

West Virginia Commission to Study Residential Placement of Children Summary Notes

Group Meeting: Quarterly Commission Meeting

Meeting Date: August 27, 2015
Location: Prestera Center

Members Present: Cabinet Secretary Karen Bowling; Keith King (representing Cynthia Beane); Stephanie Bond; Tina Mitchell (representing Nancy Exline); Cindy Largent-Hill (representing Steve Canterbury); Harold Clifton; Susan Fry; Frank Andrews (proxy for Jacob Green); Jessica Ritchie-Gibson; Dr. Rahul Gupta; Sue Hage; Rhonda Hayes; Sheila Paitzel (representing Pat Homberg); Honorable Gary Johnson; G. Travis (representing Vickie Jones); Cody Bills (proxy for Mike Lacy); Nikki Tennis; Honorable Philip M. Stowers; and Steve Tuck.

Members Absent: Honorable Jack Alsop; Honorable Scott Elswick; and Honorable David Hummel, Jr.; Michael Martirano; Phillip Morrison, II; and Nikki Tennis.

Guests Present: Amy Rickman; Mindy Thornton; Tanya Ford; Debi Gillespie; Chris Whitt; Angie Via Hairston; Jake Ross; James Jeffries; Cynthia Bryant; Joanne Dobrzanski; Renee Ellenberger; Raymona Preston; Sarah Walls; Cheryl Salamacha; Rebecca Farmer; Mark Allen; James Young; Lisa Zappia; Caroline Duckworth; A. Gilbert; Stephanie Crozier; and Tricia Kingery.

Administrative Assistance: Linda Watts (representing Linda Dalyai)

Commission Meeting	Decisions
<p><u>Opening</u></p> <p>Cabinet Secretary Karen Bowling called the meeting to order and welcomed members and guests.</p> <p>Prestera was thanked for hosting the meeting. Each person was asked to introduce themselves and their agency affiliation.</p> <p><u>Meeting Notes</u></p> <p>The meeting minutes of the April 27, 2015 meeting were reviewed and approved. April 27, 2015 Minutes Approved</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The April 27, 2015 meeting notes were approved and will be provided to members and posted on the Commission's website: http://www.wvdhhr.org/oos_comm/
<p>COMMUNITY MEETING DISCUSSION</p> <p><u>Pinecrest Overview by Karen Yost</u></p> <p>Karen provided an overview of the services offered by Prestera Center and at Pinecrest.</p> <p>Prestera Center is one of the largest Comprehensive Behavioral Health Provider in the state serving more than 20,000 consumers annually. They employ over 850 employees and have 50 sites in nine counties. Prestera has been in business for 45 years and is state licensed and nationally accredited (CARF). They provided mental health services, substance abuse services, child and adolescent services, intellectual and developmental disability services, homeless services and employment services. They are engaged in special projects and initiatives and partner with law-enforcement, faith-based communities, health departments and drug courts.</p> <p><u>The Implementation of Safe at Home: Region II Panel Presentation by</u></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The PowerPoint presentation will be provided via e-mail after the meeting.

<p><u>Cheryl Salamacha and Panel Members (Susan Fry, Mindy Thornton and Rebecca Farmer)</u></p> <p>Cheryl provided an overview of the activities to prepare Region II for the October 1st implementation of Safe at Home. Activities included having conversation with staff and stakeholders. The purpose of the conversations was to bring life to the Wraparound philosophy and 10 principles. Cheryl stated they want staff to understand how to build family engagement and informal support when developing protection plans and service plans. The goal is that all staff and stakeholders have a good understanding of how this will benefit WV children and their families.</p> <p>Region II Safe at Home is an ongoing agenda item for the Community Collaborative Teams, Regional Summit and Family Resource Networks. Region II has identified seven youth that can benefit from this model on October 1, 2015. The panel shared with the team the importance of staffing the cases with the right agencies and partners. The partners work together to identify ways to work outside traditional practices that will help the youth transition seamlessly to their community. The teamwork is intentional and all partners are committed to the process and goals of the service plan. Susan Fry spoke about the Child Adolescent Needs and Strength Assessment training for DHHR staff. She discussed the reliability scores and the benefits.</p> <p>Sue reported that Region III (Eastern Panhandle) is doing the same work and building on their community partnerships and identifying community services/supports.</p>	
<p><u>Safe at Home Grant Announcement by Secretary</u></p> <p>Secretary Bowling announced the eight agencies that will employ the 52 Wraparound Facilitators in the eleven counties. They are: Burlington UMC; Braley & Thompson; Children's Home Society; KVC Behavioral Health Care of WV; National Youth Advocates Program; NECCO; Pressley Ridge; and Prestera Center for MH Services.</p> <p>The Secretary explained the benefits of the pilot would be the ability to make changes as needed. The expectation is that Safe at Home will be rolled-out statewide in nine months. The Secretary emphasized that Safe at Home is an added service model and will not take away from existing services for WV children who enter the judicial system. Other discussion points included the wraparound model, the importance of family engagement, informal supports, Wraparound training for DHHR staff and providers and community partnerships that include education, probation, providers and families.</p> <p>A copy of the Safe at Home WV newsletter was provided.</p>	
<p><u>Treatment Foster Care by Tanya Ford</u></p> <p>Treatment Foster Care is a holistic strength-based approach that is used as an alternative from treatment to residential placement settings. The goal of this treatment model is to serve children effectively in a less restrictive environment while measuring outcomes to ensure the highest quality services for WV children.</p> <p>The Treatment Foster Care pilot began October 1, 2014. To date, Pressley Ridge has served 20 youth between the ages of 0-17 years. 4 of the 20 children have been reunified with their parents/caregivers and eight children are in the adoption process. Additional benefits of the Treatment Foster Care pilot were that 5 children were prevented from an out-of-state placement and 3 children stepped-down from residential placement.</p>	

<p>Tanya explained with every pilot there are challenges and Pressley has addressed the following challenges: enrolling children in the local school, capacity building, and delay in FBI/CIB returns, homes for children who have a history of sexual offenses and a lack of detailed information during the referral process. Pressley has worked with the Educational Transition Specialists, Family Advocacy, Support and Training and other system partners to address these challenges.</p>	
<p><u>NEW BUSINESS</u></p> <p><u>Out of Home Education by Frank Andrews</u></p> <p>The next meeting is September 21st. They will be ready to present at the next Commission meeting. The presentation will cover educational outcomes, educational stability, grades, number of students who have taken the standardized test and next steps.</p> <p><u>Court Improvement Program by Nikki Tennis</u></p> <p>Nikki reported there were over 800 participants at the annual Court Improvement Programs Conference held July 2015. She referred the team to the “Update on the Law related to Child Abuse and Neglect” in their handout. She stated they are reviewing for mistakes and corrections. This will be added to a clean- up bill this legislative session.</p> <p>Nikki handed out a brochure “What a Drug Screen Means to Me and My Case”. Participants can email her for more copies.</p> <p>Nikki reported on New View. They currently have five reviewers, reviewed 38 cases in the 1st year and 31 cases in the 2nd year. The 1st year was mainly youth 18 years or older. The 2nd year the reviewers looked at younger youth. The report is in draft form and will be ready in the next three months. The New View team is looking at capacity building and sustainability.</p> <p>The youth service committee of the Court Improvement Program is looking at the “Away From Supervision” process and the training curriculum. They would like to work with providers and update the training curriculum.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If needed, participants may email Nikki for more copies of the brochure, “What a Drug Screen Means to Me and My Case”.
<p>The meeting adjourned shortly after 1:30pm.</p>	
<p>Next meeting: December 3, 2015 and will be held at the Civic Center.</p>	