

A major Transformation of our children's services system is currently underway in Virginia. The Transformation will significantly improve the lives of many of our most vulnerable children and their families, and position the Commonwealth as a leader in the field of children's services. Working across all state and local child-serving agencies our goal is to improve long-term outcomes for Virginia's at-risk youth. This letter is to invite you to join with us in this effort by attending a Transformation Kick-Off Forum (see schedule below).

For the past 14 months, the Council on Reform (CORE) has been intensely focused on implementing this Children's Service System Transformation in 13 Virginia communities. CORE was established to support greater collaboration among communities and state partners. Again, the goal is to dramatically improve service delivery and outcomes for children ([To read the annual report click here.](#))

The work of CORE has focused around six Transformation building blocks that will indicate the full implementation of the Transformation in each locality. These include:

- Full implementation of a practice model across all areas of practice;
- The ability to develop, sustain and support family-based and kinship care placements;
- Development of a community-based wrap-around service continuum;
- A comprehensive, competency-based training system based on the practice model, and a well-trained work force;
- A commitment to managing by data; and
- Providing a voice in decision-making for families through the utilization of family teaming models.

Having made significant progress with the CORE localities, it is now time for this work to expand to the rest of the Commonwealth. Throughout March, a series of Transformation Kick-Off Forums will be held statewide. At these forums, you will be provided with an opportunity to learn more about Transformation work to date, plans for implementation statewide, and how your locality could benefit, and become involved, in the Transformation. More importantly, these forums will serve as an opportunity for you to provide valuable input on this process. The director of each Local Department of Social Services, Community Services Board, Court Service Unit and Comprehensive Services Act Coordinators, Department of Education and CPMT Members are encouraged to attend these meetings.

If you cannot attend, please send a deputy or management level staff in your place. In addition, if there are other leaders within the area of children's services within your locality, please bring

them as well. Below is a list of meeting locations. Please select which meeting will work best for you and RSVP to the following link: [Transformation Kick-Off Forum RSVP](#) .

Forum Details:

Thursday, March 12; 1 p.m. – 3 p.m.

Virginia Housing Center
4224 Cox Road
Glen Allen, VA
(Richmond Area)

Monday, March 16; 1 p.m. – 3 p.m.

Institute Conference Center at the Institute for Advanced Reading and Learning
150 Slayton Avenue
Danville, VA 24540

Tuesday, March 17; 9 a.m. – 11 a.m.

Abingdon Senior Center (Virginia Ball Room)
300 Senior Drive
Abingdon, VA 24210

Tuesday March 17; 2 p.m. – 4 p.m.

Radford University
Bonnie Hurlburt Student Center; Hurlburt Auditorium
226 Jefferson Street
Radford, VA 24142

Wednesday, March 18; 9 a.m. – 11 a.m.

Central Virginia Training Center (Auditorium)
521 Colony Road
Madison Heights, VA 24572
(Lynchburg Area)

Wednesday, March 18; 2 p.m. – 4 p.m.

Augusta County Government Center (Board Room)
68 Dick Hoff Lane
Verona, VA 24482

Tuesday, March 24; 1 p.m. – 3 p.m.

Shenandoah County Government Center (Board Room)
600 N. Main Street
Woodstock, VA 22664

Thursday, March 26; 10 a.m. – 12 noon

Workforce Development Center
201 East Littlecreek Road
Norfolk, VA 23505

Date to be Determined

Emporia, VA

We look forward to meeting with all of you over the next month and to our continued work together to transform the future for children and their families in Virginia.

Thank you,

Raymond R. Ratke
Special Advisor for Children's Services