

Commission to Study Residential Placement of Children
September 4, 2008

MEETING NOTES

Present Members: Martha Y. Walker; John Bianconi; Lynn Boyer; Steve Canterbury; Dale Humphreys; Honorable John A. Hutchison; Honorable Gary Johnson; Marsha Morris; Jason Najmulski; and Honorable O. C. Spaulding, and Fran Warsing.

Absent Members: Honorable Jack Alsop; Pam Cain; Honorable Jane Charnock-Smallridge; Andrea Darr; Mike Lacy, Philip W. Morrison II; and Steven L. Paine.

Commission Chair, Martha Y. Walker called the meeting to order at 10:30 am. New member, Fran Warsing, was introduced to the Commission. Steve Canterbury introduced Nikki Tennis. Nikki is the new Director for Children's Services.

New Member, Fran Warsing, was welcomed as a new member to the Commission.

The June 12, 2008 Meeting Notes were approved and will be posted on the Commission's website.

A brief overview of the Regional Clinical Review Progress for July 2007 through June 2008 was presented by Linda Watts, Project Director for the System of Care. The target population for these reviews is youth currently in out-of-state residential facilities or youth who are at risk of out-of-state placement. The role of this review process is to identify what the youth's current treatment and permanency needs are and serve as a resource to the youth's individual Multidisciplinary Treatment Team (MDT). The Clinical Review Team works in each Region of the State. Referrals come from multiple sources. However, the majority comes from DHHR. An average of four to five cases, per Region, is staffed monthly. The Regional Clinical Coordinators are to assist and coordinate the activities for the Regional Clinical Review Team. The Regional Clinical Coordinators (RCC) collect information, develop reports, establish working relationships with community partners, and ensure that the clinical review process is completed as outlined in the approved Regional Clinical Review Protocols. The Commission felt the process for the Regional Clinical Review was taking too long and requested these processes be reviewed to see if the time frames can be cut. They would also like the Regional Clinical Review teams to review cases more frequently. The Commission requested that information be sent to the Judges explaining the CAPS process.

A brief overview of the WV System of Care Out of State Youth Report for July 2007 through June 2008 was presented by Tammy Pearson, Evaluator for the System of Care. The information in this report was collected from the WV DHHR Families and Children Tracking System (FACTS) on youth who are in the custody of the state and who are placed out of state in group, residential, or specialized foster care. The report includes demographics, length out of state, placement types, facilities where youth reside out of state, and summary of findings. The Commission would like the data to show: why children are moving from one facility to another; the distance from their home county to placement; how many of these children have had a CAPS assessment; and those adjudicated as Status Offenders or Delinquents. All the System of Care reports will be consolidated and include the data recommended.

Performance Benchmarks for out-of-state placements were provided. Because of the difficulty in collecting this data without Geo-map software, the placement types for the next report will include Group Psychiatric and Psychiatric Residential Treatment Facilities (PRTF). The Commission was provided the updated dashboard Foster Care Placement graph that identifies critical trends. The Commission requested data on the placement of children in out-of-state and in-state reflecting both the distance from a WV border and the distance from a child's home county to the in-state and out-of-state facility.

The Commission received the updated Status Action Plan that are reflected the progress of Commission recommendation to date.

Fran Warsing provided an update on the Reaching Every Child Educational Success for Children in Out-of-Home Care brochure. The brochure provides vital information for schools, parents and others information to ensure that children in out of home care receive appropriate educational services.

Approximate 7500 brochures are being printed and will be available for distribution within a couple of weeks. The brochures will also be available on the WVDE, Commission, and System of Care websites. A Web CT course on McKinney-Vento is being developed for DHHR staff.

The Commission agreed to write a letter supporting the request for coordinator positions that was denied earlier by the WV Legislators. These coordinators will be essential in ensuring the tracking the education of children/youth in out of state placement that do not have special educational needs.

The Out of Home Care Education Advisory Committee has developed their strategic goals and will provide the information to the Commission.

Information was provided regarding the next phase of the expansion of the Commission (handout). As part of this expanded focus, the Commission has agreed to add new members. If approved, Commissioner, Chris Curtis, Bureau for Public Health, Susan Fry (residential care provider) and Kate Luicart (specialized foster care) will be joining the Commission in December. Susan Fry and Kate Luicart were recommended by the Selection Committee to join the Commission after being selected from provider agency representatives.

Agency representatives were ranked on their involvement in their community; commitment to true collaboration; willingness and ability to communicate with others. Also, there was a desire to select from those who offer a broad range of services that should include in-home services. Susan Fry and Kate Luicart were also selected because of their involvement with initiatives the support the Commissions work (e.g system of care, service array), their responsiveness to meeting licensing and/or compliance. Susan Fry has worked in the field of children services for twenty years (Group Home). Kate Luicart has worked with Kanawha Valley Center (KVC) for five years. Both Susan Fry and Kate Luicart's agencies provide in-home Services.

A motion was made by Judge Spaulding to include Chris Curtis, Susan Fry, and Kate Luicart as members. Motion approved. An orientation will be provided to the new members.

Family and Youth Member representatives were considered by the Commission. It was recommended that the family member representative would need to have been involved in the child/youth welfare system. A motion was made by Judge Spaulding, and approved to include a family member representative would be selected by a Selection Committee. The Commission recommended that the family member representative should be selected by a Selection Committee that would be headed by Sue Hage. Judge Spaulding made two recommendations for this Committee to consider. At this time the Commission felt Youth Representation should occur through serving on one of the Commission's workgroups.

Jason provided a brief overview of the Child and Family Services Review (CFSR) and how the CFSR outcomes were based on the requirements in the IV-B Five-Year (WV child welfare) Strategic Plan and would be addressed through the Commission's work as recommended at the last meeting. Three workgroups to be added will include: Safety, Permanency & Well-Being. To prevent overlap, the existing workgroups will be reviewed to see how they fit into the goals of these new workgroups.

The Commission was encouraged to attend the CFSR Exit Interview to hear more about the preliminary results of the CFSR.

Commission Member's Update:

Lynn Boyer provided information regarding the recent communication between the West Virginia Department of Education (WVDE) and out-of-state facilities. The WVDE sent out-of-state providers a letter that prevented rate increases and to allow them an opportunity to establish a baseline toward keeping children in WV and keep

costs under control. WV Department of Health and Human Resources (DHHR) became aware of the letter when providers called indicating that they would no longer accept referrals for West Virginia children. Some facilities are in the process of making appeals and a process will be set up to handle these. One facility asked DHHR if they would pay the difference that the WVDE would not pay. Statutory Law forbids DHHR from doing this. An update will be provided to the Commission in December.

The Out of Home Care Education Advisory Committee has been looking at the lack of educational standards for facilities in-state that are not monitored by WVDE (e.g., detention centers and psychiatric residential treatment facilities).

Agenda for next meeting:

- Results from CFSR Review
- Educational Update

NEXT MEETING: December 11, 2008 (10:30 AM – 1:30 PM)