

West Virginia Commission to Study Residential Placement of Children Summary Notes

Group Meeting: Quarterly Commission Meeting

Meeting Date: December 15, 2016

Location: Saint John XXIII

Members Present: Cabinet Secretary Karen Bowling; Sheila Paitsel (representing Pat Homberg); Cammie Chapman; Jessica Gibson; Frank Andrews (representing Jacob Green); Jim Jeffries (representing Rahul Gupta); Keith King (representing Cynthia Beane); Caren Bills (representing Mike Lacy); Alicia Mascioli (representing Steve Canterbury); Chase Holcomb (representing Honorable Phillip Stowers); Phillip Morrison; Nikki Tennis (representing Vickie Jones); Steve Tuck; and Linda Watts.

Members Absent: Commissioner Nancy Exline; Stephanie Bond; Honorable Jack Alsop; Honorable Scott Elswick; Honorable David Hummel, Jr.; Honorable Gary Johnson; Michael Martirano; Stephanie Bond; Susan Fry; Rhonda Hayes.

Guests Present: Harold Clifton; Nancy Sullivan; Katrina Harmon; Robin Renquest; Rebecca Derenge; William Hicks; Jaqueline Columbia; Amy Lawson-Booth; Joanne Dobrzanski; Raymona Preston; Patrick Varah; Keith King; Jess Griffin; and Mark Allen.

Administrative Assistance: Linda Dalyai, Tommy Woodson-Hall

Commission Meeting	Decisions
<p><u>Opening</u></p> <p>Cabinet Secretary Bowling called the meeting to order and welcomed the members and guests. Secretary Bowling spoke at length about the work that the Commission has done over the last few years.</p> <p><u>Meeting Notes</u></p> <p>Secretary Bowling asked that the members review the meeting notes from the June 16, 2016 meeting. Steve Tuck made a motion to have the notes approved. All members agreed and the meeting notes were approved.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The June 16, 2016 meeting notes were approved and will be provided to members and posted on the Commission's website: http://www.wvdhhr.org/oos/comm/
<p><u>Presentations</u></p> <p>Secretary Bowling introduced Deputy Commissioner Linda Watts and her presentation on the progress of Child Welfare over the past four years.</p>	
<p><u>Child Welfare Progress in the Last Four Years</u></p> <p>Linda Watts outlined the progress of Child Welfare over the last four years in a PowerPoint presentation. Topics Deputy Commissioner Watts covered in her presentation were as followed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Where We Were: Issues Identified • Reactive to Proactive – The Last Four Years <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Total Youth in Congregate Care ○ Reduction of Children in Out-of-State Placement ○ Family Foster Care Continuum ○ Workforce Retention and Support ○ Creation of a Standardized Referral Process • Moving Forward <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ IV E Reimbursement for Subsidized Kinship and Legal Guardianship 	

<p><u>Safe At Home Update</u></p> <p>Lisa McMullen could not attend the Commission meeting, so Deputy Commissioner Watts provided an update for Safe at Home WV in her stead. Deputy Commissioner Watts provided the following updates for Safe at Home WV:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Background of Safe at Home WV • Philosophical Principles of Safe at Home WV • Implementation of Safe at Home WV • Referrals for Safe at Home WV as of December 2016 	<p>WV DHHR/ Bureau for Children and Families Safe at Home WV Website:</p> <p>http://safe.wvdhhr.org</p>
<p><u>Old Business</u></p> <p><i>Runaway Report</i></p> <p>Secretary Bowling next moved the agenda to the Runaway Report and she again asked Deputy Commissioner Linda Watts to provide an update. Deputy Commissioner Watts spoke briefly about how the Court Improvement Program and other workgroups, including the team with Judge Stowers, had worked to grasp the ways in which runaway youth are impacting the system. Secretary Bowling recognized Judge Stowers for his willingness to work with many agencies regarding runaway youth.</p>	
<p><u>New Business</u></p> <p><i>Performance Scorecard</i></p> <p>Secretary Bowling moved the agenda to speak about the Performance Scorecard for children in care. Secretary Bowling stated that she was very optimistic about the numbers trending downward for WV's reliance on out-of-state care and how the data shows that the goal has almost been met for total children in out of state care.</p> <p>Secretary Bowling stated that review teams have helped identify youth for necessary placement in state as opposed to sending them out of state.</p> <p>Secretary Bowling also highlighted that the review teams and providers have stepped up and gotten the youth in appropriate placements here in West Virginia.</p>	
<p><u>Three Branch Institute</u></p> <p>Secretary Bowling introduced Nancy Sullivan to provide a presentation on the Three Branch Institute. Nancy Sullivan provided a PowerPoint presentation that outlined the following regarding the Three Branch Institute:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Core Team • State Context and Challenges Faced • Child Fatality Review • Critical Incident Review Team Findings • Three Branch Institute Intended Outcomes • Early Intervention • Early Identification 	

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • State Plan 	
<p><u>Bureau For Health and Health Facilities Initiatives</u></p> <p>Secretary Bowling introduced Nikki Tennis and asked her to provide some information regarding new initiatives from the Bureau for Health and Health Facilities. Nikki Tennis provided a PowerPoint that outlined the following initiatives for BHHF:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mission and Vision • Programs, Partnerships, and Policy • Key Initiatives • Expanded School Mental Health • New Children's Mental Health Wraparound • New Mobile Crisis Response and Stabilization • Contacts <p>Accompanying Nikki Tennis' presentation was a flyer that she had distributed regarding the Children's Mental Health Wraparound Initiative. The flyer defined the Wraparound Initiative and it was placed in everyone's packet of information.</p>	
<p><u>Updates</u></p> <p>Secretary Bowling next moved the agenda to the updates for the Court Improvement Program and Education of Children in Out-of-Home Care Advisory Committee.</p>	
<p><i>Court Improvement Program Update</i></p> <p>Cammie Chapman introduced herself as the new Director of Children's Services, Supreme Court of Appeals of WV. She provided a brief history of her background and her experience.</p> <p>Cammie Chapman provided some information regarding updates for the CIP in 2017 to include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Juvenile Abuse and Neglect Information System JANIS • New trainings • Updates with the New View Project • Involving the Education subgroup in MDT meetings 	
<p><i>Education of Children In Out-of-Care Advisory Committee Update</i></p> <p>Frank Andrews provided a brief update regarding the Education of Children in Out-of-Care Advisory Committee. The updates were as followed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Update on the implementation of the Every Student Succeeds Act for Children in Foster Care • Update on building a quality data system for reporting on the educational status and outcomes for children in out-of-home care • Identification of issues relating to the education of children in out-of- 	

<p>home care</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Goals of the Committee in 2017 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Continuing to foster collaboration among agencies and groups ○ Make recommendations to improve the attendance of educational personnel at MDT meetings ○ Facilitate problem solving in removing barriers to educational access and transition for children in out-of-home care 	
Secretary Bowling thanked everyone in attendance and she adjourned the meeting shortly after 1:30pm.	
Next meeting: March 2, 2017 and will be held at the Saint John XXIII Pastoral Center.	