Update on 2009 Studies

September 23, 2009
Amy M. Atkinson
2009 Studies

- Truancy and School Dropout Prevention
- Career and Technical Education Programs
- The Collection of Evidence-based Treatment Modalities for Children and Adolescents with Mental Health Needs, 4th Edition
Study of Truancy and School Dropout Prevention
Year 2
Study Mandate

- At the April 2008 meeting, the Commission on Youth (COY) approved a two-year plan to study the issues of truancy and school dropout prevention in the Commonwealth.

- The study originated from legislation introduced by Delegate Franklin P. Hall (HB 1263, 2008).

- The House Education Committee requested COY, in cooperation with the Department of Education, to study the issues set forth in the legislation.
Study Activities – Year 2

- Reconvened Truancy and Dropout Prevention Advisory Group
  - Invited representatives from the Office of the Executive Secretary of the Supreme Court of Virginia, the Commonwealth’s Attorneys’ Services Council and the Virginia State Crime Commission.

- Interviewing impacted stakeholders
  - Youth, parents and/or caregivers
  - School Superintendents
  - Attendance Officers
  - Community Services Board Representatives
Study Activities – Year 2 (cont).

- Review of other states’ policies
- Review of federal legislation/statutes
  - Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Reauthorization Act of 2008
  - No Child Left Behind (NCLB)
  - Safe and Drug-Free Schools and Communities Act
- Review of Virginia laws
  - Truancy and compulsory education statutes
  - Child in Need of Supervision (CHINSup) statutes
  - Juvenile confidentiality statutes
Study Activities – Year 2 (cont).

- Analysis of Virginia practices
  - Virginia’s dropout prevention initiatives
  - School divisions’ attendance polices
  - School divisions’ application of truancy statutes
  - Truancy and the role of the Judiciary
  - Changes to the Regulations for Standards for Accrediting Public Schools in Virginia
    - Graduation Index
    - Academic and Career Plan
Study Activities – Year 2 (cont.)

- Advisory Group Meetings
  - April 20
  - June 15
  - July 20
  - October – *date to be determined*

- Youth Roundtable
  - October – *date to be determined*
Identified Issues from Study

- The VDOE resource on attendance is not current.*
- There is no statewide definition for truancy.
- Some local attendance practices are inconsistent with the Code of Virginia.
- Some local school divisions perceive the 140-hour seat rule is a barrier to graduation. Guidance is needed on how this rule may be waived for students who can demonstrate course mastery.
- School divisions’ accounting on truancy do not provide enough detail on actual truancy practices and intervention efforts.

COY is receiving feedback on the following:

- Assessing whether there are barriers to information sharing within law enforcement (e.g. court service units and school recourse officers);
- Reviewing the intake process for truancy cases, particularly with filing CHINSup Petitions;
- Making compulsory attendance mandatory for students referred to alternative education who have been long-term suspended or expelled; and
- Preserving existing prevention programming funds.
Study of Career and Technical Education
Study Mandate

- COY approved the following recommendation at the May 2009 meeting:
  - Conduct a gap analysis of career and technical educational (CTE) programs in the Commonwealth;
  - Identify resources and system improvements that may be needed, at the state and local level, to ensure that CTE meets current and evolving needs of students and communities;
  - Identify CTE options available in a student’s educational career; and
  - Report findings and recommendations to COY prior to the 2010 General Assembly Session.
Study Activities

- Federal statutory review
- State statutory review
- Analyze Virginia practices/CTE programs
- Conduct site visits
- Conduct literature reviews
- Convene Advisory Group
- Conduct Regional Roundtables

*COY recipient of State Farm Good Neighbor Grant*
Advisory Group Membership

- Industry representatives
- Business representatives
- Virginia Manufacturers Association
- Virginia Chamber of Commerce
- Virginia Community College System
- Virginia Workforce Council
- Jobs for Virginia Graduates program
- CTE Educators/Administrators
- Local School Division representatives
- Virginia Association for CTE
- Virginia PTA
- University of Virginia, Weldon Cooper Center
- Department of Education
- Secretary of Education
- Virginia Municipal League/Virginia Association of Counties
- School Board Representatives
- Regional CTE Centers
Study Activities

- **Advisory Group Meetings**
  - July 24
  - October – *date to be determined*
  - November – *date to be determined*

- **Regional Roundtables**
  *Funded by State Farm Good Neighbor Grant*
  - Richmond Roundtable – July 24
  - Hanover Center for Trades and Technology – September 21
  - Chantilly High School Academy – September 30
  - Advanced Technology Center Virginia Beach – October 2
  - Mountain Empire – *date to be determined* *
  - Henry County – *date to be determined* *
  - New River Valley – *date to be determined* *
  - Massanutten Technology Center – *date to be determined* *

*Projected to be scheduled in mid-October or early November*
Study Issues

- CTE programs can help improve Virginia’s graduation rate by keeping students at-risk of dropping out engaged in school.

- CTE may be more beneficial if introduced earlier in the student’s educational career.

- Existing entry points to CTE may not adequately emphasize career exploration and education for all students.

- A strong CTE program is crucial for students whose educational interests may not require a four-year college degree.

- The areas of study in CTE programs are critical to the economic well-being of our society.

- Workforce development is a crucial but frequently overlooked component in the educational spectrum.
The adequacy of the skilled trade workforce has become an issue in Virginia.

There may be a shortfall in trained workers, as high as 12,000, between 2007 and 2012.

There are regional imbalances such as capacity issues of existing training programs.

Study Issues (cont.)

- U.S. Department of Labor tells us that 76% of the jobs created over the next 20 years will not require a four-year college degree.
Study Issues (cont.)

- CTE not an “either”/”or” approach.
- Pressure to go to college.
- “Trades” are not well-perceived by students.
- Need to get students “hands on” experience earlier in their academic career.
- Guidance counselors’ lack awareness of CTE.
- CTE considered an expensive elective.
The Collection of Evidence-based Treatment Modalities for Children and Adolescents with Mental Health Needs, 4th Edition (the “Collection”)

Virginia Commission on Youth
Study Mandate

- COY directed to:
  - Seek the assistance of the Advisory Group, Secretary of Health and Human Resources, Secretary of Public Safety, and Secretary of Education in posting, maintaining and biennially updating the *Collection*; and
  - Make the *Collection* available through web technologies.

- The *Collection 4th Edition* is underway and due to be published in 2009.
Study Activities

- Partner with a university to enhance the content of the *Collection* for the biennial update.
  - Established partnership with **Virginia Commonwealth University’s Department of Psychology** in Spring 2009.
- Review other states’ initiatives regarding the utilization and dissemination of evidence-based practices (EBPs) in the field of children’s mental health.
- Suggest modifications to *Collection*.
- Formulate recommendations for *Collection*. 
Study Activities (cont.)

- Advisory Group Meetings
  - April 1, 2008
  - August 13, 2009
    - Joint meeting with Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services’ (DBHDS) System of Care Advisory Team
  - Suggest modifications to *Collection.*
  - Formulate recommendations for *Collection.*
Identified Issues

- Align *Collection* biennial update with other statewide efforts/initiatives with children’s mental health
  - DBHDS and the System of Care Advisory Team
  - DBHDS Interagency Substance Abuse Workgroup
  - Joint Subcommittee on Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment
  - Commonwealth’s Review of Autism Services
Identified Issues (cont.)

- Assessment not an integral part of service delivery.
- Providers desire information on “simple” screening instruments.
- Common sense is under-rated.
- EBPs have implementation issues.
- Workforce development issues impact the utilization of EBPs
- What is being taught in universities is not in synch with what students must know to be ready to work in the field.
Upcoming Activities for COY Studies
Upcoming Activities for COY Studies

- Schedule additional Advisory Group meetings.
- Schedule additional Roundtable meetings.
- Complete research and literature reviews.
- Complete interviews with all impacted stakeholders, students and parents.
- Develop recommendations.
  - Synthesize findings and recommendations.
  - Solicit feedback from stakeholders and impacted agencies.
- Present recommendations to Commission on Youth.
- Prepare final report.