



*Virginia's Voice for Access*

**Virginia College Access Network Board  
September Meeting Minutes**

Friday, June 11th  
2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

*Hosted virtually via Zoom*

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**Present:** Joy Pugh (President); Scott Kemp (Vice President); Paula Crow (Treasurer); Lyons Sanchezconcha (Secretary); Tierney Jackson, Reshaud Rich; Anne Michie; Ashley Woodous; TeCarla Moore; Laura Clark, Erin McGrath; and Sarah Bazemore.

**Absent:** None

- **Joy Pugh calls meeting to order at 2:03pm**
  - Welcome to our guest, Deputy Secretary of Education, Fran Bradford
  - Approval of April Meeting Minutes
    - Anne moves to approve, April minutes as shared
      - Lyons seconds
    - 12 ayes, 0 nays, 0 abstentions
      - Passes unanimously
  
- **Treasurer's Report**
  - As fiscal year ends, refer to the [Statement](#) Paula shared via email.
  - VCAN Account Balance: \$69,060.07
    - Fiscal year net revenue: \$6,344.91
      - Total \$20,000.00 revenue
      - Total \$13655.09 expenses
    - Doing well financially compared to past few years
      - Virtual 2021 Conference will help with expenses
        - More 2021 Conference details next
  
- **Deputy Secretary of Education, Fran Bradford**
  - Board Members Introduce themselves
  - Discuss FAFSA workgroup
    - Increase FAFSA completion (to increase access to postsecondary ed.)
      - Discussing short-term & long-term goals
      - Discussing legislature vs. budgetary recommendations
      - Consider mandatory filing, and ways to provide wrap-around
  - Fran to hear from VirginiaCAN!
    - What problems do you see?
    - How can we do better?
      - Hearing from each Board member:
      - Reshaud: focus on accessibility

- Calendly provided more access to families
- How can we be sure we're meeting student's needs
  - homelessness, food instability, etc.
- Scott: focus on informing
  - student aid information course
    - Starting with the FAFSA
  - continued work to inform and education
- TeCarla: 4-year angle on FAFSA
  - tackling the verification clog
  - tied on what students can do until admitted
  - a lot of specialized specific cases
  - on-campus visits
    - partnerships w/access, HS, and higher ed.
- Anne: looking at vertical growth
  - the Bermuda Triangle between HS & college
  - focusing on that transition summer
  - tackling First-Generation student gaps
- Paula: state-wide lens
  - reaching beyond the ~12 organizations to partner
    - focus on regional momentum
    - explore state partnerships
- Tierney: FAFSA specific focus
  - continuing FAFSA completion infrastructure in the fall
  - most calls from schools on reaching colleges
    - Financial Aid offices call centers
    - training FA workers at universities
      - or virtual refreshers
      - same accord
    - direction from state to trickle down across FA staffs
  - Financial Aid training for high school counselors
    - PD for student-direct service training
      - Increase on school counselors
    - leveraging counselor help via access providers
  - Lee on domicile front for financial aid
    - Using the virtual world to spread the wealth
- Laura: VCCS perspectives
  - having high school coaches
    - Looking at times that students log in and staffing
  - revisions to coaching programs
    - 24/7 availability and face-to-face context
      - leveraging individuals building connections with students already to provide resources
- *Fran mentions no wrong door, not advisors but liaisons in a way*
  - *Anne mentions WVU using a parent-volunteer method*
  - *Lyons mentions prioritizing students falling through the cracks*
  - Erin: SCHEV angle
    - organizing teacher workgroups
    - looking at ELL student post-secondary knowledge
- Sarah: VDOE & counseling
  - prioritizing school need via household income

- State funding direct to college-access organizations
        - or looking at direct to school counselors
          - decreasing case-loads
          - or designated college/career counselor
    - Lyons: high school perspectives
      - Looking at how California’s application works (VLAB)
      - Prioritizing accessibility (including language options)
      - Organizational partnerships across the state
        - Where VCAN can come in
      - Verification satisfactions via professional opinions
        - If reporting to state, how can we bypass
        - If everyone wants to help, why the exceptions
      - Lee’s business of hope analogy
        - building trust with students and families and going from there to ensure equity all across
    - Ashley: Access focus
      - Looking at communications
        - connections between access, HS and FA people
      - Direct pipeline vs. bombarded call-system
        - Tierney: how to get in touch
        - TeCarla: how to reach the follow-up
    - Joy: VCAC and state-wide FAFSA
      - Discussing the state-wide FAFSA initiative
        - 240 appointments, more later
      - Increasing rates for lower-income, first-generation
  - Fran: THANK YOU for perspectives on work on all of this, lots of notes, and will be within reach/continue checking in. Has to head out
    - Fran leaves at 3:25pm
- **Committee Reports**
  - Governance
    - All looking good, nothing to report
    - Start considering Executive Board positions for next year!
  - Conference
    - Momentum theme
    - Hotel Madison contract issues resolved
    - Session proposals
      - Lyons suggesting a deadline of July 15th
      - Lee and/or Fran for new changes and updates
      - Committee has been asked to reach out
        - Board members to tap at least 1 person to present
    - No big changes from 2021 conference
  - No other committee reports
- **FAFSA Completion Project**
  - Erin looking at VirginiaCAN’s role
    - Considering a PT position for virtual advising
      - “good, but not sustainable”
    - Scheduling is working great with notes on appointments
      - Looking at some dead zones across the state

- **ECMC The College Place**
  - Looking at hosting while many folks may be lacking on time
    - How can we make it so that some can commit at least some hours
  - Hosting virtual vs in-person
    - Checking in with folks and their organizations regarding in-person/virtual
      - Most are virtual or hybrid in summer and in-person come fall
  - Joy's suggestions of 3 virtual offerings and 2 in-person
    - Paula to schedule and follow-up (with Scott)
  
- **VCAN Diversity Goals**
  - Important discussion looking one year ahead
  - Tabled conversation to August meeting in order to not rush
    - Next Meeting
      - August 13th at 2pm via Zoom
  
- **Board Meeting Adjourns at 4:05pm**

*The mission of the Virginia College Access Network is to support and enhance post-secondary education access and attainment for residents of the Commonwealth of Virginia. To accomplish this mission, VCAN will support access programs and foster new initiatives; develop information and financial resources for students and families; and promote the benefits of greater access to postsecondary education.*