

Commonwealth of Virginia
State Board of Social Services

Rockingham County Administration Building
20 E. Gay Street
Harrisonburg, VA

June 15, 2026

Attending: Don Carey (Chair), DeRonda Short (Vice Chair), Matthew Melvin, Mike Flynn, Zach Clinton, Tony Whittingham, Les Ford and Maria Benjamin

Absent: Coke Stewart, April Morefield, and Mallory Addison

Also in Attendance: Duke Storen (Commissioner) and Ellen Fulmer (Assistant Attorney General)

Meeting called to order at 10:05am – Mr. Carey

Acknowledgement and Approval of Remote Participation by Board Members

The Chair announced that Tony Whittingham requested to participate remotely. A physical quorum was present. Mr. Whittingham stated he was participating remotely due to business transactions that came up on his schedule for today. ***On Motion Duly Made***, (Matthew Melvin), second (DeRonda Short), motion for Mr. Whittingham to participate remotely approved with all in favor.

Welcome and Introductions

Celestral Williams welcomed the State Board and VDSS staff to Rockingham. Ms. Williams introduced both Assistant Directors Beth Lawler and Tony Breeden. She also introduced Norther Regional Director Linda Gibson.

Comments from the Commissioner – Commissioner Storen provided an overview of current agency priorities.

COMMENT PERIOD

Dr. Kandis Lucas – Dr. Lucas provided comments on the Antonetti family and the Sims Family.

Minister Cheryl Sims – Minister Sims stated she has not received a response from DSS regarding her grandsons.

Crystal Colson Antonetti – Ms. Antonetti provided comments about her son Connor.

Mr. Antonetti – Mr. Antonetti provided comments about his son Connor.

There were no comments from boards and directors of community action agencies.

Comment from the Virginia League of Social Service Executives – Rebecca Morgan, President
Ms. Morgan shared Andy Crawford, Director of Bedford Social Services, is the future League president. She thanked the Board for prioritizing these comment periods and expressed appreciation of all the work each of you do every day. She expressed the League is very much in support of all the changes to some of the Human Resources manuals and she would like the Board's support in approving the manuals.

Andy Crawford introduced himself. He will join future Board meetings starting after July.

ACTION ITEMS

- 1. Approve February 2026 Minutes presented 4/13/2026**
On Motion Duly Made, (Maria Benjamin), second (Matthew Melvin), motion approved with all in favor.
- 2. 22VAC40-73, Standards for Licensed Assisted Living Facilities Final Regulation presented 4/13/2026**
On Motion Duly Made, (Les Ford), second (Matthew Melvin), motion approved with all in favor.
- 3. Deviation Request from Lunenburg County DSS presented 4/13/2026**
On Motion Duly Made, (Mike Flynn), second (Matthew Melvin), motion approved with all in favor.
- 4. Deviation Request from New Kent County DSS presented 4/13/2026**
On Motion Duly Made, (DeRonda Short), second (Matthew Melvin), motion approved with all in favor.
- 5. Administrative/HR Manual for Local Departments of Social Services Chapter 5, Operations of the LDSS presented 4/13/2026**
On Motion Duly Made, (Matthew Melvin), second (Zach Clinton), motion approved with all in favor.
- 6. Administrative/HR Manual for Local Departments of Social Services Chapter 1, Equal Opportunity & Accessibility Chapter 4, Leave & Related Areas**
On Motion Duly Made, (Deronda Short), second (Zach Clinton), motion to table until the next meeting to allow members time to review. Motion approved with all in favor.
- 7. Deviation Request from King & Queen County DSS**
On Motion Duly Made, (Mike Flynn), second (Matthew Melvin), motion approved with all in favor.
- 8. 22VAC40-680, Virginia Energy Assistance Program-Low Income Energy Assistant Program (LIHEAP) Exempt Regulation**
On Motion Duly Made, (Les Ford), second (Maria Benjamin), motion approved with all in favor.

9. Approve April Meeting Minutes

On Motion Duly Made, (Matthew Melvin), second (Mike Flynn), motion approved with all in favor.

Report from Nominating Committee & Election of New Officers for Period 7/1/2026- 6/30/2027

Ms. Short reported the new officers are Matthew Melvin as Chair, April Morefield as Vice Chair and Coke Stewart as Secretary.

SNAP Payment Accuracy – Amanda Kay provided an update on the SNAP Payment Accuracy.

Discuss Time Limit for Public Comments – The Board agreed to Mr. Melvin setting up a committee to come up with the new time for public comment.

Recognition of Outgoing Members – Commissioner Storen thanked all Board members for their service. He recognized outgoing members Don Carey, Les Ford, Deronda Short and Maria Benjamin, and acknowledged their contributions during their tenures. He presented the outgoing members with certificates. Mr. Carey opened the meeting for board members to share their remarks.

Board Member Comments – There were no Board member comments.

Meeting adjourned at 12:35pm