

Virginia

**VIRGINIA STATE CHILD WELFARE ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

*State-level child welfare advisory committee*

<b>Background:</b>	<p>Document created October 17, 2008.</p> <p>The Advisory Committee typically meets monthly, but if there is no immediate agenda, it may not meet for two or three months. It is the primary vehicle for stakeholder consultation and feedback for the Division on Family Services and is used regularly by the various central office child welfare program managers.</p>
<b>Purpose/Scope:</b>	<p>The Advisory Committee is the primary organization to advise the Director of the Division of Family Services on child welfare issues. The Advisory Committee ensures that all child welfare activities are child-centered, family-focused, and community-based. Child welfare programs include Adoption, Child Protective Services, Family Preservation, Foster Care, and Interstate Compact on the Placement of Children (ICPC).</p> <p>The objectives of the Advisory Committee include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Advise on child welfare program, policy, training and practice issues.</li><li>• Advise on the development of the five year Child and Family Services Plan and annual progress reports as well as other state plans under the responsibility of Family Services.</li></ul> <p>Guide development and implementation of Virginia's Program Improvement Plan for any element that Virginia does not meet requirements of the Child and Family Services Review.</p>
<b>Stakeholders Involved:</b>	<p>The Virginia Department of Social Services (VDSS) houses a county-administered, state supervised child welfare system, the Division of Family Services.</p> <p>The Advisory Committee is composed of appropriate members that provide representation from various stakeholder groups. Members may include at least one representative from each of the following areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Child and family services private providers.</li><li>• Private child placement agencies.</li><li>• Juvenile court judges.</li><li>• Local departments of social services, including representatives of the child and family services committee of the Virginia League of Social Services; and representatives of the Virginia Alliance of Social Work Practitioners.</li><li>• Local community services boards.</li><li>• Foster and adoptive parent associations.</li><li>• Virginia Institute for Social Services Training Activities.</li><li>• State board of social services.</li><li>• State local advisory team.</li><li>• Prevent Child Abuse Virginia.</li></ul>

- Family and Children's Trust Fund.
- Court Appointed Special Advocates.
- State Departments of Education; Health; Medical Assistance Services; and Mental Health, Mental Retardation and Substance Abuse Services; Office of the Executive Secretary and the Supreme Court; Department of Juvenile Justice; and Office of Comprehensive Services for Youth and Families.
- Representative from the Bar to include: Guardians ad litem (GAL) and DSS attorney.
- Virginia Council of Indians.
- Appropriate program managers at VDSS (Child Protective Services [CPS], Permanency, and Online Automated Services Information System [OASIS] and representatives).
- Director and Assistant Director of the Division of Family Services.

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