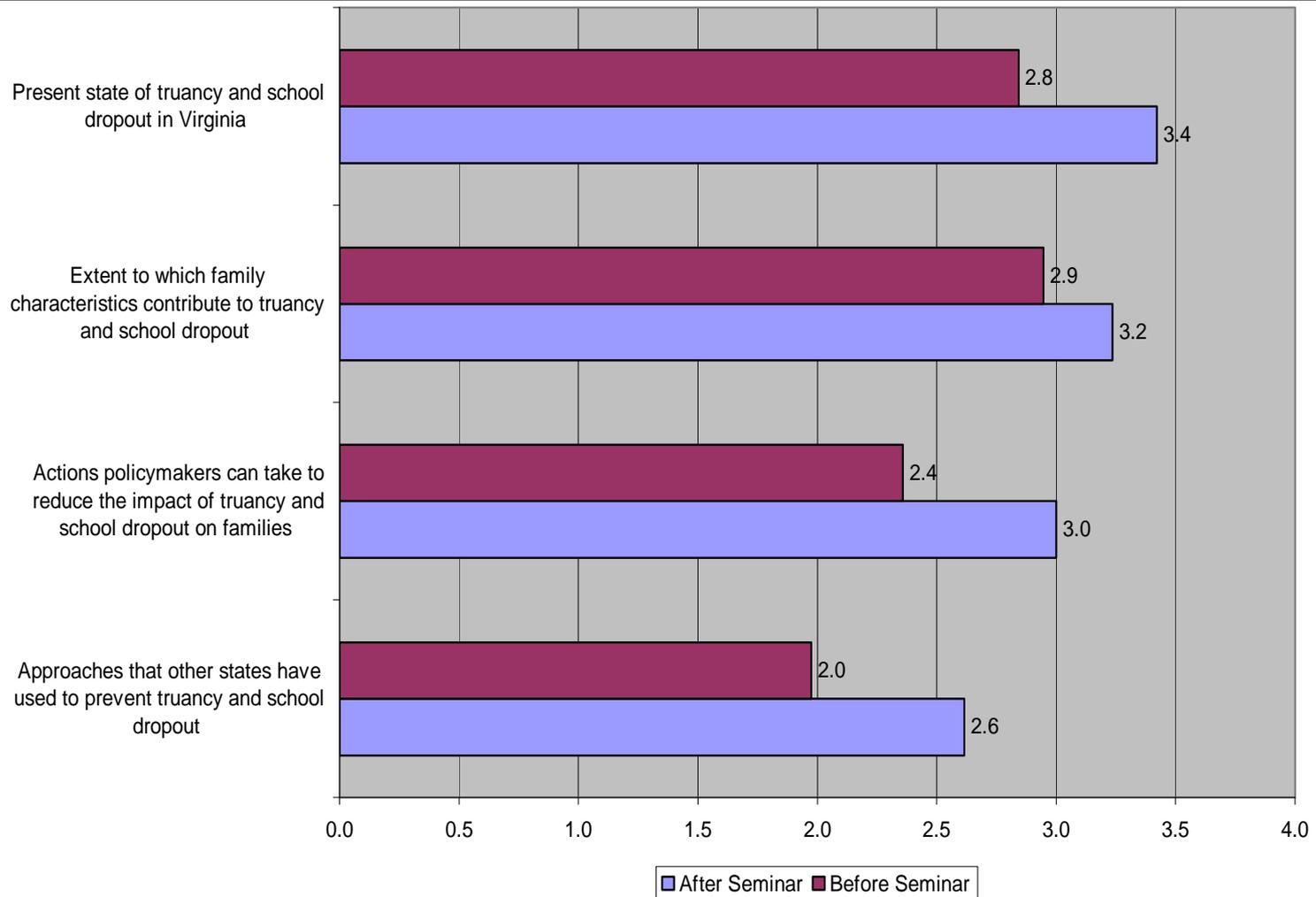






FIS Outcomes

Level of Knowledge Before and After Seminar



FIS Outcomes

- On a scale of 1 (poor) to 5 (excellent) respondents rated overall seminar a 4.4
- Respondents believed seminar was:
 - Objective (4.4)
 - Educational (4.3)
 - Relevant to their needs (4.2)
 - Useful for their current role (4.2)

Related Legislative activity in 2009

- Bill passed prohibiting schools from expelling students based solely on truancy
 - *An Act to amend and reenact § 22.1-277 of the Code of Virginia, relating to the use of suspension for instances of truancy*
- 2008 Family Impact Seminar one of many forces that converged to bring attention to & action about dropout and truancy problem in Virginia



2009 Virginia Family Impact Seminar

- Substance abuse prevention & treatment
 - Identified by several as important topic
- Potential partners
 - Commission on Youth
 - Study Committee on Strategies & Models for SA Prevention & Treatment (Senator Hanger, Chair)
 - GOSAP
 - Substance Abuse Services Council
 - VA Department of Health



Questions or Comments?