

West Virginia Commission to Study Residential Placement of Children Summary Notes

Group Meeting: Quarterly Commission Meeting

Meeting Date: June 1, 2017

Location: Saint John XXIII

Members Present: Cabinet Secretary Bill J. Crouch, Keith King (Representing Cynthia Beane), Denny Dodson (Representing Stephanie Bond), Cammie Chapman, Susan Fry, Frank Andrews (Representing Jacob Green), Christina Mullins (Representing Dr. Rahul Gupta), Sheila Paitzel (Representing Pat Homberg), The Honorable Gary Johnson, Nikki Tennis (Representing Vickie Jones), Mike Lacy, Rhonda McCormick-Hayes, The Honorable Phillip M. Stowers, Steve Tuck, Linda Watts.

Members Absent: The Honorable Jack Alsop, Jessica Ritchie-Gibson, The Honorable David W. Hummel Jr., Michael Martirano, Phillip W. Morrison II,

Guests Present: Katrina Harmon, Caroline Duckworth, Elizabeth Kennedy, Tammy Pearson, Angie Hamilton, Debi Gillespie, Trudi Blaylock, Andrea Darr, Rebecca Derenge, Rachael Coen, Kim Brown, Kelly Sergeant, Raymona Preston, Mark Allen, Richard Byrd, Becky Sanders, Shannon Bragg, Mollie Wood.

Administrative Assistance: Linda Dalyai, Tommy Woodson-Hall

Commission Meeting	Decisions
<p><u>Opening</u></p> <p>Cabinet Secretary Crouch called the meeting to order at approximately 10:35 a.m. Secretary Crouch introduced himself and gave a brief background on his career prior to being named Cabinet Secretary for the West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources. Secretary Crouch outlined the urgency to address the needs of youth in care throughout West Virginia. Secretary Crouch highlighted the importance of the Department of Health and Human Resources and he spoke at length about how he is eager to work to improve DHHR moving forward.</p> <p>Secretary Crouch announced that Vickie Jones retired from BBHHR.</p> <p>Linda Dalyai recognize Mike Lacy, Honorable Gary Johnson, and Frank Andrews as original members since the Commission started in 2005. Linda recognized Mike Lacy who is retiring as the Director for Probation Services, WV Supreme Court of Appeals. Honorable Gary Johnson is the remaining original member on the Commission.</p> <p>Members and guests introduced themselves.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The December 15, 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>Meeting Notes</u></p> <p>Secretary Crouch moved the agenda to the review and approval of the meeting notes from the last commission meeting on December 15, 2016. No changes or questions were posed, so Secretary Crouch motioned the commission for the approval of the notes.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The commission notes were approved and it was noted that they will be made available on the commission website.
<p><u>Work of the Commission Members</u></p> <p>Secretary Crouch stated that the commission is tasked with addressing issues relative to foster care placement, as well as the reduction in out-of-state placement. He asked that the members provide brief updates.</p> <p>Service Delivery & Development</p> <p>Susan Fry, Director at Stepping Stones, Inc. provided an update on the Service Delivery and Development Workgroup. Susan Fry then spoke about the task teams that pre-date the commission and how the work they do is representative of the commission's priority goals. Susan spoke to the work that has been done with CANS and its implementation. Susan listed some of the programs that they work on to include BRIDGES and Silo Spanners.</p>	

Susan talked about how changing the BRIDGES program to a best practices program would allow for services to be delivered in a more efficient way.

Susan Fry stated what was needed was the continued Public and Private partnership of the Commissioner and administrative staff to the Commission (Linda Dalyai and Tommy Woodson-Hall).

To achieve this, Linda Dalyai will work closely with the Commission members to align the Commission's Priority Goals for Implementation with other endeavors occurring across the State.

Specifically, the administrative staff will working closely with the Commission's workgroup, (Service Delivery & Development and sub-committees), Commission members and others (i.e., the Court Improvement Program, Education of Children in Out-of-Home Care Advisory Committee, WV System of Care, Juvenile Justice Commission, the Three Branch Institute, the Bureau for Children and Adult Services, the Bureau for Medical Services, the Bureau for Public Health, Bureau for Behavioral Health and Health Facilities) to capture their work with that of the Commission's Priority Goals for Implementation. In addition, the Commission's Priority Goals will be aligned with the West Virginia's five-year Child and Family Services Plan (outcomes and systemic factors).

Once we have this information gathered and charted, we will work in partnership with key stakeholders strategically as we move forward in addressing the Commission's Priority Goals.

Education of Children in Out of Home Advisory Committee

Frank Andrews who was there on Jacob Green's behalf, to provide and update for the Frank Andrews, who spoke on behalf of Jacob Green, provided an update for the Education of Children in Out of Home Advisory Committee. Frank said they have been working to add an educational representative at MDT meetings. Frank also noted how an educational representative would benefit the MDT and the purpose for being included.

Frank spoke about the MOU between the West Virginia Department of Education and the West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources. Frank mentioned that the MOU included access to information. Frank indicated that the process has been slow, but Commissioner Linda Watts indicated that the issues has been taken care of and that the agreement between the West Virginia Department of Education and West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources was ready to go.

Judge Stowers asked Frank Andrews if a youth is in a residential facility in a bordering county, is it the responsibility of the West Virginia Department of Education to transport if it is in the best needs of the youth. Judge Stowers voiced concern due to the difference in some educational programs and that he was trying to familiarize himself to the process to make the most informed decision for the best interest of the child. Commissioner Watts stated that it was up to education to conduct the transport if it was in the best interest of the child.

Court Improvement Program

Cammie Chapman, Director of Children Services, West Virginia Supreme Court of Appeals, provided an update on the Court Improvement Program.

Cammie Chapman spoke about how the committees and sub-groups of the Court Improvement Program have been busy and that the future meetings scheduled. Cammie distributed the annual Cross-Training Conferences on Child Abuse/Neglect and Juvenile Law brochure. Cammie indicated that

- **Frank Andrews provided members and guests with a handout about ESSA**

<p>CEUs would be available for anyone in attendance of the trainings or meetings in the brochure. Cammie stated that the human trafficking law passed and that her organization was excited about that.</p> <p><u>Drug Courts/ Juvenile Drug Courts</u></p> <p>Mike Lacy provided an update on the Adult/Juvenile Drug Courts.</p> <p>Mike spoke about the great work that the commission has done and how things that were initially conceptual ideas, have come to fruition through the commission's work.</p> <p>Mike gave a brief background on the Juvenile Drug Courts, including the history and funding. Mike stated that the purpose has not changed for the Juvenile Drug Court, which is to divert non-violent offenders from a more punitive system. Mike outlined that the philosophy of the Juvenile Drug Court is to intervene earlier to prevent issues later. Mike indicated that the dropout rate of the program is around 50% because it is a difficult program.</p> <p>Mike indicated that the drug epidemic has ravaged our state and that this will present new challenges to the commission down the road.</p>	
<p><u>Presentation: Managed Care Organizations Reducing Out-Of-State Placements of Youth</u></p> <p>Mitch Collins, President, UniCare Health Plan of West Virginia provided a presentation on how managed care organizations are keeping youth who still reside at home from entering out-of-state placements.</p> <p>Mr. Collins spoke about his background briefly and then he spoke to the importance of managed care organizations (MCOs) accountability for their health care members. Mr. Collins stated that UniCare Health Plan of West Virginia developed a three-pronged approach to address the needs of high-risk youth and adolescents which are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Care Management • Utilization Review • Quality Oversight <p>Mr. Collins detailed that promoting care in the community has resulted in improved statistics for youth in PRTF (pg. 5 of the UniCare handout).</p> <p>Melissa Duncan, Director of UniCare Behavioral Health Services provided information from case studies.</p> <p>After Ms. Duncan presented the case studies, Commissioner Watts added that MCOs have helped parents with the case management (youth who are not in the custody of the state) with placements in out of state facilities who are eligible for MCO's.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A handout was provided to members and guests.
<p><u>2016 Annual Report and Performance Scorecard</u></p> <p>The Performance Scorecard includes January 2017 through April 2017 data. Commissioner Watts indicated that despite the recent uptick, we are close to meeting our improvement target for the reduction in the number of youth placed out-of-state and outside their community 50 miles or more outside their home community.</p> <p>Commissioner Watts provided a quick update regarding the Annual Report and the Performance Scorecard.</p> <p>Linda Watts directed the members to view the website, and if there were any</p>	

<p>updates to provide them to Linda Dalyai or Tommy Woodson-Hall.</p> <p>Susan Fry stated that she would like a refocus on the priority goals and that she would like to start meeting outside the Commission meetings to ensure that the original priority goals of the commission are being adhered to.</p> <p>Secretary Crouch agreed that more coordination is needed to keep the committees on track and that he is receptive to helping facilitate an honest dialogue between all vested parties to the commission.</p> <p>Judge Stowers thanked Secretary Crouch for being open to meeting with the Judges to get a better understanding about the processes by which DHHR is placing youth.</p>	
<p>Secretary Crouch thanked everyone in attendance and she adjourned the meeting shortly after 1:30pm.</p>	
<p>Next meeting: September 7, 2017 and will be held at the Saint John XXIII Pastoral Center.</p>	