

**Campaign for Children's Mental Health  
Organizational Partners' Meeting  
Tuesday, March 23, 2010, 1-3 p.m. at HF Consulting**

Partners Present:

Karin Addison, American Academy of Pediatrics- Va  
Ralston King, Psychiatric Society of Va  
Cal Whitehead, Psychiatric Society of Va  
Aimee Perron Seibert, Va College of Emergency Physicians, National Association of Social Workers- Va, Jewish Community Relations Council  
Jennifer Faison, Va Association of Community Services Boards  
Lucie Ferguson, Bon Secours Richmond Health System  
Melissa Goemann, Mid Atlantic Juvenile Defender Center, University of Richmond Law School  
Mira Signer, National Alliance on Mental Illness - Va  
Amanda Scudder, United Way of Greater Richmond and Petersburg and Smart Beginnings Greater Richmond  
Paula Price, Mental Health America- Va  
Lisa Wright, Great Richmond SCAN Child Advocacy Center  
Margaret Nimmo Crowe, Voices for Virginia's Children  
Mary Dunne Stewart, Voices  
John Morgan, Voices

Welcome and introductions

General Assembly update (handout)

- Most visible issue Campaign worked on was advocating to prevent the closure of the Commonwealth Center for Children and Adolescents and the adolescent unit at Southwestern Virginia Mental Health Institute.
- Funding was restored to keep CCCA open but not Southwestern's adolescent unit.
- Equally as important to the Campaign was the budget language that was passed calling the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services to create a planning process to develop children's mental health services statewide, not just focused on hospital issues.

Executive Order

- Governor McDonnell is likely to release an order soon to continue the Children's Services Transformation, with a new focus on children's mental health.
- Voices and VACSB from Campaign contributed input.
- Voices will keep the partners updated whenever it has further information about the order.

Involvement of State Agencies in Campaign

- John Morgan, Executive Director of Voices for Virginia's Children, explained that the Campaign is an advocacy effort external to state government, but that Voices wants the Campaign to partner whenever possible with state government.
- The consensus of the group was that state employees should not be invited regularly but as guests for specific meetings when information is needed. In particular, the Campaign should request from the

administration specific designees, possibly one each from the Children's Services Transformation and the new DBHDS study, to maintain open communication with these two efforts.

### Regional Forums

- One strategy of the Campaign is to gather input on need for reform through holding regional forums of stakeholders. Because of the new phase of transformation, the Campaign will be partnering with the Special Advisor for Children's Services, Ray Ratke, to host the forums.
- Purposes are to: hear from a variety of stakeholders to gather qualitative information to make the case for reform; educate and energize people about the Campaign; and have Ray Ratke inform them about the new phase of transformation.
- Forums scheduled so far include: Wednesday, April 21 in Roanoke at Carilion; Wednesday, May 12 in Loudoun at the CSB; and Thursday, May 13 in Fairfax at Inova. Others are going to be scheduled in Lynchburg, Richmond, Hampton Roads, and possibly Williamsburg. Further suggestions: far SW and Danville.
- Role of partners: help promote the events and encourage attendance; help with media coverage, letters to the editor and op-eds. More info to come.
- All attendees will be surveyed so that they will be able to provide input regardless of whether they have the opportunity to speak at the forum.

### Committees

- 3 committees to form:
  - a policy "think tank" will be led by John Morgan and Bob Cohen of VCU.
  - NAMI and Federation of Families will lead a Family and Youth Involvement Committee
  - VACSB will lead a Best Practices Committee.
- Meeting attendees broke into the two committees to begin discussions of their goals. Chairs will send out meeting information.

Meeting at 3:00 p.m.