

<b>West Virginia Commission to Study Residential Placement of Children Summary Notes</b>	
<b>Group Meeting:</b> Quarterly Commission Meeting	<b>Meeting Date:</b> October 3, 2019 <b>Location:</b> Charleston Coliseum – Parlor Room A & B
<p><b>Members Present:</b> Cabinet Secretary Bill J. Crouch; Linda Watts; Susan Fry; Frank Andrews, Proxy for Jacob Green; Brenda Hoylman, Proxy for Cindy Largent-Hill; Susan Beck, The Honorable Tera Salango; Denny Dodson, Proxy for William Marshall; Nikki Tennis, Proxy for Christina Mullins; The Honorable Philip M. Stowers</p> <p><b>Members Absent:</b> The Honorable Andrew Dimlich; Cindy Beane; Stephanie Bond; Jessica Ritchie-Gibson; Rhonda Hayes; The Honorable William Thompson; Philip W. Morrison, II; Dr. Steven Paine; Dr. Catherine Slemp; Steve Tuck</p> <p><b>Guests Present:</b> Jeremiah Samples; Cammie Chapman; Laura Barno; Amy Lawson Hymes; Sheila Paitzel; Kent Nowvskie; Angie Hamilton Thomas; Kelly Sergent; Katrina Harmon; Raymona Preston; Amber Perry; Marissa Sanders</p>	
<b>Commission Meeting</b>	<b>Decisions/Notes</b>
<p><b><u>Opening</u></b></p> <p>Secretary Crouch called the meeting to order at approximately 10:30am. He welcomed everyone to the meeting.</p>	
<p><b><u>Meeting Notes</u></b></p> <p>Secretary Crouch asked if anyone had any questions regarding the meeting notes from the last commission meeting on June 6, 2019. The meeting notes were reviewed, and Secretary Crouch asked for a motion and second to approve and all in favor agreed. Notes were approved without any questions or revisions.</p>	<p><b>The meeting notes were approved and are posted on the Commission's website:</b></p> <p><a href="http://www.wvdhhr.org/oos_comm/">http://www.wvdhhr.org/oos_comm/</a></p>
<p><b><u>Family First Prevention Services Act (FFPSA) Update</u></b></p> <p>The Bureau for Children and Families submitted the Amendment for the IV-E State Plan on Friday, September 27, 2019. The deadline was Sunday the 29<sup>th</sup>. They have already received the first set of questions and clarifications from the Administration for Children and Families (ACF) at the Federal level that are primarily related to formatting and a couple of questions on the IV-E Claiming. The department is hoping to have answers to the ACF by the end of the day Friday, October 4<sup>th</sup> and then wait for approval. This amendment was to satisfy the Foster Care Placement changes that came with Family First. The changing and definition of Foster homes which were restricted to no more than 6 children as well as the residential restructuring.</p> <p>The Prevention Plan's first draft is being circulated at the department level now and hoping to have it submitted by the middle of October. The prevention services plan doesn't have a deadline although Jerry Milner, the Associate Commissioner at the Federal level has asked for ACF representatives to encourage states to submit them. He is interested in seeing what states are proposing. Washington DC and Kentucky have submitted their prevention plans. Washington DC's plan is on the cusp of being approved as they went beyond what the program instructions requested and provided a lot of additional details. We are just waiting to see what the ACF says after reviewing the different states' proposals.</p> <p>At the last meeting it was mentioned that we were in the process of approving applications for the QRTPS. Those were announced, identified and there will be 42 reconfigured, not new, beds available beginning in January. For the Judges that may have a child, we are working to have super-users in place that can walk</p>	

<p>through the steps and processes, work out the mechanics of making sure the 30 day assessment that has to be done for funding and reimbursement, getting the 90 day court hearing. We are hoping to start building a solid foundation in January.</p> <p>The Emergency Licensures for Residential and Child Placing was effective October 1, 2019. These are on the Secretary of State's website. The Residential groups have been working with the licensing staff to prepare for that.</p>	
<p><b><u>Department of Justice Update</u></b></p> <p>On September 16, 2019 the implementation plan was due, it was submitted to the Department of Justice (DOJ) on October 2<sup>nd</sup> the first call was held post-submission and they had some positive feedback, requesting more detail and the DOJ is required to submit written comments by October 16<sup>th</sup>. At that point, there will be some back and forth then once a plan is created that both parties agree to, it will be put out for public comment and they will consider any additional comments that may arise. The Plan is not yet available for the public to access it since it was just submitted.</p> <p>The agreement requires that the Department must hire a subject matter expert in order to review the progress and provide assistance through recommendations on implementing the programs that are specified in the agreement. Because it is an agreement, we were required to use the request for proposal process through the Department of Administration (DOA). We have had both bid openings for the proposal and the cost. We are now just waiting on feedback from the DOA to make sure everything is in place so they can announce it. The Department is hoping to receive that feedback from the DOJ in the next week so the vendor can begin working on the baseline report that is due November 14<sup>th</sup>. The subject matter expert is a third-party individual who will serve as a liaison and also provide technical assistance to the DOJ. The individual does not report to the court, only the DHHR and the DOJ.</p>	
<p><b><u>Safe at Home Update</u></b></p> <p>We are continuing Safe at Home, we have seen good outcomes for our kids, we wanted to ensure that we could this without the Federal IV-E Demonstration Waiver dollars. History was reviewed and we decided to tweak the model. We are in a transition phase between now and December 31, 2019.</p> <p>Local coordinating agency (LCA) meetings are scheduled and should be completed by mid-October. The Bureau for Behavioral Health implemented wraparound for children not in the child-welfare system. The SED waiver is in process and we are hoping to have CMS approval on January 1<sup>st</sup>. Although there will be a transition period, we will start implementation at that time. We want to make sure the wraparound model is consistent across all bureaus of the DHHR. This way if a family gets wraparound, they get the same outcomes and fidelity across the board.</p> <p>The Bureau for Children and Families (BCF) are looking at reducing the daily rate and looking at meaningful contact. We will be creating a Statewide model that will be used for wraparound, but it will not be called Safe at Home. We will look at the population served under the BCF. With the SED waiver coming, any child or youth that are eligible to receive it, we want them to get it through Medicaid. For the youth that do not fit in that criteria but still need this intensity, we will</p>	

<p>look at their individual stories, define it and then go back to the original IV-E Demonstration project definition and tweak that a little more. We don't want to miss anyone that needs this intensity.</p> <p>We are going to reduce the three months that we do pre-discharge to 30 days. It will be standardized, have clear expectations and plans in place for the Providers and what they must do in that timeframe to make the transition seamless for the families.</p> <p>We are going to look at the amount of time our children are being served. We are looking at a 9-month span with eligibility and that the individuals may be able to ask for extended time if needed. We don't want kids to linger and want families to gain the tools and knowledge to access community bases and have resources. The process will come to the Commissioner's office, not KEPRO or an MCO, for review and then we will make the decision based on what information is presented.</p> <p>We will look at our Quality Assurance tools, Hornsby Zeller was the evaluator for BCF but once we go into the one-state model, we need it to be a fidelity review tool that is consistent. We will change and update some of the tracking processes, the policy and procedure manual and feel these changes will be good for our families.</p> <p>A letter was sent to the Judges outlining what is being worked on and requesting feedback from the Judges on the items we are working on currently.</p> <p>Every LCA is participating. We are asking if they're able to bill for the SED waiver, we want to be sure they can do that among other questions. We want the children to be taken care of timely.</p> <p>It was asked that when they look at the wraparound, to look at the original structure of Safe at Home, the charts and guides that were presented in the past while they work on the updates to the new model. The goal is to make sure our model looks like the national model.</p> <p>An important step we will be making will be ensuring the fidelity of the training that we do for all facilitators will be the same for everyone.</p> <p>We will have a Standard of Procedure (SOP) put in place for how to navigate this.</p> <p>Nothing has changed at this point, everything is status quo, we are working with the providers because we know there will come a day when the daily rate will change but all of the other work we are doing hasn't changed, we are tweaking some things but everything is still business as usual at this point.</p> <p>We want the family not to be dependent on extra services such as music lessons or something offered to them while part of the wraparound that could create a financial hardship when we are removed from the equation. We need to think those sorts of things through.</p>	
<p><b><u>Data Reports Updates</u></b></p> <p>We will continue to provide copies of the Performance Scorecards to everyone – we have left the proximity at 50 miles. Numbers out-of-state have grown, some with behavioral issues and intellectual issues that we haven't seen before. We are hoping that data through March will help us begin to reduce the numbers and serve our kids in state. We are looking at kids who are on the wait list for beds and as we develop those new beds, we have some kids coming home and</p>	

<p>some more children returning home when the SED waiver is available. We are working to get to know the kids and how long they are in the system and how we can help reduce that time.</p> <p>Out of State Youth report for August - We came down about 8 kids, we are working hard to keep the kids in state where we know what services and care they receive. The report information is by region. If interested, we could share this report quarterly. On page 2 of the report, 203 children specifically- 35 were state wards that were out of state, 30 were adopted youth that came back to the department, 72 was adjudicated delinquents and 42 were status offenders.</p> <p>17% of children's removal from homes are due to behavior. Abuse and Neglect cases takes priority so if one of four children are Juvenile Delinquency (JD), the case can still appear as an Abuse and Neglect case.</p> <p>The Quarterly Kinship and Placement Targets – Our commitment is that by 12/2022 we will have a 25% reduction in children in congregate care based on the 6/2015 number of 1,030. This will be the benchmark for the initial reduction for the Group Residential, Psychiatric Short-and Long-Term Facilities. The agreement then contemplates additional reductions then after that, but we will talk with the DOJ to make the further reductions or use a National level baseline at that point. As of August 2019, we have 965 children in those facilities.</p> <p>The percentage of children in congregate care has reduced significantly because in June 2015 there was 1,030 in these group residential facilities of the 4,060 in Foster care. Now there is 965 out of 6,796 children in Foster care, we are making progress.</p> <p>For the Certified Kinship and Kinship Relative placements, we have 3,347 of the 6,796 placed with kinship relatives.</p>	<p><b>Request for data that will show state wards in out of home care which could help with planning efforts. Tammy Pearson or Kevin Henson may be able to help. We will do a global report then figure out how to break it down by judicial circuit.</b></p> <p><b>The Judges would like reports generated to show data reflecting which of the children in placement are Delinquency, Status Offenders or Abuse and Neglect cases. What is the origin of the placements of the children?</b></p>
<p><b><u>Presentation: ReClaim WV Initiative – Susan Beck</u></b></p> <p>The Opioid epidemic in West Virginia may be the worst crisis impacting our students in the state's history. It is fueling aggression and a feeling of hopelessness among our youth. In addressing these barriers to education among our students, the West Virginia Department of Education (WVDE) created ReClaimWV, a collaborative initiative involving state agencies, higher education and other organizations to provide various levels of support.</p> <p>There is a pilot program in Kanawha County Schools right now and they are working with a national group to bring in mental health services and have a comprehensive plan.</p> <p>Susan provided everyone with a brochure that was called "A Toolkit for Connecting Social-Emotional and Mental Health Supports to the Opioid Epidemic" she went over the goals of the ReClaimWV initiative stating:</p> <p>Goal 1: Support the whole child by coordinating services and supports between WVDE and its partners.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We have funded a Behavioral Mental Health Technical Assistance Center they were able to get with some grant money and it started with Positive Behavior Interventions and Support (PBIS) and is now expanding to Behavioral Supports Specialists working there. We are hoping for more funding to be able to get more individuals on staff to help by going into the schools and provide training or feedback to the teachers on what they can do to help the students.</li> </ul>	

Last year there was a pilot in Doddridge County High School, we were 1 of 8 schools in the nation to do a pilot program for Teen Mental Health First Aid. Some students were taught how to support their fellow classmates in noticing whether they may be experiencing trauma, or thoughts of suicide so they can be a first line of defense. Peers talk to one another, so this was a good first start. The Behavioral Mental Health Technical Assistance Center are the ones who are organizing this also adding in another 6 schools, we are hoping to scale up as much as possible but there are restrictions since it is a National program. 7,500 people have been trained in the Youth Mental Health First Aid and 25,000 referrals have been made. It is an 8-hour course and can be taken by bus drivers, cafeteria workers, etc.

Goal 2: Provide training and technical assistance on social-emotional and behavioral health including substance abuse prevention and intervention.

- Requests for Trauma-sensitive schools, administrators who can look to help the child vs. putting them in a bad situation or removing them.

Goal 3: Create/support peer resiliency networks to encourage lifelong positive health practices.

- Organization Grace – Life Coach Academies are in place to help recognize and support peers.

Goal 4: Provide education and information to students and educators regarding WVDE policies addressing opioid and substance abuse.

- Policies and standards are in place to help the students based on grade-level. The standards may be safety of parents' medication all the way up to the heavier scale of prevention of substance abuse.

Goal 5: Address the challenging behaviors of students while protecting the mental health of students and educators.

- Dr. Paine was asked what we are going to do about children coming in with erratic behaviors, trying to work with the Center and other partners to try to get system-wide services in place to support the students that are having these issues. There could be trauma or mental health issues that need to be addressed.

We cover Awareness, Prevention and Intervention covering Opioids and Substance Misuse, Trauma, Social-Emotional Mental Health for students, educators, families and our communities.

The Action Steps we are taking are as follows:

- Establishing multi-partner collaborations to provide services, trainings, resources
- Providing community, state and national resources with contacts
- Delivering training to identify students in crisis, deliver the appropriate response, and locate age- appropriate services
- Providing prevention and intervention strategies
- Developing the ReClaimWV website for information, strategies, resources and immediate help in crisis

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Supporting youth-to-youth peer networking to build peer resiliency</li> <li>• Training and technical assistance to develop lifelong positive health practices</li> <li>• Creating and/or providing access to E-Learning opportunities</li> <li>• Expanding training and technical support through the WV Behavior/Mental Health Technical Assistance Center</li> </ul> <p>We are creating E-Learning modules at the State department where teachers can go on and get some professional training to help the students and be able to handle the situations they may be faced with at some point.</p> <p>We also promote the partners websites and programs, Help and Hope website and Stigma Free WV, we don't want to try to recreate the wheel or separate resources or networks, it will take a village to work through these problems.</p> <p>There is a critical shortage in the school system, we need to support the teachers and staff. Helping them with self-care techniques so they can be at their best to help those kids who may need a mental break when they come to school, to be able to help them calm down so they can learn and do better while there. The Office of Special Education programs in Washington DC is making this a priority as the numbers in Special Education could go up. We need to provide them intervention and support to see if they can thrive in that environment.</p> <p>Other things that are in process:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We are developing a plan with the DHHR to support and expand services through membership on the Governor's Council for Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment. Diana Whitlock, the Assistant Director of our office is attending these meetings and working on a Statewide plan.</li> <li>• We are also working with Marshall University to support an advanced study graduate certificate for "Violence, Loss, Trauma" so teachers and staff can take these courses and have a certificate to confirm that training.</li> <li>• We are working with the YMCA for meaningful activities afterschool until 8pm, transportation will be provided.</li> </ul> <p><b>For more information, the website that reflects the data in the brochure that was handed out is <a href="https://wvde.us/reclaimwv/">https://wvde.us/reclaimwv/</a> Individuals can go there to access resources and get more information on the initiative.</b></p>	
<p><b><u>Commission Legislative Responsibility and Goals Update</u></b></p> <p><b>Goal 1: Transformational Collaborative Outcomes Management (TCOM)</b></p> <p>Renee Ellenberger and Robin Renquest are Co-Chairs for this group and working with Marshall University. Susan Fry suggested that Linda may want to talk with Tammy to make sure there isn't any confusion; it may make more sense for Marshall University to report to the Commission rather than adding another layer as the goal of TCOM from the Service Delivery perspective was to get it to a University and that's where it is now. Linda stated that they aren't doing any detailed work but just to be there to discuss ideas however, Linda will speak with Tammy. Dr. Lyons and TCOM team are moving to the University of Kentucky and that would be a great partnership with Marshall.</p>	<p><b>Linda will reach out to Tammy to discuss TCOM and the best reporting process going forward.</b></p>

**Goal 2: Provider Input at MDT and Court**

Brenda Hoylman stated that she and Gabe Connelly are in Phase 1, they have spoken with all of the Counties' managers and staff, collected the data then spoke with Transition specialists and residential school counselors at the conference September 4<sup>th</sup> and on the September 23<sup>rd</sup> went to the Probation Officers' conference. They haven't been able to collect the information they were hoping to get so they are creating surveys for attorneys and Judges based on questions sent out to them. Another survey will be for the Juvenile Probation Officers and the third survey will be sent to the Principals, School Counselors, Attendance and Special Education Directors and Transition Specialists. They are hoping by the end of the year to have all the information they need to then begin Phase 2. They will pick 10 counties and start observing MDT processes and follow through the court hearings and then collect those hearings and processes too. Linda stated she would be happy to share training materials the Department may have that could help them when the time comes.

Brenda and Gabe are traveling and observing JA dockets in several counties and have others scheduled. They are learning and collecting as much information as they can. Marissa will also provide Foster Families information to Brenda and Gabe but at this point they are still in Phase 1 and hoping to start Phase 2 after the first of the year.

**Goal 3: Implementation of Every Student Succeeds Act – ESSA (focus on the Education of Children in Foster Care)**

Frank Andrews provided the update on Goal 3. The Advisory Council met on August 28, 2019. The meeting briefed the members on the projects that are being worked on now. They gave a report on the Bridges Project, the Clay County project that is mentoring students in out-of-home care and those who may be at risk. The results have been tremendous! 100% of the seniors graduated, 100% of the underclassmen were promoted to the next grade level. It is a Mission WV project funded by the Greater Kanawha Valley Foundation. It provides mentoring, tutoring, provides trips for the students to visit colleges, checks on students throughout the year and helps provide plans for them for the school year.

Jacob will be doing a presentation in December on the 2-Year Comparison on the test scores, education attainment and stats for the Foster Care children at the next meeting.

**Goal 4: Transitioning Youth from Foster Care**

Linda Watts said that she will get with Christina regarding working on services for transitioning youth from Foster Care but with Family First and other various projects that she is a part of, they haven't had the chance to get a clear update. They are planning to continue to have a workgroup continue working on this for these Youth. Susan Fry stated that the older youth transitioning has been something they have studied and worked on for years and she hopes the transitional living providers can be a part of the process.

<p><b><u>Additional updates/comments by the Members</u></b></p> <p>Jeremiah reiterated that we are hoping that the SED Waiver will have CMS approval by January 1, 2020 and that the State Purchasing division has had the contract for the new MCO for 3 weeks. At this point we are waiting for them to make the final announcement. It should be announced in the next couple of weeks with a transition to begin on January 1, 2020.</p> <p>These are critical areas that will have us moving in the right direction toward improving the Child Welfare system in West Virginia. The SED Waiver and MCO process has been encouraged in the Memo of Understanding and we see that as a contract with the Federal government. We want to make sure we are doing what is best for the children and citizens of our State.</p> <p>It was requested by Judge Stowers that going forward if we are needing to cancel or postpone meetings to please keep in mind the schedule of the judges, they have to move hearings days or weeks out from the designated dates we, the Commission choose so to please try to keep the appointments as set or allow a 90 day notice if we need to change a date due to their dockets being set that far in advance. He asked if we could please let them know the March date as soon as possible so they can get it on their schedule.</p> <p>Judge Stowers would like someone to check on training for the Judges in April or May as they may still have some CIP money on hand to help and possibly split the cost of the conferences for the Judges. Cammie spoke with Cindy Hill and they are working on the dates, Casey has offered to do some facilitating and to bring in some national speakers for the meetings</p> <p>Judge Stowers said he will reach out to Cindy to see what is causing the delay and will also mention it at the Judicial conference to make sure they have a date in April available to at least do a "Save The Date" for the Judges' calendars.</p>	<p><b>Request to add the MCO and SED Waiver to the agenda for a routine quarterly update on each. These will be added.</b></p> <p><b>Mary will work with the Charleston Coliseum and check the schedule of the Legislature to confirm the session dates and schedule March's Commission meeting after the Legislative session ends.</b></p>
<p><b>Meeting Adjourned:</b> Secretary Crouch thanked everyone for their input and time and adjourned the meeting at 1pm.</p>	
<p><b>Next meeting: December 5, 2019</b></p> <p><b><u>2019 Approved Quarterly Meeting Dates</u></b></p> <p>March 7, 2019    June 6, 2019    October 3, 2019    <b>December 5, 2019</b></p>	