

2017 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

THE VIRGINIA COMMISSION ON YOUTH



**TO THE GOVERNOR AND
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF VIRGINIA**

REPORT DOCUMENT 20

**COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA
RICHMOND
2018**



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA
Commission on Youth

Senator Barbara A. Favola, *Chair*
Richard P. Bell, *Vice Chair*

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January 8, 2018

TO: The Honorable Terry McAuliffe
and Members of the General Assembly

Pursuant to the provisions of the *Code of Virginia* (§§ 30-174 and 30-175) establishing the Virginia Commission on Youth and setting forth its purpose, I have the honor of submitting herewith the Executive Summary for the calendar year ending December 31, 2017.

This Executive Summary includes the activity and work conducted by the Virginia Commission on Youth during the 2017 study year, as required by § 30-175. The Commission has enjoyed a busy year producing excellent work to support Virginia's families and youth.

Final reports of the studies conducted will be made available on the General Assembly's website. These reports will also be available on the Commission's website, <http://vcoy.virginia.gov>.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Barbara Favola".

Barbara A. Favola

2017

VIRGINIA COMMISSION ON YOUTH

Senate of Virginia

Barbara A. Favola, Chair
Charles W. "Bill" Carrico
Dave W. Marsden

House of Delegates

Richard P. "Dickie" Bell, Vice Chair
Richard L. "Rich" Anderson
Peter F. Farrell
Daun S. Hester
Mark L. Keam
Christopher K. Peace

Gubernatorial Appointments from the Commonwealth at Large

Karrie Delaney
Deirdre S. Goldsmith
Christian Rehak, Esq.

Commission Staff

Amy M. Atkinson, Executive Director
Will Egen, Senior Policy Analyst

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Virginia Commission on Youth – Background

Enabling Authority

§ 30-174 and § 30-175

Established in statute by the 1989 General Assembly, the Virginia Commission on Youth represents a legislative response to a two-year study examining the issues related to services to chronic status offenders. Virginia Code directs the Commission "to study and provide recommendations addressing the needs of and services to the Commonwealth's youth and families." Enacted in 1989, the Commission began operations in 1991.

The Commission on Youth is comprised of nine members of the General Assembly and three citizens appointed by the Governor (§30-174). Six Commission members from the House of Delegates are appointed by the Speaker of the House. The three Commission members from the Senate are appointed by the Senate Committee on Rules.

Legislative Study

Identifying Substance-Use Prevention and Intervention Programs At Virginia's Colleges and Universities

Study Author

Virginia Commission on Youth

Enabling Authority

§ 30-174 and § 30-175

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

During the 2017 General Assembly Session, Delegate Chris Peace and Senator Bill Carrico introduced respective budget amendments, Item 146#3h and Item 146#5s, which requested the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia to work with the Virginia Alcohol and Beverage Control to identify the current recreational substance-use awareness and education programs at colleges and universities in the Commonwealth.

Budget amendments, Item 146#3h and Item 146#5s, called for a list of best practices to be compiled in a plan for Virginia's colleges and universities to implement. The list of best practices may include, but not be limited to, student-initiated or student-led peer-to-peer education programs and college recovery programs. In order to achieve the above goals, both budget amendments requested a \$25,000 appropriation out of Fiscal Year 2018. Finally, both the House and Senate member request budget amendments asked that a final report be made to the Commission on Youth by the end of 2017. The General Assembly did not adopt the budget amendments.

However, at the Commission on Youth's May 24, 2017 meeting, the members adopted a study plan directing the Commission on Youth in cooperation with the Virginia Department of Alcohol and Beverage Control prior to the 2018 General Assembly Session to:

- Identify the current substance-abuse prevention and intervention programs including programs that address recreational and illicit drug use at colleges and universities; and
- Compile a list of best practices to be considered for Virginia's colleges and universities to implement. This may include, but not be limited to, student-initiated or student-led peer-to-peer education programs and college recovery programs.

Commission staff met with the Department of Alcohol and Beverage Control several times and held one meeting with stakeholders to obtain their feedback. Draft study findings and recommendations were presented at the September 20, 2017 meeting. The Commission received written public comment through November 1, 2017. After receiving public comment at the November 8, 2017 meeting, the Commission on Youth approved the following recommendation:

Recommendation

Amend the *Code of Virginia* to add §4.1-103.02(B) to direct the Virginia Alcoholic Beverage Control (ABC) Board to establish and seek the advice of the Virginia Institutions of Higher Education Substance Use Advisory Board to develop and update a statewide strategic plan for substance use education, prevention, and intervention at Virginia's public institutions of higher education and nonprofit private institutions of higher education.

This statewide strategic plan shall (i) incorporate the use of best practices, which may include, but not be limited to, student-led peer-to-peer education and college recovery programs; (ii) determine and provide for the collection of statewide school data on student alcohol and substance use; (iii) facilitate institutions of higher education in developing their individual strategic plans by including networking, resources, and training materials and (iv) develop and maintain reporting guidelines for institutions of higher education individual strategic plans using mandatory requirements as a guide.

The ABC Board shall convene a group of representatives from Virginia's colleges and universities including students and directors of student health and such other members as the Board may require to make up the Virginia Institutions of Higher Education Substance Use Advisory Board. Membership on the Advisory Board shall be broadly representative of public and nonprofit private institutions of higher education. The Advisory Board shall submit an annual report to the Governor and General Assembly on or before December 1 of each year.

Legislative Study

Dissemination of Effective Treatment Modalities for Children and Adolescents with Mental Health Treatment Needs

Study Author

Virginia Commission on Youth

Enabling Authority

§ 30-174 and § 30-175

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

SJR 358 (2003) directed the Commission on Youth to update biennially its publication, the *Collection of Evidence-based Practices for Children and Adolescents with Mental Health Treatment Needs (Collection)*. The purpose of the *Collection* is to identify effective treatment modalities for children, including juvenile offenders, with mental health treatment needs. Utilization of evidence-based practices in the field of children's mental health promotes better patient outcomes and may offer the Commonwealth some cost savings.

Senate Joint Resolution 358 also mandated that the Commission disseminate the *Collection* via web technologies. As specified in the resolution, the Commission received assistance in disseminating the *Collection* from the Advisory Group, the Secretary of Health and Human Resources, the Secretary of Education, and the Secretary of Public Safety.

The Commission on Youth directed staff at the May 24, 2017 meeting to:

Identify goals, strategies and mechanisms for dissemination

- Focus on low cost dissemination efforts (e.g., web strategies, listserv emails)

Identify partners and participants in dissemination effort

- Collection Update Advisory Group
- Secretary of Health and Human Resources and Health and Human Resource agencies
- Secretary of Public Safety/Public Safety agencies
- Office of the Executive Secretary of the Supreme Court
- Secretary of Education/Local school divisions
- Professional Associations
- Consumer and Advocacy Organizations

Contact partners and request assistance in dissemination

Share information with identified partners for dissemination to professionals and communities across the Commonwealth

Convert *Collection 6th Edition* to HTML version

Update VCOY website

Draft summaries for *Collection 7th Edition*

December 2017, the Commission submitted *the Collection 6th Edition* to the Governor and General Assembly.

Legislative Initiative

Family Impact Seminar on Trauma-Informed Care

Study Author

Virginia Commission on Youth

Enabling Authority

§ 30-174 and § 30-175

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Virginia Commission on Youth, in partnership with the L. Douglas Wilder School of Government and Public Affairs at Virginia Commonwealth University, hosted a Family Impact Seminar on May 24, 2017 on the Adverse Effects of Childhood Trauma. This report summarizes the activities of the Commission on Youth related to its work on trauma-informed care during the 2017 study year. Approximately 160 participants attended the Seminar, including legislators, members of the executive branch, local officials, educators, advocacy groups, service providers, higher education professionals, and stakeholders. Seminar participants learned that youth exposed to trauma have a greater risk of experiencing disease, violence, homelessness, and criminal justice involvement.

As a result of the Seminar and further study on trauma-informed care, the Commission developed draft recommendations that were presented at the September 20, 2017 meeting. After receiving public comment on these recommendations, at the November 8, 2017 meeting, the Commission approved the following recommendations:

Recommendation 1 – Trauma-Informed Care Interagency Workgroup

Request the Governor to include in the proposed biennial budget, language directing the Office of the Secretary of Health and Human Resources, in cooperation with the Office of the Secretary Education, to create a Trauma-Informed Care workgroup. The workgroup shall include representatives from the Department of Social Services, the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services, the Department of Criminal Justice Services, the Department of Juvenile Justice, the Department of Education, the Office of Children’s Services, the Department of Medical Assistance Services, the Virginia Department of Health, the Family and Children’s Trust Fund of Virginia, other state agencies as needed, stakeholders, researchers, community organizations and representatives from impacted communities.

The workgroup shall (i) develop a shared vision and definition of trauma-informed care for Virginia; (ii) examine Virginia’s applicable child and family-serving programs and data; (iii) develop an implementation plan for data-sharing; (iv) develop strategies to build a trauma-informed system of care for children and families across the Commonwealth; (v) identify indicators to measure progress; (vi) identify workforce development opportunities around evidence-based and best practices; and (vii) identify needed professional development/training in trauma-informed practices for all child-serving professionals. In addition, the workgroup shall explore opportunities, including the creation of public/private partnerships to expand trauma-informed care throughout the Commonwealth.

The Secretary of Health and Human Resources and the Secretary of Education shall report to the Chairman of the Senate Finance and House Appropriations Committees and the Virginia Commission on Youth by December 15 of each year. Include an appropriation of \$150,000 each year for staff support to coordinate and carry out the duties of the workgroup.

Recommendation 2 – Establish a Small Grants Program

Request the Governor to include in the proposed biennial budget a General Fund appropriation of \$250,000 to serve as a dollar for dollar match for private, foundation and nonprofit money raised to support a grants program of the Family and Children’s Trust Fund (FACT). These dollars shall fund a competitive small grants program to prevent, mitigate or help children ages 0-6 recover from Adverse Childhood Experiences across the state.

Recommendation 3 – Virginia’s Tiered Systems of Support

Request the Governor to include in the proposed biennial 2018 budget, a General Fund appropriation of \$250,000 to increase the existing General Fund appropriation to the Department of Education's Virginia’s Tiered Systems of Supports directing the additional funds to support Title I and Accreditation Denied Schools.

Legislative Initiative

Survey for Children Aging out of Foster Care

Study Author

Virginia Commission on Youth

Enabling Authority

§ 30-174 and § 30-175

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

During the 2017 General Assembly Session, Delegate Farrell introduced House Bill 1451 directing the Virginia Department of Social Services (VDSS), in coordination with the Virginia Commission on Youth (VCOY), to develop a process and standardized survey to gather feedback from children aging out of foster care. The survey is to include requests for information regarding the child's experience with and opinion of the Commonwealth's foster care services, recommendations for improvement of such services, the amount of time the child spent in the foster care system and any other information deemed relevant by VDSS or VCOY.

At the May 24, 2017 Commission on Youth meeting, the members adopted a study plan to develop a survey for children aging out of foster care to:

Work with the VDSS/other impacted stakeholders

- Local departments of social service representatives
- Virginia Community College representatives/Great Expectations
- Conduct regional round tables
- Virginia Youth Advisory Group – Project LIFE

Collaborate with VDSS in gathering feedback from foster youth/former foster youth

- Invite key stakeholders and impacted agencies to participate in focus groups

Provide assistance as needed to VDSS in developing the survey questionnaire

At the Commission's November 8, 2017 meeting, Commission staff and the Virginia Department of Social Services presented a draft survey for consideration. The final survey is estimated to be finalized in the spring of 2018.

Legislative Initiative

Reporting of Child Protective Service Cases to Virginia's Public Schools

Study Author

Virginia Commission on Youth

Enabling Authority

§ 30-174 and § 30-175

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In August 2017, Senator Barbara Favola requested a presentation at the September 20, 2017 meeting from the Department of Social Services (DSS) and the Department of Education (DOE) on the process of reporting child protective services (CPS) cases to Virginia's public schools. The request came as a result of an investigative report conducted by Channel 4 News in Washington, D.C. which revealed flaws in Virginia's CPS reporting process as it relates to public school employees. The Commission on Youth, in cooperation with DSS and DOE, developed draft recommendations which were presented at the Commission's November 8, 2017 meeting. After receiving public comment on these recommendations, at the December 5, 2017 meeting, the Commission approved the following recommendations:

Recommendation 1

Amend § 63.2-1505(B)(7) of the Code of Virginia to require local departments of social services to report founded cases of child abuse and neglect of former school employees if they were an employee during the course of the investigation or at the time of the alleged conduct.

Recommendation 2

Amend § 63.2-1503(P) of the Code of Virginia to require local departments of social services to report founded cases of child abuse and neglect for an individual holding a license to the Superintendent of Public Instruction at the same time as a report is made to the local school board.

Recommendation 3

Amend § 63.2-1526 of the Code of Virginia to add language stating that an appellant may request no more than two extensions of the state administrative hearing unless compelling reasons exist, not to exceed an additional 90 days.

Recommendation 4

Request the Virginia Commission on Youth to study the difference in standards of review to determine a founded case of abuse and neglect between school personnel and non-school personnel and to advise the Commission of its findings and recommendations by December 1, 2018.