Voices For Virginia's Children

Child Advocates' Rally Webinar
December 20, 2016

Presented by:

Ashley Everette, Allison Gilbreath,
and Emily Griffey

AGENDA

- Background
- 2017 Legislative Agenda
- Opportunities for Advocacy
- Beyond the 2017 GA Session

Key takeaways: What is most important for kids and how you can speak up

Voices For Virginia's Children

Voices

For Virginia's Children

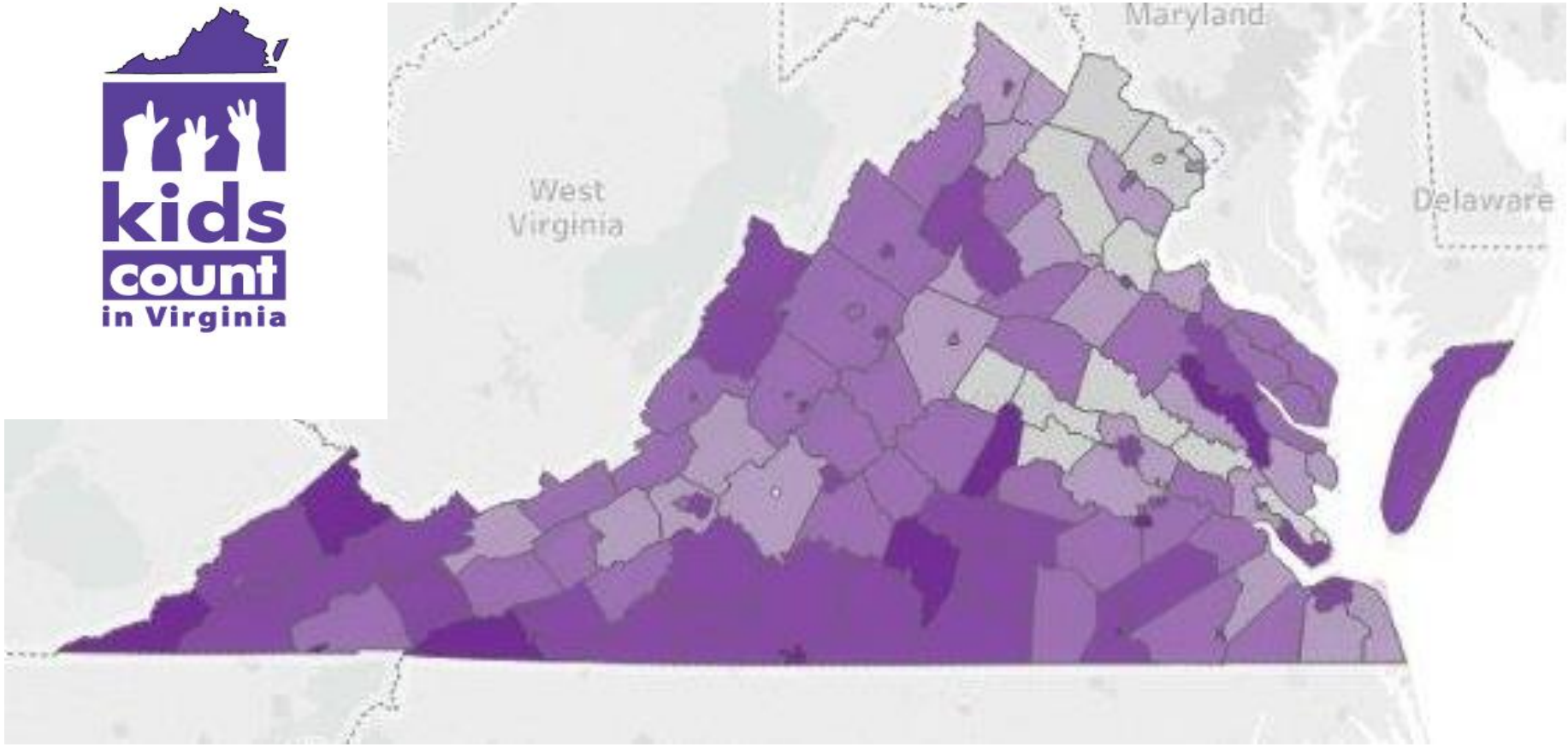
Independent

Non-partisan

Data Driven

1 in 3 Kids in Virginia is Economically Disadvantaged

kids count in Virginia



Budget Picture- Virginia Faces $1.5 Billion Shortfall

- "New" or "discretionary" spending highlighted for cuts
- Governor McAuliffe proposed budget 12/20; House and Senate will revise by 2/5 and negotiate differences before 2/28

- ***Key takeaway: Protect investments in kids and the progress we have made***

Children's Mental Health

- Reform the system by building capacity and improving access to community-based services
- Highlights of children's crisis response and psychiatry funding
- Mental health screening in schools

1in5kids.org
The Campaign for Children's Mental Health

Foster Care

- Improve and bring structure to Virginia's "Kinship Diversion" program
- Support the Commission on Youth's Adoption Home Study Legislation
- Protecting Fostering Futures

BOB BROWN

Pascal Nzoronka, left, and Thomas Roseman, right, listen during a meeting in the State Capitol in Richmond, VA Friday, Jan. 15, 2016. They were part of a group of foster children who are about to leave or who have recently left the foster system because they are too old. A group called Voices for Virginia's Children is trying to get legislation passed that would help pay for housing as long as the children are in school or are working.

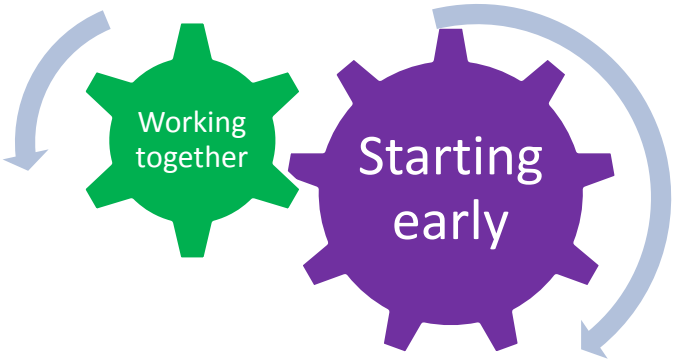
Juvenile Justice

- Protect the reinvestment dollars and direct those dollars saved to be used to create a continuum of best- practice
- Support dismantling the School to Prison Pipeline

RISE FOR YOUTH
UNITED FAMILIES, SAFE COMMUNITIES

Early Childhood Education

- Continue to improve the safety of all child care settings
- Strengthen families to stabilize our economy and provide children with a strong start
- Help families access child care



Substance Exposed Infants

- Over 1,300 babies were referred to CPS in FY16, a 21% increase
- Legislation to require CPS involvement for any substance exposed newborn, even if mom is in treatment or substance is a prescription drug

Voices will monitor

Trauma- informed Approaches

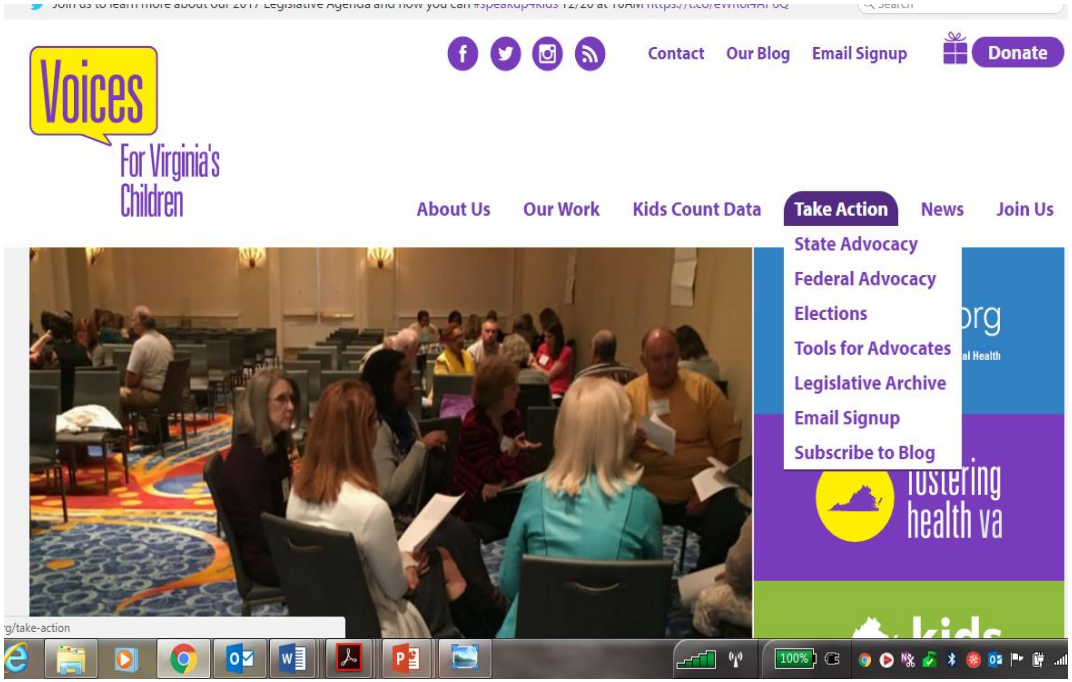
- Commend regional TICNs for raising awareness & working across silos
- Raise awareness of trauma, toxic stress and ACEs & opportunity for state-level response

Opportunities to Advocate

- Jan 4th Regional Budget Hearings- Annandale, Abingdon, Newport News & Richmond
- Participate in a Town Hall with your legislator
- Advocacy Days at the GAB
- Take Action
- Tell Your Story
- #Speakup4kids

Advocacy Days at the GAB

- January 16th- Youth Lobby Day (RISE for Youth)
- January 18th- Fostering Futures
- January 25th- Mental Health Community
- January 30th- Trauma-informed Community Networks



Tools to Take Action

- Find your legislator
- Review Voices' Advocacy Guide
- Sign-up for action alert emails
- Share messages on Facebook, twitter & Instagram

Tips to Tell Your Story

- Keep it simple
- Don’t be afraid of emotion
- Be respectful and thankful
- Include a call to action (use Voices’ talking points)

The Rest of 2017….

- "Uncertainty" at the federal level
  - We know *for certain* that we will need to protect children's health insurance coverage
- Child Care Regulatory Process Open
  - More info in recorded webinar on vakids.org
- Gubernatorial Election

Stay Connected

Ashley Everette Policy Analyst Health & Mental Health	ashley@vakids.org
Allison Gilbreath Policy Analyst Foster Care & Juvenile Justice	allison@vakids.org
Emily Griffey Policy Director Early Childhood	emily@vakids.org