

King William County Community Policy and Management Team
Comments on HB427

1. "The team shall also include (ii) a parent representative *who is a caregiver of a child who has previously received child welfare, juvenile justice, special education, or behavioral health services, including a foster parent.*"

The King William County Community Policy and Management Team (KWC CPMT) is not in agreement with making this a requirement for CPMT & Family Assessment and Planning Team (FAPT) Parent Representatives. While the KWC CPMT believes it is *best practice* to have Parent Representatives who meet this description, they disagree with making it mandatory. This would limit the ability to find and retain Parent Representatives for our CPMT & FAPT Teams and we would then be out of compliance as to Team Membership requirements. Dedicated Parent Representatives are not easy to find and the KWC CPMT feels the proposed requirement would make it more difficult. As a rural locality, our Parent Representatives already make the sacrifices of taking time off of work and traveling in order to participate in the Teams; and we are unable to give any compensation or travel reimbursement. We do look for Parent Representatives meeting this requirement, but are opposed to having it in the Code of Virginia, and thus, mandatory. The KWC CPMT believes it should remain as a Best Practice.

~~2. "Parent representatives who are employed by a public or private program that receives funds pursuant to this chapter or agencies represented on a community policy and management team may serve as a parent representative provided that they do not, as a part of their employment, interact directly on a regular and daily basis with children or supervise employees who interact directly on a daily basis with children. Notwithstanding this provision, foster parents may serve as parent representatives. "~~

The KWC CPMT is in agreement with removing this restriction from code.

In the past, this requirement has limited our ability to find Parent Representatives for our Teams. Any conflict of interest is addressed several paragraphs later in the Code, specifically: "Persons serving on the team who are parent representatives or who represent private organizations or associations of providers for children's or family services shall abstain from decision-making involving individual cases or agencies in which they have either a personal interest, as defined in § 2.2-3101 of the State and Local Government Conflict of Interests Act, or a fiduciary interest." The KWC CPMT feels that is adequate protection.