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**Appendix:**  
**Legislative  
Advocacy for  
Children at Risk  
of Abuse and  
Neglect**

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***An Opportunity  
for Growth***

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Jad Babik  
Lauren Davis  
Lauren Kiger  
Toni Wilkerson

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## **Appendix A: Memorandum of Understanding**

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### **Memorandum of Understanding**

#### **Between**

**VCU Graduate Student Capstone Group**

**And Ian Danielsen, Child Advocacy Center of Greater Richmond SCAN**

#### **Introduction and Background**

Greater Richmond SCAN is a nonprofit organization dedicated to the prevention and treatment of child abuse and neglect in the Greater Richmond area. Its Child Advocacy Center (CAC) brings together state and local child protection officials, medical professionals, mental health associates, criminal justice representatives, non-offending family members, and others to serve as a central treatment and post-trauma resource for victims of child abuse and neglect. The VCU Graduate Student Capstone Group (Student Group) is comprised of four second-year graduate students enrolled in the L. Douglas Wilder School of Government and Public Affairs' Public Administration Masters degree program. Enrolled in the program's capstone course, the students undertook partnership with the CAC in order to address a community issue surrounding opportunities for improved coordination amongst Virginia agencies involved in legislation advocacy for child welfare. The CAC-Student Group partnership to address this community issue began in late January 2011 and will continue until late April or early May 2011.

#### **Agreement**

The CAC and the Student Group collaboratively defined the community issue or problem they would address. The problem can be stated as the following: How can the current system of legislative advocacy be improved and sustained to provide the greatest protection to children at risk? In what ways could Virginia have a more effective approach to child protection advocacy? This problem is more specifically defined in two independent but related ways: 1) Where is there opportunity for greater coordination among agencies involved in influencing legislation on child welfare issues, or, where is there system disjointedness that can point to opportunities for improvement?; and 2) Who is strictly monitoring child outcomes resulting from different legislation in order to gather data demonstrating the level of protection legislation offers Virginia's children?

Current debate surrounding the recent Casey Reforms transforming foster care legislation in Virginia provide a case in point or lens through which the CAC and the Student Group can evaluate both of these elements of the identified problem.

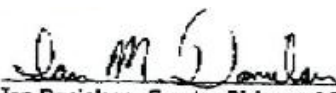
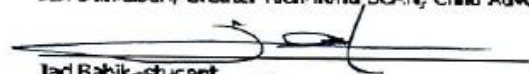



#### **Project Deliverable**

The Student Group will work with Ian Danielsen of the CAC to continue to hone a deeper and more nuanced understanding of the defined problem. The Student Group will engage numerous additional agencies including public agencies and nonprofit organizations to gather multiple perspectives and insights into the identified problem and opportunities for improvement. The Student Group will identify commonalities and trends in the

insights discovered through interviews with those agencies. The Student Group will consider those insights along with research on how other states and legislative networks have addressed similar challenges in order to combine, expand, and refine ideas for recommended consideration for the Virginia network. The Student Group will continue to solicit input and feedback from Ian Danielsen of the CAC and other agencies so as to arrive at realistic recommendations that will be meaningful and useful to the involved agencies in addressing their mutual interest in a more cohesive coordination surrounding their legislative advocacy efforts. The Student Group's final report will include its summary findings and themes from interviews and research and it will culminate in the presentation of practical recommendations for action, vehicles for their implementation, and evaluation of the pros and cons that might be associated with each. The final report will reflect deep consideration of the sensitive nature of inter-agency collaborative work so as to provide insights and recommendations that can be considered for application within the Virginia network.

The report will be helpful by: framing and describing nuances of the problem from the perspective of varying agency professionals and experts in the community; prioritizing the project in terms of urgency and generating attention on the problem; and providing opportunity during and after the project for agencies to continue dialogue to address the problem.

This Memorandum of Understanding addresses the terms of the collaborative project shared by Ian Danielsen of the CAC and the Student Group and explains what will make the project successful.

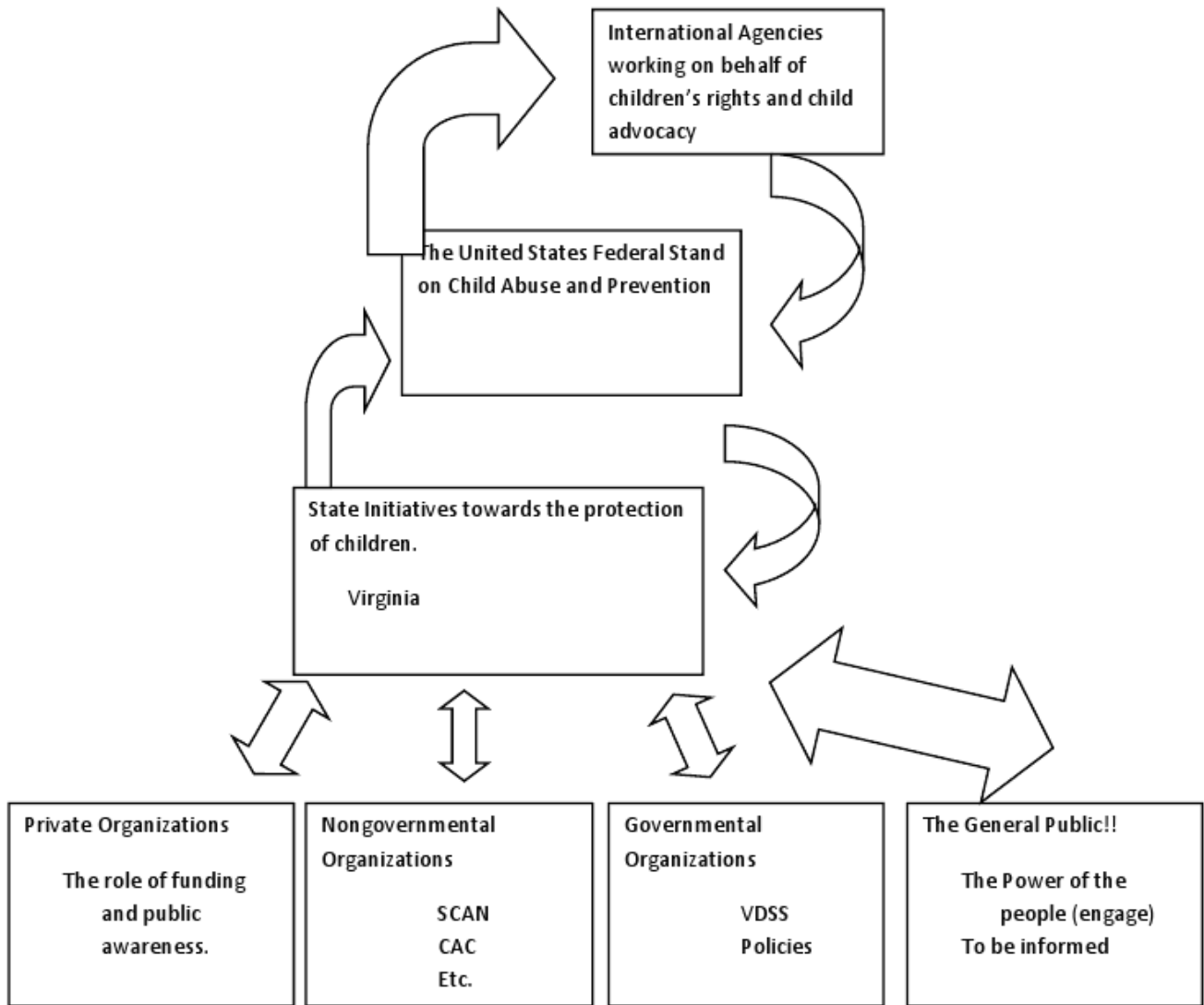
 Ian Danielsen, Greater Richmond SCAN, Child Advocacy Center	3/18/2011 Date
 Jad Babik, student	4/6/2011 Date
 Lauren Davis, student	4/1/2011 Date
 Lauren Kiger, student	4/1/2011 Date
 Tori W. Ikerson, student	4/6/2011 Date

## **Appendix B: Interviews**

*To protect the confidentiality of respondents, interview notes are not made available.*

# Appendix C: Model

An Inter- and Intra-governmental Model relating to the well being of Children  
(Who is Involved?)



## Appendix D: International Perspective

In today's diverse society, children are exposed to a wide range of family environments. Not limited to worldwide localities or the socio-economic status of their care givers, progressive political systems allow newborn children to be exposed and nurtured by same sex parents, two working parents, polygamy or polyandry families, childcare assistants, nannies, and in severe circumstances, new-born children are also exposed to abusive parents or no parents which automatically transfers them to foster care facilities or cared-by adoptive parents. In addition, in some countries thousands of children end up on the streets and labeled "street children" (The Independent Commission on International Humanitarian Issues, 1986).

Madhukar (2011) chronologically investigated such concern where global committees were involved in such societal framework shift. For example, in 1919, the League of Nations established the Committee for the Protection of Children. Along the years, the United Nations' General Assembly and several of its departments such as UNICEF developed several objectives towards the rights of children (Alaimo and Klug, 2002) where the minimum age for admission to employment was determined, promoting protection for children, welfare, education, and the prohibition on the sale of children, child prostitution, child pornography, and protocol on the involvement of children in armed conflict was defined and agreed upon by almost all recognized countries in today's world (Madhukar, 2011; United Nations, 2002).

Information and advocacy campaigns have been launched to promote a culture of respect for children's rights and help end harmful social practices and traditions. More and better data on children is now available and increasingly used to influence public policies and governmental allocation of resources. For example, the adoption of the United Nations Convention of the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) in 1989 strongly affirmed the universality of human rights (United Nations Human Rights, 1989). However, so much has been achieved since the adoption of the UNCRC, and yet so many children remain untouched by the progress made (Alaimo and Klug, 2002). The proliferation of armed conflicts, the spread of HIV/AIDS, together with the decline in overseas development aid, increasing poverty and widening disparities in the world, all continue to threaten the livelihood of children.

If we take a recent U.S. public policy on the well being and the health of U.S. citizens we find that it includes a wide range of topics and administrators in order to achieve its objective. For example, the health prevention stated in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act of 2010 (PPACA) involves a wide range of expertise such as the Secretary of Health and Human Services, the Secretary of Agriculture; the Secretary of Education, the Chairman of the Federal Trade Commission; the Secretary of Transportation; the Secretary of

Labor, the Secretary of Homeland Security, the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, and others (GovTrack.com, 2011).

## **Appendix E: Simplex Process**

Please see attached document.

## **Appendix F: Tarrant County, Texas Model**

Please see attached document.