

West Virginia (WV) Commission to Study Residential Placement of Children and the Kids Thrive Collaborative (KTC) Meeting

Date: Thursday, June 25, 2026

Time and Location: 10:30 a.m. to Noon/Virtual Only

Meeting Information: Zoom link: <https://berrydunn.zoom.us/j/99236122048?from=addon>
Dial in: (646) 876-9923; Meeting ID: 992 3612 2048

Agenda Items

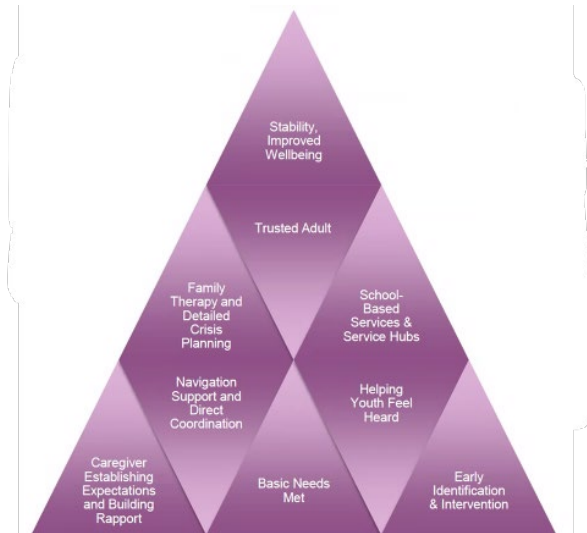
Item #	Topic and Description	Responsible
1	Welcome	Laura Hunt
2	Commission to Study Residential Placement of Children Approval of March 2026 Meeting Notes	Laura Hunt
3	Commission Legislature Responsibility and Goals - GOAL 1: Transformational Collaborative Outcomes Management (TCOM) §49-2-125 (e)(3) - GOAL 2: Provider Input at Multidisciplinary Team (MDT) and Court §49-2-125(d)(4) - GOAL 3: Implementation of Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA)	Linda Gibson Brenda Hoylman Brittany Gould
4	Children's Mental Health Evaluation (CMHE)	Laura Hunt
5	Children's Mental and Behavioral Health Services	Laura Hunt
6	"A Home for Every Child" Initiative	Kendra Boley-Rogers
7	Coordination With Faith-Based Organizations	Kendra Boley-Rogers
8	U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ)	Ashley Light
9	Meeting Conclusion	Laura Hunt

Meeting Notes

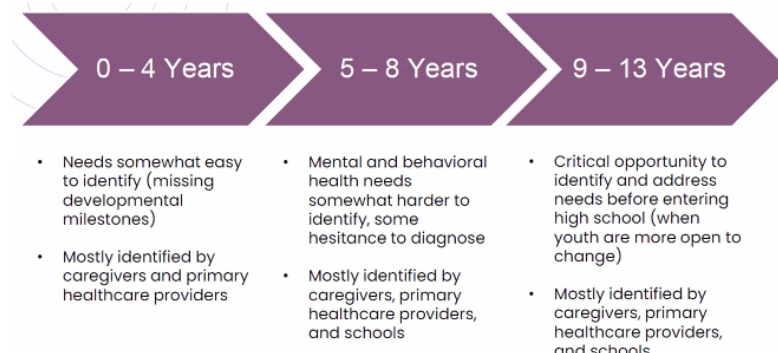
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1	Welcome Laura Hunt introduced Bill D'Aiuto.
2	Commission to Study Residential Placement of Children Approval of March 2026 Meeting Notes - Jessica Fulknier approved the notes. - Brooke Boston approved the notes.
3	Commission Legislature Responsibility and Goals GOAL 1: TCOM §49-2-125 (e)(3) - Linda Gibson noted that her team is working on the year-end report for the Department of Human Services (DoHS). Linda can share report results at the next Kids Thrive meeting. - Marshall University (MU) continues to offer Family Advocacy and Support Tool (FAST), Child and Adolescent Needs and Strengths (CANS), and Adult Needs and Strengths (ANSA) assessment training. Training dates, videos, and additional information can be found at the following link: TCOM - MU provided a booster training for all TCOM trainers across the state. - MU provided a refresher/booster training for Youth Services (YS) supervisors on the FAST. - MU continues to provide technical assistance (TA) to anyone in need. - MU offered on-site TA in February and March in multiple counties. GOAL 2: Provider Input at MDT and Court §49-2-125(d)(4) - The MDT subgroup met this week and developed a draft list of questions for the MDT study. - Between 20 and 22 counties will be included. - Completion is estimated for late summer/early fall. - Comments and suggestions can be sent to Brenda Hoylman at Brenda.Hoylman@courtsv.gov. GOAL 3: Implementation of ESSA - The group met in April and will meet again in late July or early August. - There were 280 referrals received in the last school year. - Drew McClanahan provided an update on new bills that affect education. - The group would like to present available services for youth who are aging out of foster care at the next meeting.

CMHE

- The CMHE identified areas in mental health system engagement and child-level outcomes where the greatest impact could be seen. The merging concepts loosely mimic Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs.



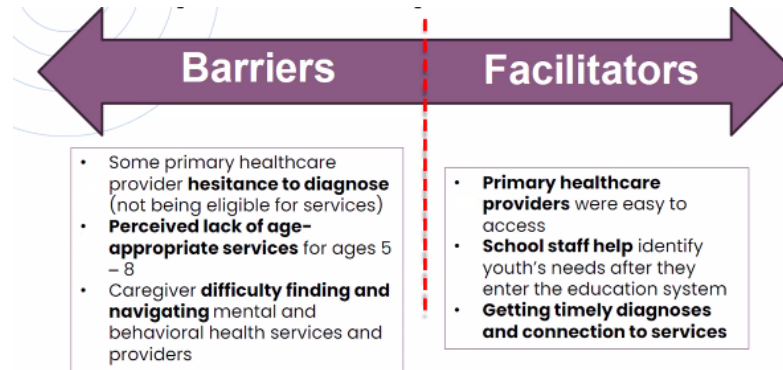
- Interviews and focus groups conducted between February and September 2025 were driven by evaluation question topics, including the following:
 - Youth well-being
 - Decisions about care
 - Needed training and resources
 - Capacity
 - Awareness
 - Engagement
 - Communication and coordination
 - Crisis services
 - Interactions with adjacent social systems
- Laura shared the populations included in the evaluation.
- Oftentimes, mental or behavioral health needs start to arise during the 5- to 8-year age range. Nearly all children had been diagnosed prior to high school.



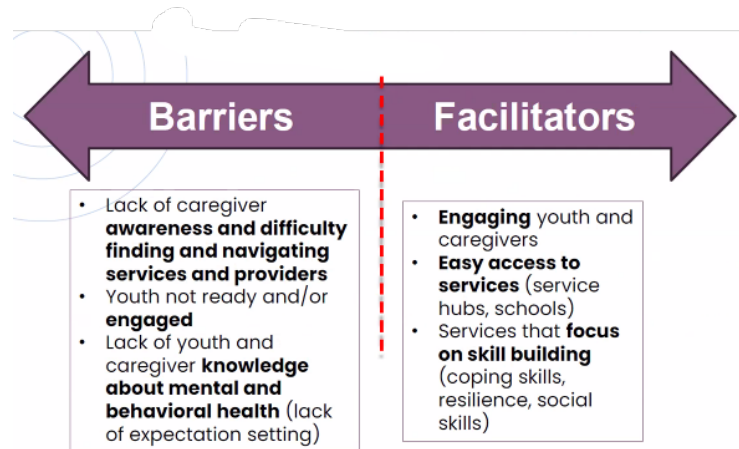
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Children's Mental and Behavioral Health Services

- Facilitators and barriers are heightened for ages 5 to 8 years old. As children age, the hesitance to diagnose declines.



- DoHS is working with providers across the state to spread awareness about available services.
- Ages 5 to 8 represent a critical time for all populations.
- Schools are a critical resource to help with identification of needs once a child starts school.



- Awareness of Children's Mobile Crisis Response (CMCR) and Children's Crisis and Referral Line (CCRL) is low.
- Laura shared identified barriers and facilitators to caregiver needs, system navigation, and engagement.
- Laura highlighted the following successes:
 - Waitlist reductions
 - Increased Freedom of Choice (FOC) form completion rates
 - Timeline to service improvements
 - Increased reunification rates upon exit from foster care
 - Decreased numbers of children entering foster care
 - Continued increase in Wraparound utilization
 - Decreased foster care recidivism
- Laura shared data related to children receiving treatment/therapy and traditional home- and

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	community-based services (HCBS), excluding Wraparound, before and after referral in 2024 and 2025. • Next steps include sharing results with partners, continuing to review information in the context of current processes and policies, and collaborating with key partners to improve outcomes.
6	“A Home for Every Child” Initiative • The initiative was implemented by DoHS in May 2026. • The initiative aims to increase foster home capacity with strategic placements and to decrease the number of children entering care through strengthened prevention and permanency efforts.
7	Coordination With Faith-Based Organizations • Since rollout began in April 2025, DoHS has launched the CarePortal in six counties. • The CarePortal will continue to expand to all counties as part of a five-year rollout plan. • CarePortal (as of June 9) has impacted 490 children. • There has been an economic impact of almost \$200,000. • There are currently 50+ faith- and community-based organizations participating in CarePortal across the six counties. • Participating organizations support families by responding to real-time needs within their communities and providing resources, services, and supports that can stabilize households and help prevent children from entering foster care. • Nationally, over half a million children have been served, with more than 80% of requests being met.
8	U.S. DOJ • The DOJ met with DoHS earlier in the month and had a productive meeting.
9	Meeting Conclusion