

COMMISSION TO STUDY RESIDENTIAL PLACEMENT OF CHILDREN	
MEETING MINUTES	
GROUP MEETING: Commission to Study Residential Placement of Children	MEETING DATE: December 7, 2006
Members Present: Jason Najmulski, Bureau for Children and Families; Frank Andrews, WV Department of Education; Andrea Darr, WV Prosecuting Attorneys Institute; Mike Lacy, WV Supreme Court of Appeals; Gary Johnson, Circuit Court Judge, Nicholas County; Jack Alsop, Circuit Court Judge, 14 th Circuit; John Bianconi, Bureau for Behavioral Health and Health Facilities; Denny Dodson, Division of Juvenile Services; Pam Cain, WV Department of Education; Lynn Boyer, WV Department of Education; Matthew Kittle, WV Department of Education	
Members Absent: Martha Yeager Walker, Department of Health and Human Resources; Nancy Atkins, Bureau for Medical Services; Steve Canterbury, WV Supreme Court of Appeals; John Hutchison, Circuit Court Judge, Raleigh County; Phillip Morrison, WV Prosecuting Attorneys Institute; Steven L. Paine, WV Department of Education; Jane Charnock-Smallridge, Family Court Judge, 11 th District; O.C. Spaulding, Circuit Court Judge, Putnam County	
Staff/Guests: Carl Hadsell, WVU CESD; Rhonda McCormick, Family Network, Region II; Jeanette Rowsey, WV System of Care; Jackie Payne, Bureau for Behavioral Health and Health Facilities; Scott Boileau, Alliance for Children; Linda Dalyai, Bureau for Children and Families; Dave Majic, Bureau for Behavioral Health and Health Facilities; Pat Winston, Bureau for Medical Services; Jacob Green, WV Department of Education	

Welcome and Introductions

Carl Hadsell welcomed the group and reported that he would facilitate the meeting today in Secretary Walker's absence. Linda Dalyai will also assist in today's meeting in Sue Hage's absence.

Review and Approval of October 5, 2006 Minutes

Minutes of the October 5 meeting were reviewed; motion was made to approve the minutes, seconded, motion carried.

Commission's Recommendations Progress Review

Carl presented the Recommendations Action Table Status Report which is designed to track and monitor the progress of the Commission's recommendations. It is a compilation of the tasks that have been approved by the Commission, and where each recommendation action stands as of this date. Some recommendations will have multiple actions to reach completion or fill the intent of what the Commission wants.

The table reflects those tasks that are on schedule, as well as those that are behind in meeting their due dates for completion. Additionally, start dates will be added to the action table, as well as pending implementation dates. This tool has been prepared and offered to the Commission to review and determine if it meets the members' needs. Those present agreed this was a valuable tool to use.

There was discussion regarding the aspects of the McKinney-Vento Federal Legislation, which addresses the educational needs of children who are considered to be homeless, or placed in foster care. Department of Education is working on putting together a package to be distributed to school districts to determine who is McKinney-Vento eligible. Also noted is that policy needs to be amended regarding credit for grades of the youth while in shelter care. They also had discussion regarding the new regulations and licensing standards for providers, and education standards.

Note was made that local Board of Education offices sometimes do not actively participate in supporting a person working to try to place a child. Court systems need to be more aware to address the child's education needs when considering placement.

It is important to give the agency working on a child's behalf a contact name in education in each county since there is a problem sometimes with searching for who the appropriate person is to contact regarding placement or education needs.

The Reaching Every Child Education Task Force will continue to compare annually education achievement levels of youth in foster care. The updated WV Department of Education Policy 2510 addresses the requirement to place all children in classrooms as quickly as possible. This is critical for a foster child who is being transferred to a new school district. Lynn Boyer, Frank Andrews, Kathie King and Sue Hage have worked on MOUs to create better cooperation between Department of Health and Human Resources and Department of Education.

Carl asked the group if they would like a presentation at the next meeting regarding the McKinney-Vento Act, and how it relates to the Commission's goals. Those present thought this area should be a focus of a presentation at a future meeting.

Question was asked about clinical reviews, will this be done on an ongoing basis? Linda answered, yes they are supposed to be, a report can be given on a regular basis. One question asked regarded wanting to know if there is tracking to know if a child sent out of state could have been helped in WV. This information needs to be in place so we can know capacity, options, etc. Will the on-going reports be able to tell us this?

Another point the Commission would like to be able to see is if a child's specific needs have been met while the child was out of state, or if a facility was available in state to address their needs. Linda pointed out that while a facility in West Virginia may be capable of servicing the needs, sometimes a slot/bed is not immediately available at the desired facility. Workers also need to be better informed of state facilities and their services.

A report will be completed by February 2007 and distributed to the judges, showing what is happening with youth in each judicial district.

Judge Johnson noted that title IV-E presentations could be given at every judicial conference. This is a note that will be followed up.

Note was made on item 3C of the table, request was made to be able to view the "service gaps" identified, Linda will see to it.

The Commission and Court Improvement Panel (CIP) will review the MDT and CAPS process to see if a redesign process is in order.

Carl addressed item 13A, asked how the Commission wants to proceed. This will be an item for the next meeting, the Commission can have a brainstorming session, want to work on this when the Secretary is present.

Carl will prepare a draft of benchmark data for the Commission to consider at a future meeting.

The next meeting will also include a review of the priorities of the various committees.

A progress report will be prepared to be a summary of what has been accomplished since the Commission's summary report was released in May 2006.

Memorandum of Understanding

A Memorandum of Understanding between the Commission and the WV System of Care Implementation Team was presented, the Commission was satisfied with the language of the MOU, it will be passed around to Commission members present today for their signatures.

Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Commission will be held Thursday, February 1, 2007, from 11:00 am to 1:00 pm. [This meeting was canceled with March 7, 2007 from 10:30 am to 1:30 pm being the next scheduled meeting date.]