



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES
Office of the Commissioner

S. Duke Storen
Commissioner

MEMORANDUM

DATE: June 30, 2020

TO: The Honorable Ralph S. Northam
Governor of Virginia

Members, Virginia General Assembly

FROM: S. Duke Storen *S. Duke Storen*

SUBJECT: Certification of Case Review of Children in Congregate Care

Item 344.Q. of the 2019 Appropriation Act provides, “*The Department of Social Services shall immediately review all cases of children in congregate care without a clinical need to be there and assist local departments in finding appropriate family based settings. The department shall certify completion of the reviews by June 30 2020 and by letter notify the General Assembly as such.*”

The Department of Social Services certifies that there has been a review of all cases of children in congregate care without a clinical need to be there. There were 159 cases identified for review. Department of Social Services’ staff developed a screening tool, reviewed the cases using the tool, and interviewed individuals to determine the appropriateness of placement. Moving forward, there is a plan to assist local departments in finding appropriate family-based settings and to continue to review the cases of children placed in a congregate care setting.

SDS:de

Attachment

cc: Gena Boyle Berger, Deputy Secretary of Health and Human Resources