

# VIRGINIA LEAGUE OF SOCIAL SERVICES EXECUTIVES

## Legislative Committee

### Legislative and Public Policy Issues

Positions taken on Proposed Legislation to Date

November 7, 2013

## VLSSE Legislative Agenda for the 2014 Virginia General Assembly Session

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### **Section 1. Local Social Services Departments**

ITEM	DESCRIPTION	VLSSE POSTION	VLSSE COMMITTEE
Administrative Funding (Seek a Patron)	Funding for Eligibility Determination, Allocation of CHIPS funding to Local Social Service Agencies In Assuming FAMIS Program Operations	VLSSE Initiative Support	Administration
Eligibility Determination (Seek a Patron)	It is anticipated that sixty-three (63) new Benefit Program Specialists and six (6) supervisors will be needed to perform the program volume. Recognizing that the program is phased in through FY14 and then full time beginning in FY15, then adjusting the 6.3% annual increase for FY16, the increased cost of operations	VLSSE Initiative Support	Administration
Chore & Companion Services (Seek a Patron)	Reinstate state funding for adult chore and companion services and other purchased adult protective services that was reduced in 2010,	VLSSE Initiative Support	Chore & Companion Services

# VLSSE Legislative Agenda for the 2013 Virginia General Assembly Session

## Section 2. Allied Issue Items

CSA Issue	VLSSE Statement	VLSSE Position	VLSSE Committee
Require CSA policies to align with the policy of the core agencies <b>(Seek a Patron)</b>	Amend current CSA law to require OCS to conduct an analysis of any impediments to existing core agency policies as part of the development of any new policy.	VLSSE Initiative Support	CSA
Place the state Office of Comprehensive Services Under the Administrative Processes Act <b>(VACo will take the lead)</b>	This consistency with other regulatory and policy making entities would enhance stakeholder's preparedness and ability to provide input in a structured and meaningful way.	VLSSE Initiative Support	CSA
Establish a Process Concerning the Denial of Funds <b>(Seek a Patron)</b>	An amendment to VA code section 2.2-2628 that provides for reasonable efforts by the state to give localities an opportunity to improve practice following audit findings, and that denial of funds be implemented in a rational, progressive fashion similar to that proposed for IV-E funding and other state and federal funding sources.	VLSSE Initiative Support	CSA
Creation of a New Funding Stream for Prevention/Diversion <b>(Seek a Patron)</b>	Establish a three year prevention/diversion pilot program that incorporates a robust evaluation component.	VLSSE Initiative Support	CSA

**Section 3. VDSS Legislative Items the 2013 Virginia General Assembly Session**

<b>Issue</b>	<b>VDSS Statement</b>	<b>VLSSE Position</b>	<b>VLSSE Committee</b>
Presumptive Eligibility	Places on VDMAS the responsibility to provide records a presumptive eligibility records	SPPORT	Financial Services
Appeals for Independent Living (IL)	Provides for a non-IV-E case to appeal. Provides parity with IV-E case.	SUPPORT	
Release of CPS Information	In the event that the local department does not release the information to the appellant, it shall notify the appellant in writing at the time of the appellant's request for an appeal. If 180 days elapse from the date of the appellant's request without the filing of any criminal charge involving the same conduct and the same victim, the local department shall then provide the appellant with all information used in making the determination.	<b>PENDING</b>	Child Welfare
Child Day Care Background Checks	Proposal for background and fingerprint check for child day care providers. No draft legislation at this time.	<b>SUPPORT , w/ Funding</b>	Child Care
<u>Social Work Title</u> Medicaid Preadmission-Screening 32.1-330 Preadmission screening required.	Provides for "other DMAS-designated assessor. Deletes the term social worker from the Code of Virginia and inserts  1. Workers in the field of adult protection services 2. Family services specialist 3. Other appropriately qualified worker	<b>SUPPORT</b>	<u>Personnel</u> <u>Adult Services</u> <u>Administrative</u>
<u>Social Work Title</u> Board to establish employee entrance and performance standards (63.2-219)	Amendments are needed with regard to the occupational title for social workers employed in the Department of Social Services and 120 local departments of social services, to replace the title 'social worker' with 'family services specialist.' This term was sanctioned by the League of	<b>Monitor</b>	Personnel

Issue	VDSS Statement	VLSSE Position	VLSSE Committee
	Social Services Executives and the State Board of Social Services.		
<u>Social Work Title</u> Determination of appropriate home. (63.2-1225)	The current statute restricts who can counsel prospective adoptive parents to a ‘social worker.’ Amendment is needed to provide flexibility in who can perform this function.	<b>Monitor</b>	Personnel
<u>Social Work Title</u> When birth parents recommend adoptive parents. (63.2-1226)	The current statute restricts who can counsel birth parents to ‘social worker.’ Amendment is needed to provide flexibility in who can perform this function.	<b>Monitor</b>	Personnel
<u>Social Work Title</u> Home study; meeting required; exception. (63.2-1231)	The current statute restricts who must meet with birth and prospective adoptive parents to a ‘social worker.’ Amendment is needed to provide flexibility in who can perform this function. <b>(Concern with VA DMAS amendment to the VDSS proposed legislation that adds a provision to permit contacting out the UAI)</b>	<b>Monitor</b>	Personnel
<u>Social Work Title</u> Requirement that certain injuries to children be reported by physicians, nurses, teachers, etc.; penalty for failure to report. (63.1-150-9)	The current statute identifies as a mandated reporter of child abuse or neglect a ‘social worker.’ Amendment is needed to add ‘family services specialist.’	<b>Monitor</b>	Personnel
<u>FOSTER CARE</u> <u>Department of Juvenile Justice</u> Legal Custody of Children committed to state Department of Juvenile Justice	Proposal by DJJ: Legal Custody of Children In Foster Care committed to the state Department of Juvenile Justice Legislative.	<b>OPPOSE</b>	Child & Family
<u>FOSTER CARE – EDUCATION</u> Just Children, Legal Aid Justice Center	Proposal to provide a safe and positive environment for public schools. Legislative.	<b>SUPPORT</b>	Legislative
<u>GENERAL RELIEF</u> Disposal of Bodies Posed by the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner <b>(Support VACo &amp; VML in seeking a Patron, if a budget</b>	Over the last few years the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner has introduced legislation having to do with the disposition of dead bodies. It seems that when they try to	<b>Monitor, concerns: Funding, work load, liability</b>	Administrative

Issue	VDSS Statement	VLSSE Position	VLSSE Committee
<b>amendment is needed)</b>	“solve” an issue, it raises other issues, and it’s become kind of a three ring circus with reps from the sheriffs, police departments, funeral directors, health department, OAG, the hospital association and us.		

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