



INTRODUCTORY MEETING

AUGUST 23, 2018 WEST READING ROOM

9:30 – 11:00 AM PATRICK HENRY BUILDING



EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT AND SCHOOL READINESS

CHIEF SCHOOL READINESS OFFICER JENNA CONWAY

EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT AND SCHOOL READINESS WORKGROUP

- First meeting was held August 8.
- Group engaged in discussion of early childhood landscape and began defining what should be different for Virginia children by 2021. Discussion ranged from prenatal supports and home visiting to school transition and early elementary education.
- Along with agency leaders, participants included representatives of the following:
 - *Local School Superintendent*
 - *Virginia Superintendents Association*
 - *Elevate Early Education*
 - *Voices for Virginia's Children*
 - *Child Care Aware*
 - *Virginia Early Childhood Foundation*
 - *Early Impact Virginia (Home Visiting Organization)*
 - *Community Based Organization*
 - *Virginia Council for Private Education*
 - *Child Care Association of Virginia*
 - *Head Start Association*
 - *University School of Education Dean*
 - *Local Social Services Office*
 - *Local Early Childhood Office*

INITIAL FINDINGS

- Participants were excited about the **evolving** and **emerging potential** of early childhood and school readiness, but were also deeply concerned about **gaps** in the current system which was described as **patchwork**.
- Participants highlighted **recent interest and investments** in early childhood noting accomplishments such as VPI+, Smart Beginnings, JLARC Study, Children's Cabinet, School Readiness Committee, Medicaid Expansion, Summer Feeding, Virginia Kindergarten Readiness Project (VKRP), Virginia Quality, and Early Impact Virginia and more.
- Yet, participants noted that the system remains **too fragmented** with **differing standards, uneven quality** and **inequitable access**.

BY DECEMBER 31, 2021

- All Virginia families have affordable access to early childhood care and education that supports learning across the **birth through 3rd grade** continuum and **meets their needs**, whether home-, faith-, Head Start-, center- or school-based, etc.
- With a **clear, consistent, and unbiased** understanding and measure of **school readiness**, Virginia families and early childhood programs work collaboratively to **support children to thrive, developing the skills** needed for kindergarten and beyond.
- Virginia has **clear, consistent and unbiased quality standards** for all publicly-funded early childhood programs that are **indicative of child outcomes**. Virginia **measures and rewards** programs for achieving the unified standards, ensuring leaders and teachers are **well compensated** for their achievement.
- Overall Virginia's early childhood system will be **more unified, transparent, data-driven and resource-effective**, with no funding "left on the table."

ALIGNMENT WITH EARLY IMPACT VIRGINIA LEADERSHIP COUNCIL

- **Early Impact Virginia**, the umbrella organization for home visiting programs, is currently convening a Leadership Council to drive all current and future investments in early childhood home visiting, define how home visiting will contribute to achieving the Commonwealth's goals for the health and wellness of young children and stronger families, and facilitate cross system strategies to advance the work.
- Membership will include leadership from state agencies as well as additional public and private partners who will work together to define **benchmarks for success** and ensure **effective implementation**.
- This workgroup will seek to build on the efforts of the Early Impact Virginia Leadership Council and integrate its findings and recommendations into the Children's Cabinet.



NUTRITION AND FOOD SECURITY

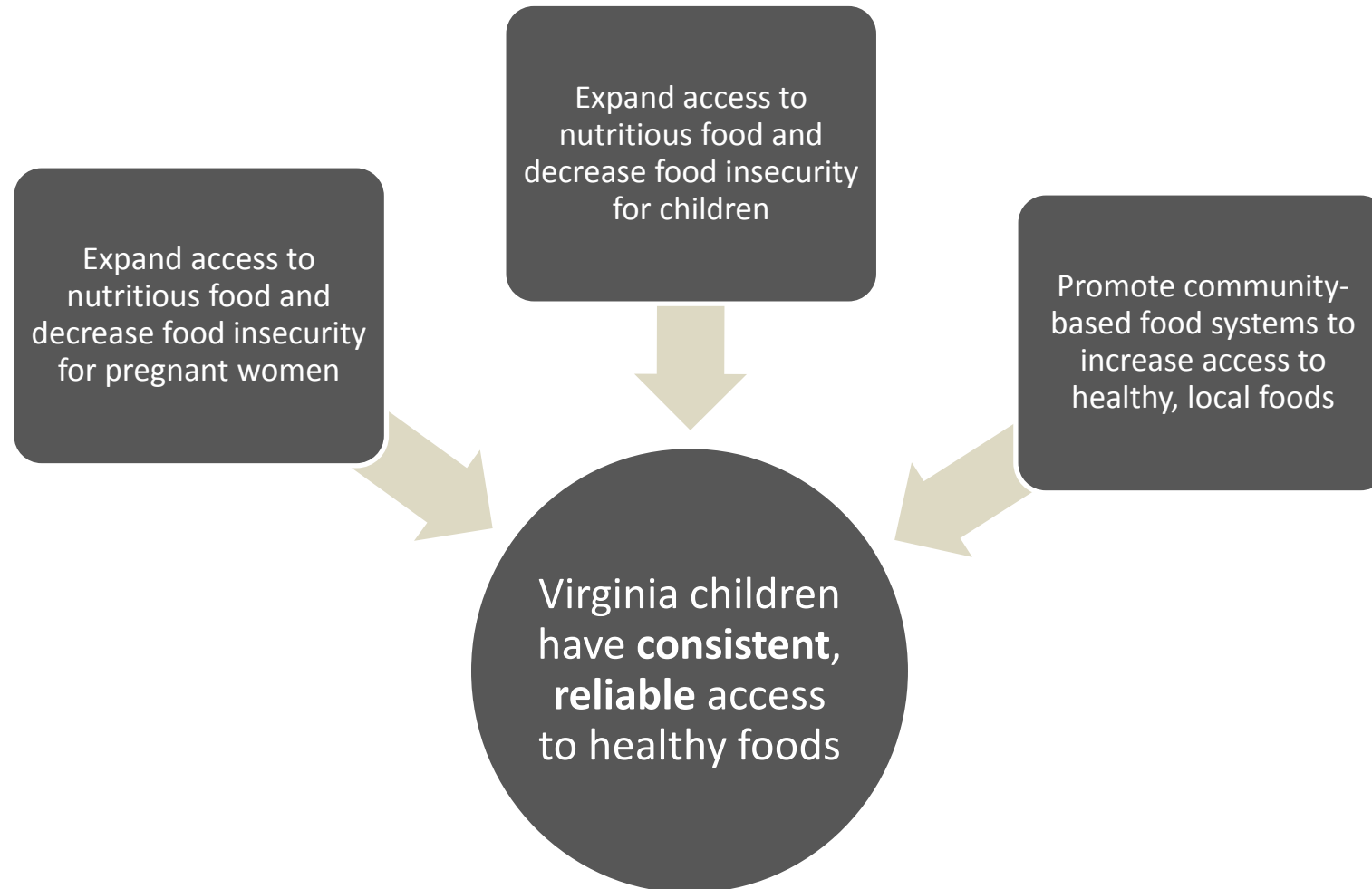
ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY HEIDI HERTZ

NUTRITION AND FOOD SECURITY WORKGROUP

- Initial meeting was held July 25.
- 28 participants in the first meeting including representatives from:

American Heart Association	Tricycle	Virginia Foundation for Healthy Youth
Arcadia Center for Sustainable Agriculture	Virginia Academy of Pediatrics	Virginia Fresh Match
School Nutrition Association	Virginia Agriculture in the Classroom	Virginia League of Social Services Executives
Farmers Market.co	Virginia Cooperative Extension	Virginia No Kid Hungry
Federation of Virginia Food Banks	Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services	Virginia Poverty Law
Greater Richmond Fit4Kids	Virginia Department of Education	Virginia State University
Local Environmental Agriculture Project	Virginia Department of Health	
Shalom Farms	Virginia Department of Social Services	
- Workgroup members have been very engaged in ending childhood hunger work both from a programmatic and policy perspective.

DISCUSSION GROUPS



EXPAND ACCESS TO NUTRITIOUS FOOD AND DECREASE FOOD INSECURITY FOR PREGNANT WOMEN

- Goal: Increased utilization of the Virginia WIC program among eligible families, specifically pregnant women.
- Initial findings: Workgroup members are concerned that participation rates statewide are dropping.
- Next steps: Review findings of data analysis to determine WIC program participation trends and identify gaps. Identify WIC districts with innovative programs to enroll and retain pregnant women and children. Identify community partners to promote WIC locally.

EXPAND ACCESS TO NUTRITIOUS FOOD AND DECREASE FOOD INSECURITY FOR CHILDREN

- Goal: Invest in feeding kids everyday, 365 days a year
- Initial findings: Existing federal nutrition programs are an efficient, practical way to connect kids to the food they need. These programs are also 100% federally funded, but millions of these federal dollars go untapped when programs cannot reach the kids who need them.
- Next steps: Expand and identify new opportunities to utilize federal nutrition program funds to reach at-risk youth and families. Conduct a gap evaluation for Summer Food Service Program sites. Create state recommended nutrition guidelines to integrate with program goals.

PROMOTE COMMUNITY-BASED FOOD SYSTEMS TO INCREASE ACCESS TO HEALTHY, LOCAL FOODS

- Goal: Promote community-based food systems to increase access to healthy, local foods.
- Initial findings: There is a lot of local and statewide momentum but the food system lacks connections between growers, educators, healthcare providers, and consumers.
- Next steps: Conduct urban agriculture census. Collect baseline data on what is being grown and being directed towards food access, what programs exist connecting consumers with local, healthy food. Identify the scope and scale of local food in local schools. Establish a farm to school strategy group co-led by VDACS and VDOE. Determine next steps for expanding farmers' market nutrition programs.

WORKGROUP-LED OUTREACH





TRAUMA-INFORMED CARE

DEPUTY SECRETARY OF HEALTH AND HUMAN RESOURCES GENA BERGER

THE PROBLEM

- Recent research shows chronic, severe stressors or adverse childhood experiences (ACEs) cause toxic biological responses to the developing brain, often with long-term consequences for health and wellness.
- A growing body of research, based on a ground-breaking 1998 CDC study, has sought to quantify the prevalence of ACEs and educate on their connection to negative health outcomes, such as obesity, substance use disorder, depression, heart disease, and other chronic health conditions.
- Scientific research has now linked ACEs to 7 out of 10 of the leading causes of death in the U.S.

CHARGE

- The Children's Cabinet will seek to coordinate efforts across state agencies, with external stakeholders and local communities to foster systems that provide a consistent trauma-informed response to children with adverse childhood experiences and build resiliency of individuals and communities.



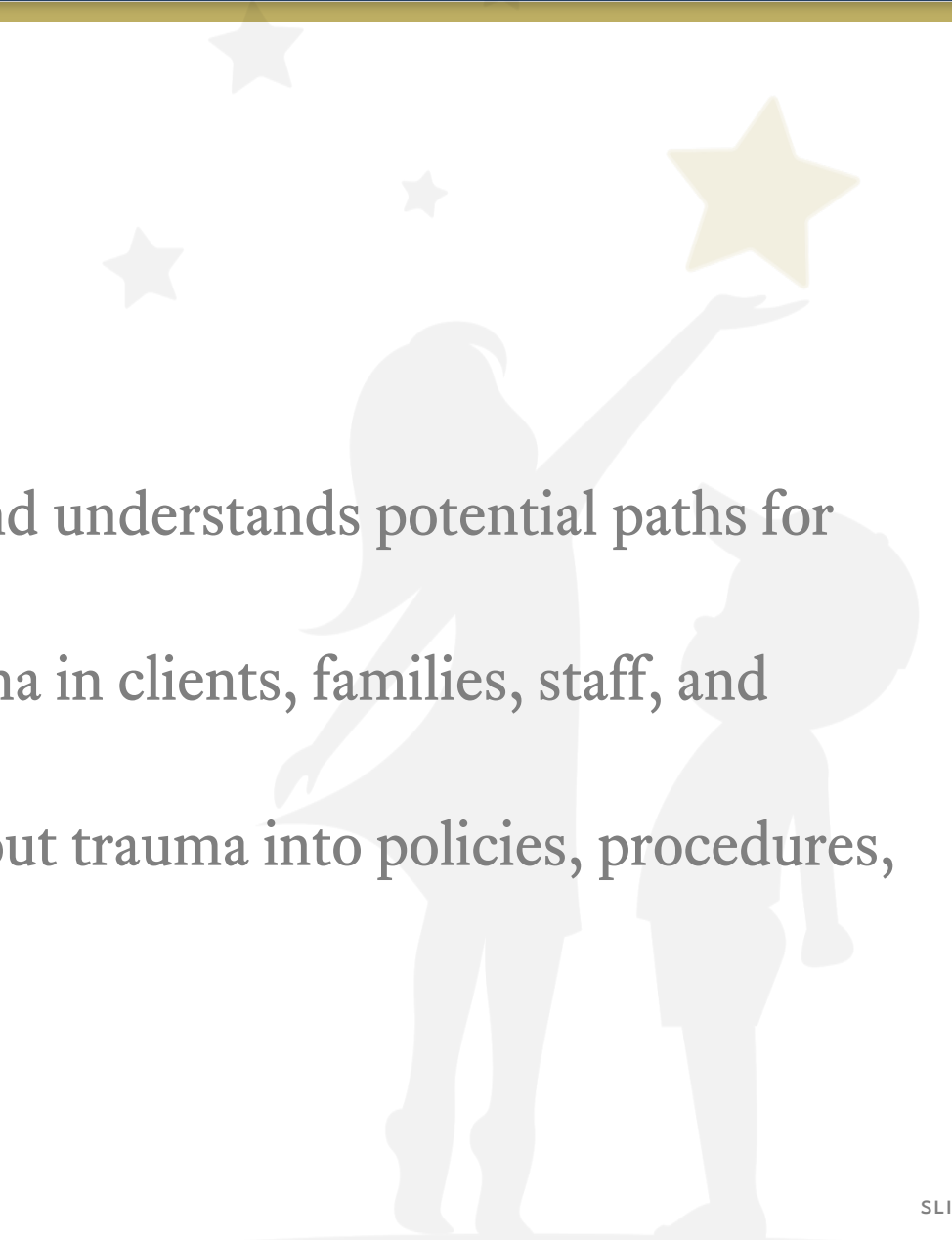
RELATED CHARGE IN FY19 BUDGET

- The Secretary of Health and Human Resources shall create a trauma-informed care workgroup to develop a shared vision and definition of trauma-informed care for agencies within the Health and Human Resources Secretariat.
- The workgroup shall also (i) examine Virginia's applicable child and family-serving programs and data; (ii) develop strategies to build a trauma-informed system of care for children, using best practices for families who are impacted by the human service delivery system; (iii) identify indicators to measure progress in developing such a system of care; (iv) identify needed professional development/training in trauma-informed practices for all child-serving professionals and (v) identify data sharing issues that need to be addressed to facilitate such a system.
- In addition, the workgroup shall explore opportunities to expand trauma-informed care throughout the Commonwealth.
- The workgroup must provide a report to the General Assembly by December 15, 2018.

TRAUMA-INFORMED CARE — WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

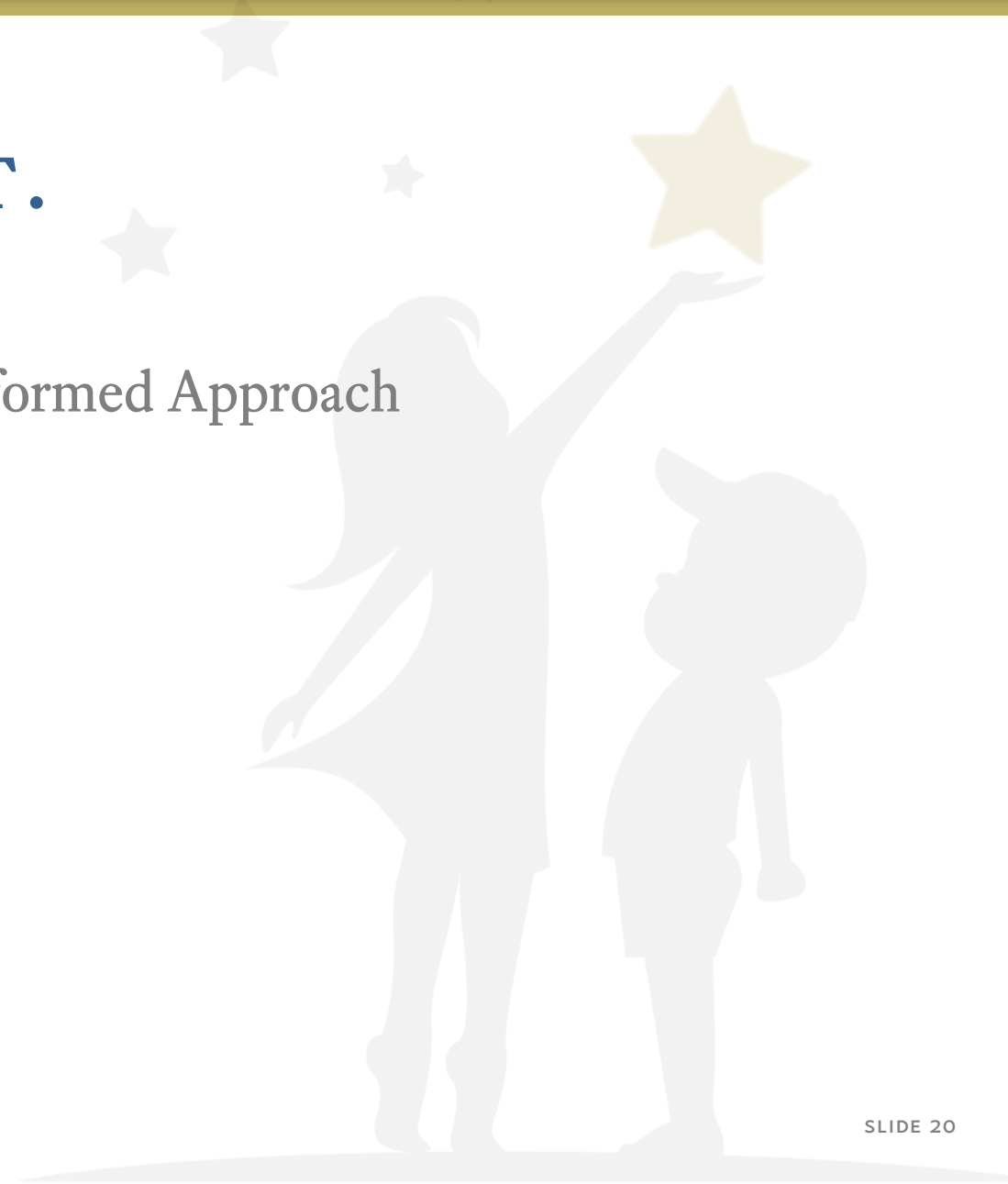
SAMHSA DEFINITION

- The Four R's:
 - Realizes the widespread impact of trauma and understands potential paths for recovery;
 - Recognizes the signs and symptoms of trauma in clients, families, staff, and others involved with the system;
 - Responds by fully integrating knowledge about trauma into policies, procedures, and practices; and
 - Seeks to actively resist re-traumatization.



SAMHSA DEFINITION CONT.

- SAMHSA's Six Key Principles of a Trauma-Informed Approach
 - Safety
 - Trustworthiness and transparency
 - Peer support
 - Collaboration and mutuality
 - Empowerment, voice and choice
 - Cultural, historical, and gender issues



THE WAY AHEAD: A PLANE FOR OUR WORK

- Explore what trauma-informed care, services, and response looks like in:
 - Health care
 - Child welfare and social services
 - Education
 - Public safety
 - Judiciary

WHAT DOES SUCCESS LOOK LIKE? WHAT WILL WE MEASURE?

If we are successful, we will...

- (Short-term)
 - Increase the % or # of health care providers, teachers, child welfare and social workers, and those working with justice-involved youth who are screening for ACEs
 - Increase the number of health systems, departments of social services, schools, public safety agencies and courts in Virginia who have integrated trauma-informed care and response into their service model and provide guidance and training to professionals
- (Longer-term)
 - Significantly reduce the number of children who enter foster care each year in Virginia
 - Significantly reduce the number of justice-involved youth in Virginia
 - Significantly decrease costs of public assistance programs across the board
 - Be a healthier, happier state!



STUDENT SAFETY WORK GROUP

SECRETARY OF PUBLIC SAFETY AND HOMELAND SECURITY BRIAN MORAN

SECRETARY OF EDUCATION ATIF QARNI

DEFINING THE PROBLEM TO SOLVE

- Although Virginia is a national leader in school safety, many children across the Commonwealth experience a complex set of environmental, health, and public safety-related challenges that affect their ability to develop into thriving young adults.
- Schools are a critical partner in addressing a child's needs, especially with respect to mental health, trauma-informed care and overall well-being.
- The Student Safety Work Group will be focused on adapting and responding to new and emerging challenges affecting the safety of our communities, schools, and children.

DEFINING SUCCESS

- The Student Safety Work Group is co-chaired by two cabinet Secretaries. Therefore, the efforts of the work group and its recommendations should embody cross-secretariat collaboration between Public Safety and Homeland Security, Education, and Health and Human Resources to improve student safety – a pressing, interdisciplinary issue confronting the Commonwealth.
- Schools can serve as a catalyst for the development of critical relationships between youth and adults, which create strong support networks. Through development of these networks and additional training for all school professionals, we hope to be able to better identify students in need of additional supports and connect youth to services and treatment.
- As such, success is defined as proactively identifying students who may be at-risk, in need of additional support, considering self-harm, or on a path of violence and are in need of intervention and connecting them with necessary treatment or services.

FIRST MEETING: THURSDAY, JULY 19, 2018

- Presentation 1: “The Evolution of School Safety in Virginia”
 - Dr. Anne Atkinson, President of PolicyWorks Ltd.
- Presentation 2: “Virginia Center for School and Campus Safety”
 - Donna Michaelis, work group member and Manager of Virginia Center for School and Campus Safety, DCJS
- Presentation 3: “Building Safe and Supportive Schools in Virginia”
 - Bobby Kipper, work group member and School Safety & Discipline Specialist, VDOE

FIRST MEETING CONT.

- Panel: “Panel of Local Experts”
 - Sarah Gross, work group member and President, Virginia Parent Teacher Association (PTA)
 - Sheriff Brian Hieatt, work group member and Sheriff of Tazewell County
 - Dr. Fred Orelove, work group member and Co-Chair of Schools Committee for Trauma Informed Communities Network
 - Dr. Patrick Stanfield, work group member and Principal, Midlothian Middle School
 - Moderator: Dr. Anne Atkinson
- Facilitated Discussion
 - Moderator: Dr. Anne Atkinson

TAKEAWAYS FROM FIRST MEETING

- Work group members suggested increasing the \$100,000 limit per school division and expanding the scope of the Security Equipment Grants from the Virginia Public School Authority and VDOE. Currently the grants are limited to physical security measures within the school building.
- Work group members expressed that SROs play an important role in schools and have a positive impact on school climate. Work group members expressed interest in ensuring that all SROs receive specialized training, which is currently only mandated for SROs receiving state grants from DCJS.

TAKEAWAYS CONT.

- Work group members discussed current ratios of school counselor ratios to students as they pertain to the Standards of Quality in Virginia. VDOE recommends a 1:250 ratio, and Virginia currently funds a 1:425 ratio.
- There was significant support among work group members with regard to increasing the availability of trauma-informed care statewide. Chesterfield County Public Schools received praise for their creation of the trauma-informed specialist – an internal employee whose job it is to create more trauma-informed practices for schools.
- The work group discussed threat assessment and the Threat Assessment Team process, sharing examples and success stories from Prince William County Public Schools. Restorative justice, trauma-informed care, and suicide prevention are all embedded in threat assessment.

SECOND MEETING: TUESDAY, AUGUST 21, 2018

- Panel 1: Student Panel
 - Emily LeSueur, Class of 2015, Fluvanna County High School
 - Colleen Trott, Class of 2019, Powhatan High School
 - Monica Rhudy, Class of 2020, James River High School
 - Moderator: Dr. Fred Orelove
- Panel 2: Suicide Prevention Panel
 - Alexandra Jansson, National Violent Death Reporting System Project Coordinator for the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner (OCME), Virginia Department of Health (VDH)
 - Christy Letsom, Chair, Virginia Suicide Prevention Coalition
 - Dr. Sterling Ransone, Jr., Physician, Riverside Health System
 - Moderator: Nicole Gore, work group member and Suicide Prevention Coordinator, DBHDS

SECOND MEETING CONT.

- Panel 3: Threat Assessment Panel
 - Dr. Dolores Robison, work group member and Supervisor of Threat Assessment & Homebound Program Manager, Prince William County Public Schools
 - 1stSgt. Mark Depatie, SRO Unit Supervisor, Prince William County Police
 - Carolyn Lamm, Supervisor of Student Support Services, Fauquier County Public Schools
 - Anne Smith, School Psychologist, Fauquier County Public Schools
 - Leah Shorb, Assistant Principal of Cedar Lee Middle School, Fauquier County Public Schools
 - Moderator: Dr. Marisa Randazzo, Principal & Co-Founder, SIGMA Threat Management Associates
- Facilitated Discussion
 - Moderator: Dr. Marisa Randazzo

TAKEAWAYS FROM SECOND MEETING

- Work group members discussed the guidelines from the American School Counseling Association regarding division of time for school counselors: 80% of time should be spent with students, 20% of time should be spent doing administrative work. In Virginia, the ratio is 60:40.
- Work group members expressed interest in having a list of approved nonprofits who can provide mental health services in schools statewide.
- The work group discussed the importance of expanding Youth Mental Health First Aid training for teachers, parents, and others who interact with youth in order to recognize signs and symptoms.

TAKEAWAYS FROM SECOND MEETING

- Suicide prevention was a significant topic of discussion. Work group members recognized that additional efforts are needed in order to equip adults with the language, skills and screening tools to engage with youth and identify suicidal thoughts or behaviors.
- The work group discussed re-branding Threat Assessment Teams as Virginia C.A.R.E.S. in order to promote information sharing and collaboration.
- It is important to promote information sharing among schools, law enforcement, mental health professionals and courts. This led to conversation about the need for additional clarity on privacy laws like HIPAA, FERPA and others.
- In addition to mental health counselors, there was clear support for having a behavioral interventionist position in schools that can serve as a bridge between the classroom and the office when a student is struggling in the classroom.

KEY UPCOMING DATES

- Third and final work group meeting: Tuesday, September 25, 2018
- Recommendations due to Governor Northam by October 1, 2018





INTRODUCTORY MEETING

AUGUST 23, 2018 WEST READING ROOM
9:30 – 11:00 AM PATRICK HENRY BUILDING