Welcome

Commissioner Duke Storen, Virginia Department of Social Services

The Human Progress and Human Services 2035 Scenario Effort

Engage human services community

National Scenarios, 11 state and local partners

Funded by The Kresge Foundation

Lead up to Human Service Scenarios

Vulnerability 2030: Confronting Vulnerability in the United States

Primary Care 2030: Scenario Evaluation

Public Health 2030: Scenario Evaluation
Objectives for Today's Scenario Workshop

• Use Scenarios to “Step Into” alternative futures for human progress and human services
  • Imagine, Aspire, Focus Concern
  • Consider the implications of each scenario for current directions, goals and strategies
  • Identify “Robust” of strategies and recommendations
  • Enhance your partnerships, understanding, shared aspirations and goals (but not develop a specific plan)

Agenda

9:00 Welcome and Introduction
10:00 The Virginia Social Services 2035 Scenarios
10:50 Imagining your Scenario & Implications for Directions
11:00 BREAK WITH SNACK
11:15 Stepping Into Your Scenario – Scenario Teams
12:30 NETWORKING LUNCH
1:15 Listening to Implications Across Scenarios
2:00 Next Steps & Feedback
2:30 Adjourn

Rules and Roles

RULES
Have Fun
Be inventive
Imagine
Aspire
Phones muted

ROLES
All Participants are Futurists
Clem & Mary are Facilitators
Scenario Team facilitators and reporters

Scenarios & Scenario Construction

Scenarios are parallel stories about the future. Scenarios:
• Bound uncertainty
• Stimulate imagination
• Focus aspirations

Scenarios are developed by:
• Defining the topic/focus of the scenarios (what level, what questions, what focus/topic)
• Identifying system and key drivers shaping the topics
• Developing forecasts for the drivers exploring expectable, challenging and surprisingly successful future space
Developing the Virginia Social Services 2035 Scenarios

1. With VDSS – identify key drivers, review plans, forecasts
2. Develop expectable, challenging, and visionary forecasts of key drivers and human service areas
   - Input - National Advisory Committee & 37 other national experts; 10 state and local Human Services 2035 efforts
   - Develop the “Front Stories” – forecasts for the macro-environment and Social Services overall for Virginia
   - then “Back Stories” for each of the 3 specific human service areas: jobs, work and workforce development; child and family services; income supports
3. In the process with VDSS – 34 interviews and reviews of draft forecasts from leaders in the VA social services, economic development, demographics, and the environment.

STEPPING INTO YOUR SCENARIO

Use the Scenarios to Explore, Consider Implications

Step into your assigned scenario

Consider the implications for social service goals & strategies; near and long-term recommendations
Scenario 1: Expectable “Front Story”

- Rural and urban differences increase with economic, job, and population growth
- Minimum wage, then living wage
- Net 15% of jobs lost to automation by early 2030s
- The share of older Virginians grew to 18% in 2030
- Climate change – storms, flooding, impacts on agriculture
- More technology, internet, virtual reality and artificial intelligence in all sectors and everyday life
- Greater access to broadband across the state
- Tele-health and virtual work/training increase

Scenario 1: Social Services Overview

- Social services informed by ALICE Threshold for basic survival
- Diseases of despair including substance use disorder grew
- Innovations in VDSS including “whole family” approach to services
  - Including combining services and pursuing greater preventative measures
- Enhanced data collection and monitoring for outcomes and new evidence-based practices widely used
- Federal deficit negatively impacted funding for services
- Greater social services collaboration with with schools, businesses, and community partners
- Data integration and streamlined eligibility and enrollment
Scenario 1: Jobs, Work and Workforce Development

- Efforts to increase economic growth across the state, including South/SW
- Still, some rural communities saw population and job declines
- Some automation, shift to gig work
- CTE programs in high school, community colleges expanded; including in health care
- Training for gig work, virtual/remote work grew, include virtual training
- Limited success in getting sustained remote work to rural areas, beyond Wise County's success

Scenario 1: Income Supports

- Poverty/need for supports varied across the state
- ALICE framework — stability vs. survival budget
- Whole family strategies, greater early educational efforts
- TANF payment levels increase
  - # of Virginians below ALICE threshold grew, need outpaced programs
- EITC, SNAP maintained
  - Funding for SNAP, easier application
- Data integration, automated qualification, coordinated care and services

Scenario 1: Child and Family

- Demand was shaped by substance use and abuse, economic downturn, environmental challenges, unemployment, lack of health care
- Child protective service caseloads remained high
- 5K foster kids; Kinship placements, grandparent care increased
- Tele-med, including for behavioral health, increased
- Child support efforts cost-effective and beneficial
- Whole family strategies
- Data integration
- Children receiving Head Start and Early Head Start grew
- Child care quality improved, better supported

Likelihood & Preferability Poll

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<tr>
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Scenario 2: Uphill Both Ways
(Challenging)

Scenario 2: Challenging “Front Story”
- Repeated challenges: Major recession, 25% job loss to automation, climate chaos, federal and state spending cuts
- Defense policy changes – VA bases downsized or closed
- Sea level rise, major flooding, erosion, Big Hurricane, wildfires
  - Agricultural/tourism/business impacts
  - Disproportionate impacts
- Diseases of despair grew
- Systematic oppression/racism perpetuated with harm
- Increased tension, anger, unrest

Scenario 2: Social Services Overview
- Poverty and inequality of all types increased
- Political gridlock blocked policy responses
- Child poverty increased, ACEs grew
- VDSS and social service organizations were forced to “do less with less”
  - Automate, collaborate, reinforce mission
- Many providers out of business in the 2020s
- Overall, 15% reduction in social service workforce

Scenario 2: Jobs, Work and Workforce Development
- Divide between high income and low-income greatly widened
- Some migration from high cost areas; depleted economies
- Many relocated unable to find employment and good wages
- CTE in schools and community colleges improved, virtual
- K-12 curriculum helped better equip many with life/work skills
- Huge variation in quality across Virginia school systems worsened
Scenario 2: Income Supports

- Need increased even as funding for TANF, SNAP, and Medicaid levels reduced, and eligibility tightened
- TANF cuts and limitations
- Some increased self-sufficiency efforts
- Informal economy grew
- Growing need for emergency assistance, medical assistance, and temporary disability assistance but reduced spending
- SNAP program cut, switched to block grant
- Diseases of despair - reduced access to health care and substance abuse rehabilitation treatment programs
- Many families, and at times entire communities, were devastated.

Scenario 2: Child and Family

- Greater child abuse and neglect, domestic abuse, addiction, teen pregnancy, housing insecurity, food insecurity, depression, ACEs
- SUD epidemic grew in Virginia – cycles of despair and self-medication
- Familial homelessness increased
- Adult protective services and refugee assistance services cut
- Other programs that experienced cuts, or elimination, included: transportation assistance, home repairs funding, and job training
- Child care and PreK disparities became more pronounced with Federal cuts
- Some increased home care
- Integrated data and predictive analytics to target the best set of services from dwindling programs/funds; with mixed results

Likelihood & Preferability Poll
Virginia Social Services 2035 Scenarios

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Scenario 3: The Triumphant Commonwealth (Visionary)
Scenario 3: Visionary “Front Story”
• Policies transformed: social services, health care, environmental policies, criminal justice, immigration, and others.
• Shift to gig work, some pay protections and benefit mechanisms
• Virginia increased minimum wage to livable wage
• Local businesses better supported
• Efforts to embrace equity and heal from racial trauma
• Early education, college, career, and contribution preparedness improved for all
• Barriers to employment better addressed
• Investing in housing environments and education in areas with high concentrations of poverty, growing mixed income neighborhoods
• Systemic changes and dramatic decreases in poverty
• Climate change impacts significant, but Virginia residents better prepared, supported.

Scenario 3: Social Services Overview
• Social services providers embraced innovation, including impactful waiver programs
  • Address/ prevent substance use disorders and child protective services
  • Greater wealth equity through connecting more people with jobs, good wages, stability, expanded and transformed income supports
  • Financial and wealth literacy training programs
  • Diseases of despair were reduced
    • Hope, connectivity, greater support, education, economic prospects
  • Greater prevention efforts, customization, personalized mentoring
  • Early identification of those at risk (without profiling); enhanced use of technology
  • Beyond survival - to physically and emotionally thrive
  • Greater flexibility in combining funds or coordinating services across programs, optimizing outcomes
  • Automating tasks supports social service providers
  • Predictive analytics with data integrated from schools, health care, public safety, and social services

Scenario 3: Jobs, Work and Workforce Development
• Education and “workforce” development redesigned
  • Lifeforce development
  • VA pioneered cradle to career curriculum
• Job prep, certifications, internships continued, aided by tech and personalized learning
• Volunteering and contributing beyond paid work in the curriculum
• Financial / wealth literacy

Scenario 3: Income Supports
• Income support payment levels, time expanded
  • Stigma reduced
  • Dignity of choice
  • Support networks emerged across the state
  • Addressed the “welfare cliff”; other parallel regulations
• Financial / wealth literacy
• Efforts to address root causes/ barriers to thriving
• Education and training evolved
• Abundance advances helped lower cost of living for some
Scenario 3: Child and Family

- Data integration across local agencies allowed better awareness of each child's and family's needs.
- Greater family income stability - reduction in family violence and child abuse, teen pregnancy rates and increased high school graduation rates.
- Taking care of children or elders more recognized form of contribution.
  - Formal and informal parenting and caregiving networks evolved, often with tech support.
- More substance abuse prevention and treatment - public health approach.
- Need for foster care or kinship placement declined 30% - kinship care remained preferable.
- Whole family strategies, preventative actions.
- Child care and PreK improved - All 4-year-olds in Pre-K; most 3-year-olds, subsidized quality child.
- Child care providers better supported; some home care increased.
- Primary care informed early intervention for adult protective services.
- Service providers/social workers better supported; greater tech and financial resources.

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REVIEWING YOUR SCENARIO

- Scan your scenario narrative
- Review the slides for your scenario
- Think about 3 questions

1. Consider current social service goals and strategies from VDSS (see the handout) and those of your community or organization. Will these be successful, will they be achieved in this scenario? What changes or additions would be needed to be successful in your scenario?
2. Recommendations for social services, equity and thriving in your scenario, in the next five years to 2024?
3. Recommendations for social services, equity and thriving focused on 2025 to 2035 in your scenario?

Virginia DSS Goals and Strategies

- See Handout
- Your Organization's or Community's Human Services Goals and Strategies
- Think about this
Listening to the Scenario Reports

What do you hear in two or three scenarios?

Across the scenarios, what near term and long-term recommendations stand out?

Likelihood & Preferability Poll Results

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Next Steps and Feedback

IAF Advice:

Monitor
- Monitor how the futures unfold

Anticipate
- Anticipate opportunities and threats

Pursue
- Pursue your recommendations

Review
- Review your aspirations & create your preferred future for human services!
Last Words and Thank you!!