



ALEXANDRIA CHILDREN, YOUTH AND FAMILIES COLLABORATIVE COMMISSION

Department of Community and Human Services Center, 2525 Mount Vernon Avenue, Alexandria, VA 22301

January 9, 2014

The Honorable Mayor and Members of City Council
City of Alexandria
City Hall
301 King Street, Room 2300
Alexandria, VA 22314

Mr. Mayor and Members of Council:

In accordance with City Ordinance Section 2-4-5(d), the Children, Youth and Families Collaborative Commission (CYFCC), requests City Council permission to submit written and oral comment to the Virginia Department of Social Services (DSS) regarding its proposed rule change that, if adopted, will:

1. require applicants for Child Day Care Fee System funds in the Commonwealth to be at least 18 years old;
2. limit receipt of services to 6 years total per family; and,
3. require applicants to file for child support through the Division of Child Support Enforcement.

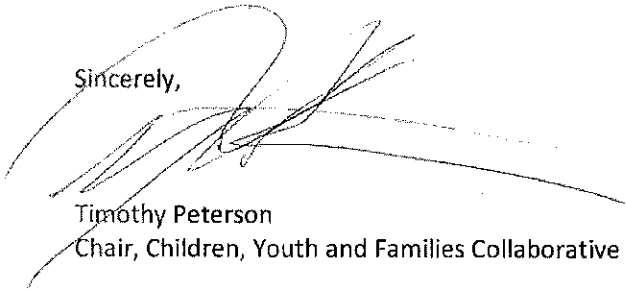
By unanimous vote of the members present at its meeting of December 11, 2013, the CYFCC seeks to submit the following comments:

- The Alexandria Children, Youth and Families Commission, with concurrence of the Alexandria City Council, opposes the requirement that applicants for Child Day Care Fee System dollars in the Commonwealth of Virginia must be 18 years old. This rule change will have a significant impact on teen parents because, if the grandmother of the teen mom is the default applicant and she doesn't work, the teen would not be eligible for child care. We also believe that the income of the grandmother/applicant will be counted in determining eligibility if she does work.
- The Alexandria Children, Youth and Families Commission, with concurrence of the Alexandria City Council, opposes placing a limit on the number of years a family receives services. It often takes longer than six years for a family to become self-sufficient. In addition, after six years many of the children in these families are school age and after-school care is less expensive but still very important because it provides a safe environment for children who would otherwise be at-risk of becoming latch-key kids and provides needed academic support, as well.

- The Alexandria Children, Youth and Families Commission, with concurrence of the Alexandria City Council, supports the requirement to file for child support so long as there is flexibility to exempt an applicant who can document that they are at risk of domestic violence if they file for child support.

With permission of City Council, we will submit these comments in writing and orally to the VDSS. Public comments are due on or before January 17, 2014.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Timothy Peterson', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Timothy Peterson
Chair, Children, Youth and Families Collaborative Commission