Social Services Administration:
It's a Local Thing!

VLGMA
June 20, 2019
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Virginia Association of Local Human Service Officials
VALHSO

Virginia League of Social Services Executive
VLSSE
Local Governing Body

The importance of effective working relationships between the local governing body, LDSS Director, and the Social Services Board
Role of the Local Board

Know your boards (Code 63.2)

• Administrative
• Advisory
  § Responsibilities of local board members
  § Mission and Priorities of the local board
  § Orientation of local board members

Role of the Local Director

Authority: 63.2-300

Local Director
- 63.2-324 Local Departments of Social Services
Powers & Duties
- 63.2-332 Powers and Duties of Local Directors
Removal
- 63.2-327 Removal by Commissioner
Deviating vs. Non-Deviating

Partially Deviating (Local)

Administrative Code for Deviation

- 22VAC40-675-40 Inclusion in local jurisdiction personnel plans
- 22VAC40-675-50 Adoption of specific policies of the local jurisdiction
- 22VAC40-675-110 Deviations from state classification or compensation plans
Legislation & Policy

- State Legislature passes social services legislation
- State Board of Social Services adopts regulation necessary to carry out Code of Virginia, Section 63.2
  - Reviews new policies and programs for compliance with State & Federal Law
  - Adopts rules and regulations for implementing legislative intent
  - LDSS operate under the policies approved by State Board of Social Services

Reimbursement Process

- Budget Lines
- Local Match Dollars
- Revenue Sources
- Funding
  - 63.2-400 Local Appropriation
  - 63.2-401 Reimbursement of localities by the Commonwealth
  - 63.2-408 When a locality fails to provide assistance or social services; deductions by comptroller; social services; withholding payments
Future Impacts

• JLARC Report
• Families First

Monitoring the LDSS

• Through the local board
• Local Director responsibilities
• Reports and audits
• Regional Offices
Tips to Ensure a Positive Working Relationship Between Local Government and “Your” Department of Social Services
Get to know your local social service department and leader!

Learn all you can!
Set expectations
then let them do their job!

Encourage your Director
to build relationships/bridges
Communication...Communication.... Communication

The most important single ingredient in the formula of success is knowing how to get along with people.

- Theodore Roosevelt
Be your Social Services Director’s greatest advocate

Remember what is really important and why we do what we do!
• Liability issues - protection of vulnerable populations
• Services are mandated
• Favorable match rates
• Provide basic needs
• Most of the money goes back into the local economy
• The better services LDSS provide, the fewer calls received by local officials

$7.2 MILLION
Average annual budgeted expenditure
4%
Average local contribution toward $76 million average annual economic impact
66 CENTS
On the dollar average local reimbursement for staff and overhead costs
15,000
Average annual local financial assistance recipients
39
Average number of children in foster care
482
Average number of adult services cases
Questions?