

## West Virginia Commission to Study Residential Placement of Children Summary Notes

**Group Meeting:** Quarterly Commission Meeting

**Meeting Date:** June 16, 2016

**Location:** Saint John XXIII

**Members Present:** Commissioner Nancy Exline; Stephanie Bond; Ghaski Browning (representing Pat Homberg); Susan Fry; Jacob Green; Rahul Gupta; Rhonda Hayes; Keith King (representing Cynthia Beane); Mike Lacy; Cindy Largent-Hill (representing Steve Canterbury); Beth Morrison (representing Vickie Jones); Honorable Philip M. Stowers; Nikki Tennis; Steve Tuck; and Linda Watts.

**Members Absent:** Cabinet Secretary Karen Bowling; Honorable Jack Alsop; Honorable Scott Elswick; Honorable David Hummel, Jr.; Honorable Gary Johnson; Michael Martirano; Phillip Morrison; Jessica Ritchie-Gibson,

**Guests Present:** Harold Clifton; Frank Andrews; April Mullins; Stacie Dei; Angie Hamilton; Robin Renquest; Sheila Walker; Sheila Paitsel; Renee Ellenberger; Becky Sanders; Jeffrey Shrewsbury; Amy Rickman; Joanne Dobrzanski; Steve Fairley; Patrick Varah; Tara Stevens; Shannon McKay; Jennie Storer-Hughes; Denny Dodson; Mark Spangler; Denise Smith; Alicia Mascioli; and Lora Dunn Carpenter.

**Administrative Assistance:** Linda Dalyai, Tommy Woodson-Hall

Commission Meeting	Decisions
<p><b><u>Opening</u></b></p> <p>Commissioner Nancy Exline called the meeting to order and welcomed the members and guests.</p> <p>Commissioner Exline provided an update on Secretary Bowling who could not attend due to travel delays from inclement weather.</p> <p><b><u>Meeting Notes</u></b></p> <p>The meeting minutes of the December 3, 2015 meeting were reviewed and approved.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>The December 3, 2015 meeting notes were approved and will be provided to members and posted on the Commission's website:</b></li> </ul> <p><a href="http://www.wvdhhr.org/oos_comm/">http://www.wvdhhr.org/oos_comm/</a></p>
<p><b><u>Commission Feedback</u></b></p> <p>Linda Dalyai provided information about the "Your Solutions" form that was available on everyone's tables. This form is used to allow participants an opportunity to provide the Commission with questions and any suggestions (solutions) within the scope of the Commission's work.</p>	
<p><b><u>Safe at Home West Virginia Update and Presentation</u></b></p> <p>Lisa McMullen, Project Director for Safe at Home WV, provided a presentation to update the Commission on the progress made through the second quarter of 2016.</p> <p><b><i>Safe at Home WV Goals</i></b></p> <p>The goals of the Safe at Home project are to ensure youth remain in their home communities whenever safely possible; reducing the reliance on foster care/ group care and to prevent re-entries into group care; reduce the number of children in out-of-state treatment; and to reunify these children with their families and home communities.</p> <p><b><i>Phase 2 Implementation</i></b></p> <p>Phase two implementations included 24 counties. The Local Coordinating Agency that received grant awards was announced in May 2016. The six agencies that received the awards are: Kanawha Valley Center, Pressley Ridge, Burlington United Methodist Family Services, National Youth Advocates, Genesis Systems, and Youth Service Systems.</p>	<p><b>National Wraparound Initiative Website:</b></p> <p><a href="http://nwi.pdx.edu/">http://nwi.pdx.edu/</a></p> <p><b>WV DHHR/ Bureau for Children and Families Safe at Home WV Website:</b></p> <p><a href="http://safe.wvdhhr.org">http://safe.wvdhhr.org</a></p>

The Local Coordinating Agencies are in the process of hiring and training wraparound facilitators for first referrals on August 1, 2016. A meeting was held with the new Onboarding meeting was held with all the Local Coordinating Agencies on June 7, 2016.

### ***Monitoring and Support for Safe at Home WV***

The Safe at Home WV Wraparound Advisory Team has initiated record reviews. Tracking and reporting continue regarding referrals and their progress. There are ongoing meetings with staff and the Local Coordinating Agencies both at the local and the state level. DHHR is working to strengthen West Virginia's Wraparound Facilitation through the Bureau for Behavioral Health and Health Facilities and the Bureau for Children and Families. DHHR is working with a nationally recognized expert, Mary Grealish, in wraparound to provide coaching and consultation with Local Coordinating Agencies and wraparound facilitators and supervisors. Ms. Grealish has helped to map out a one year coaching and consultation plan that will run through 2016 and into 2017. The goal of the coaching and consultation plan is to build the skills and knowledge in West Virginia to continue this process.

In April 2016, Ms. Grealish spent two days in West Virginia providing consultation and coaching to wraparound facilitators and their supervisors. The Project Director and Region II Social Service Program Manager also participated. Agencies that participated brought their most difficult cases for review/ assistance. DHHR also brought a case for each agency that needed assistance. In many situations, the same cases were identified. There was a surprising level of work that the wraparound facilitators are doing that no one is aware of because every little detail is not documented. Ms. Grealish was very complimentary on where our wraparound facilitators are in their learning process. The Advisory Team has seen a definite improvement in the actual writing of the wraparound plans since this first coaching session. As a result, there is more parental participation, more thorough wraparound plans, and progress being made in cases with some moving to the transition phase.

### ***WV Safe at Home Evaluation***

The WV Safe at Home (IV-E Waiver) requires an independent evaluator. The independent evaluator is Hornby Zeller and Associates Inc.

#### ***Evaluator Requirements***

- IV-E Waiver Demonstration Project Federal Terms and Conditions require a mid-term evaluation at the end of the first 2 years of a waiver demonstration project.
- West Virginia's deliverables within our contract with Hornby Zeller require semi-annual progress reports.
- These semi-annual progress reports are not a full evaluation, but are used to inform West Virginia to assist us with planning and adjustments.
- The population will differ slightly due to using raw data pulls from our data base.

#### ***Significant Evaluation Findings to Date***

During the first six-month period, Hornby Zeller and Associates Inc:

- Developed data collection tools
- Performed baseline interviews

- Reviewed documents
- Automated the WV CANS
- Prepared data extract requests for FACTS
- Analyzed the first six-month extract of data
- Analyzed the first set of WV CANS assessments
- Hornby Zeller interviewed 50 stakeholders during this process.
- Hornby Zeller collected and reviewed documents that are key to understanding processes, policies, and conceptual framework guiding the program's implementation.
- The documents exemplified how the state engages with their stakeholders and the public regarding Safe at Home WV.

### ***What We Know About Our Youth***

- 72% of the youth were between the ages of 14 and 16 at the time of the referral.
- Nearly 2/3 of the youth referred to Safe at Home were male.
- Males were more likely to enter foster care than females.
- Placements rates for males ranged from 9.6 to 10.9 between 2010 and 2014, and 8.3 to 9.3 for females during those same years.
- The percentage of black youth referred to the program (19%) is substantially higher than the overall percentage of black youth in WV (5%) and lower than the average percentage of black youth in foster care between 2010 and 2015 which ranges from 31-35% between those calendar years.

### ***Trauma***

Lisa provided data that displayed how many of our youth have experienced one or more episodes of trauma at the time they had a completed CANS. Lisa spoke about the different types of trauma and how it can impact the youth adversely. Lisa also listed the areas of development and functioning that can be impacted in youth because of trauma. Lisa stated that more than 2/3 of our youth in Safe at Home WV have experienced system-induced trauma and that there needs to be a collaborative effort to prevent system-induced trauma.

### ***Semi-Annual Progress Report Findings***

- By the end of March 2016, more than half of those out of state had been returned to WV, with 47 percent of the total moving to a lower level of care.
- Results suggest that youth are experiencing fewer moves from one congregate care setting to another.
- Evaluators will determine over time if Safe at Home has made an impact on placement rates in congregate care.

### ***Evaluator Recommendations***

- Make efforts to improve buy-in among Judges by expanding personal meetings.
- Increase the use of the CANS tool – An initial CANS were missing from one-third of the 120 youth initially referred.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Revisit the nomenclature used to identify prevention cases excluding shelter care from this tracking category.</li> </ul> <p><b><i>Where Safe at Home is Today</i></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• As of June 6, 2016, 180 youth have been referred to Safe at Home WV for wraparound services.</li> <li>• 18 youth have returned to WV from out-of-state placement.</li> <li>• 25 youth have been returned to their communities from in-state placement.</li> <li>• 52 youth are being prevented from entering residential care.</li> </ul>	
<p><b><u>Bureau for Health and Health Facilities Initiatives</u></b></p> <p>Bureau for Health and Health Facilities Initiatives Beth Morrison provided a presentation about BHHF and the progress that has been made with medication-assisted treatment and recovery services for individuals with substance use disorders, coordinating with many different agencies to improve access to levels of care statewide. BHHF has several pilot programs and initiatives for children and youth with significant behavioral health challenges, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• identifying and serving young adults experiencing early onset psychosis;</li> <li>• enhanced mobile crisis response for youth and families;</li> <li>• partnering early intervention Home Visiting Programs with children's behavioral health specialists working in homeless shelters to strengthen supports for homeless families with young children;</li> <li>• significant growth in the number of schools served by Expanded School Mental Health programming, which promotes school-based prevention, early intervention and intensive treatment services to improve student academic performance and emotional/behavioral/social well-being;</li> <li>• Children's Wraparound, piloted in six counties, modeled on Safe at Home WV but for children in parental custody at risk for or returning from intensive residential treatment programs.</li> </ul>	
<p><b><u>Family Resource Networks</u></b></p> <p>Stacie Dei, Marshall County Family Resource Network (FRN) Director, and April Miller, Tucker County FRN Director, provided an overview of the Family Resource Networks and how they work in local communities. Stacie and April spoke about how the FRN's collaborate with many different local groups and agencies to help families in need. Stacie provided a video that had a more in-depth description of how the FRN's work and their importance in the communities they serve.</p> <p>Stacie and April provided the members and guests with handouts that have Marshall and Tucker County's FRN contact information.</p>	<p><b>The FRN Video can be viewed at:</b> <a href="http://marshallcountyfrn.com/videos/">http://marshallcountyfrn.com/videos/</a></p>
<p><b><u>Success Stories</u></b></p> <p>Dr. Jenny Storer with KVC shared her Safe at Home WV success story of a youth named "Alex". The youth had been troubled by mental health issues and over the years he had been in and out of residential placements. Due to a collaborative effort, "Alex" is now with a family that he reports he wants to stay with "forever" and Jenny directly linked this to Safe at Home.</p> <p>Shannon McKay, CSM for Lincoln County DHHR, shared her Safe at Home</p>	

<p>WV success story of a youth. Shannon spoke about a 16-year-old female that had been troubled by PTSD and she had a borderline personality disorder. This youth had been to six facilities before Safe at Home WV got involved. Safe at Home worked with the family and with the help of wraparound, her grandparents were willing to give it a try. Since January, the youth has not exhibited any problems and she is starting to develop social skills that have helped her move forward in her life.</p>	
<p><b><u>Old Business</u></b></p> <p>The Commission's 2015 Annual Report was distributed.</p> <p><b><u>New Business</u></b></p> <p><b><i>Performance Scorecard</i></b></p> <p>Commissioner Exline provided an update on the Performance Scorecard data. As of February 2016, we almost met our goal though the number of youth in out of state placement briefly increased. Commissioner Exline noted we have had the most youth in placement that we have ever had. Commissioner Exline stressed how substance abuse has really impacted the numbers regarding youth in placements. Judge Stowers mentioned that due to the change in truancy laws, our numbers are peaking during March, April, and May in contrast to years past. Judge Stowers also noted that the number of runaway youth is also impacting our numbers because of the increase that he is seeing in his courtroom alone.</p> <p>Commissioner Exline tasked a new workgroup to track/study the number of runaways and how it is impacting our numbers. Mike Lacy stated that he and his staff would be interested in working with this group. Susan Fry also stated that she would like to work with this group from the provider perspective. Susan stated that she would like the Commission to study the full system of care to see how runaways are impacting the system.</p> <p>Nikki Tennis also spoke up and said that she would like to be a part of this workgroup/study.</p>	
<p><b><u>Updates</u></b></p> <p><b><i>Court Improvement Program Update</i></b></p> <p>Nikki Tennis reminded the Commission about cross-trainings that are coming up in the next few months. Nikki spoke about the different trainings to be offered and that they are all listed on the brochure that is contained in the Commission packet.</p> <p><b><i>Education of Children in Out-of-Care Advisory Committee Update</i></b></p> <p>Frank Andrews distributed a report from the Education of Children in Out-Of-Home Care Advisory Committee.</p> <p>Jacob Green provided a quick update about WVDE and how they have been discussing ways to alert school systems when foster kids need testing. Jacob also spoke about how WVDE and DHHR have been sharing information for youth. Jacob mentioned an upcoming meeting in which both WVDE and WVDHHR are seeking to better familiarize each other with their child tracking databases.</p>	
<p><b><u>Other Updates</u></b></p>	

<p>Commissioner Exline asked if any Commission members had any other updates. These updates were:</p> <p>Stephanie Bond, with Division of Juvenile Services (DJS), asked what is going on with contracts with residential providers. Commissioner Exline answered that they are in the finalizing process and that they have had a meeting as recent as May 2016. Commissioner Exline assured the Commission that the goal is to finalize the contracts very soon.</p> <p>Judge Stowers said that Judges are on board with <i>(reducing the time a child in congregate care - IV-E restrictions on congregate care)</i> services, but that is difficult when they must continuously review that a child that is placed is receiving the appropriate level of care. Judge Stowers noted that there is going to be many new judges take the bench and that they might not fully understand IV-E issues. Judge Stowers also noted the need for new community based services and facilitators.</p> <p>Cindy Largent-Hill stated that the Commission should be studying how to place youth appropriately and that detention is not appropriate in most situations though it is being utilized to continually place youth. Ms. Largent-Hill remarked that there are youth who have diminished mental capacities that are placed in the Department of Juvenile Services' facilities.</p> <p>Susan Fry stated that from the provider perspective, there are major concerns over the new contracts. Specifically, she said that they are concerned about limits in placement to end after 180 days, the new payments system and how that would benefit providers.</p> <p>Commissioner Nancy Exline and DHHR Deputy Secretary, Harold Clifton stated that the contracts were being revised and additional information would be provided to providers prior to being finalized.</p>	
<p>The meeting adjourned shortly after 2:30pm.</p>	
<p><b>Next meeting: September 1, 2016 and will be held at the Saint John XXIII Pastoral Center.</b></p>	