

West Virginia Commission to Study Residential Placement of Children Summary Notes	
Group Meeting: Quarterly Commission Meeting	Meeting Date: December 3, 2020 Location: ZOOM Teleconference
Attendees: Cammie Chapman; Jeremiah Samples; Steve Tuck; Phillip Morrison; The Honorable Phillip Stowers; The Honorable Tera Salango; Christina Mullins; Susan Beck; The Honorable William Marshall; Susan Fry; Cindy Largent-Hill; Jacob Green; Susan Beck; Angie Hamilton; Frank Andrews; Brenda Hoylman; Jared Hughes; Kathy Szafran; Nikki Tennis; Sheila Paitsel; Denny Dodson; Linda Gibson; Gabriel Conley; Evan Sprigle; Laura Barno; Amelia Nicely; Debi Gillespie; Stephanie Bond; Cassandra Toliver; Marissa Sanders; Kelly Sergeant; Heather Cummings; Keith King; Tina Mitchell; Melody; Caroline Duckworth; Andrea Ramsey-Mitchell; Amy Hymes; Katrina Harmon; Joshua Booth; Alicia McIntire	
Commission Meeting	Decisions/Notes
<u>Opening</u> As Secretary Crouch and Commissioner Watts were called away for a last-minute meeting, Cammie Chapman, the Associate General Counsel for the DHHR who has been assigned to the Bureau for Children and Families, called the meeting to order at 10:30am and welcomed everyone to the meeting.	
<u>Meeting Notes</u> Cammie asked if anyone had any questions regarding the meeting notes from the last commission meeting on September 3, 2020. The meeting notes were reviewed, and Cammie asked for a motion and second to approve and all in favor agreed. Notes were approved without any questions or revisions.	The meeting notes were approved and are posted on the Commission's website: http://www.wvdhhr.org/oos_comm/
<u>Family First Prevention Services Act (FFPSA) Update</u> Laura Barno said we are preparing the IV-E Component for the Prevention Services. We still have to get our cost allocation plan. It is larger and takes in account all funding that is from the administration to the department so there are other provisions being revised for that cost allocation report. We are moving ahead with having our first Family First providers complete their enrollment packets. We have two providers for the Parents as Teachers (PAT), and we are providing some technical support for the first provider for Healthy Families America to become a Socially Necessary Services provider. These prevention services are funneled through the existing SNS services and work with Kepro to help us regarding eligibility, billing, etc. We are moving ahead in anticipation of the cost allocation report being completed.	
<u>Department of Justice Update</u> In October of 2019, the implementation plan was created, workplans and workgroups were established and then COVID hit and everyone had to learn how to do these things virtually so the work could continue. Cammie wanted to highlight some of the activities that has happened over the last year. The SED Waiver began this year and after beginning this work they began assisting a greater population began being served by Bureau of Behavioral Health to help with those struggling with mental health concerns. The goal is to get to the child prior to child welfare being involved. The group also started looking at the National Wraparound Institute standards and how they would apply to West Virginia and working with Marshall to understand the strengths and weaknesses of the services that have been provided.	

The Children's Mobile Crisis Response team has been expanded in to the Eastern panhandle (Region 6) beginning in January 2021 and in addition to that Nikki Tennis and her team has created a mobile crisis helpline and there is one number people can call to receive immediate interaction with individuals to deescalate the crisis and if needed the mobile crisis will actually go to the child's home and have a face to face interaction.

Positive Behavioral Services has expanded through West Virginia in identifying additional opportunities on how to bill, train and is being done through WVU's Center for Excellence.

The Therapeutic Foster Care group is rethinking about how it will serve children with serious emotional disorders. They are thinking of a model specific to this population.

Assertive Community Treatment – It was geared more toward adults but now they are also working on how the program can support the 18-21 year old population and working with residential providers and workers so they can refer to this service for that population.

In June they started working with WVU and their subcontractor ICF to develop an evaluation plan to think of what we want for our mental health services so from June to October they have been working on goals and what we want the system to look like several years down the road and from that logic model, create the plan to make sure we are working toward and meeting those goals.

The agreement is set to end December 31, 2024 and as part of the initial requirement there was a benchmark of a number the maximum number of children to be in a residential mental health treatment facility. This would include facilities PRTFs and Acute Psychiatric Care. Originally that was to be met by December 31, 2022; no more than 822 in a residential mental health treatment facility. In October they met and after several discussions they created an additional benchmark that by December 31, 2024 of having no more than 712 children in a residential mental health treatment facility. These benchmarks are set to show progress and exit the agreement, but it isn't necessarily where we want to end up. We definitely would want the numbers lower to that in the 5, 7, and 10-year timeframe. Our end goal is to have a continuum of care for children that may need mental health services, regardless of the number.

As of November 30th, we had 814 kids in a residential mental health facility (in state and out of state), of that 814 (not including parents and kids in an emergency shelter) 277 were in out of state care. We have seen a decrease of kids in these residential mental health facilities over the Spring and Summer. We are starting to see a decrease in our out of state children as well, very slightly. The concern is how COVID will impact our children's mental health and our progress as we go into the future.

Regarding the hotline, there was a soft opening in October and Nikki Tennis and her group are working on doing a widespread campaign to promote it, but they want to make sure everything runs smoothly. There is a document they are planning to send out but at this moment it is being reviewed by Communications

Mary will work with Cassandra Toliver to get a copy of the document once it has been approved and provide it to the Commission members and guests.

<p>and once it is approved, which could be anytime, the promotions and information will be sent out.</p>	
<p><u>SED Wavier Update</u></p> <p>Heather Cummings provided the team with the below numbers:</p> <p>94 Active 31 Holds 23 Outstanding FOCs (19 approved within the last 2 weeks, which is why this number is so high) 40 Receiving Services 5 Discharges</p> <p><u>Older Youth Update</u></p> <p>Alicia McIntire joined us today to provide an update on the Older Youth program. Alicia provided a handout to the group regarding the transitioning youth and permanency support unit. Alicia worked with the Chafee program with Youth Services then worked with the FACTS team entering a lot of data and now she is the Program Manager who is assisting with this group/population. Alicia's unit comprises of Evan Sprigle, Carrie Stalnaker, Ashley Fizer, and Rachel Davis. From June of this year through the end of November the unit has put through 790 finalized adoptions and this shows the commitment the State has toward giving permanency to our young people. When it comes to our older youth, we have several programs in place that are working. Stepping Stones will be participating in workshops where the young people will be able to create a support network. There is an Orientation taking place on December 8th for the workers who have residents at Stepping Stones. Thanks to Evan Springle, we have a great program for those who are exiting foster care and are not geared for college or going into a dorm, or unable to get a dorm room, it is a collaborative between the housing authority and the Kanawha Valley collective that heads up that after care support. The pilot counties will be Marion, Monongalia, Lewis and Upshur and the WV Coalition to End Homelessness and their Balance of State Continuum of Care will be that aftercare piece in that area.</p> <p>The next area of focus is to focus on supervised settings for youth to live independently. They are working to get a vision for a program in writing for three levels of supervised living: Pre-independence, Independence and then when a young person is pretty much on their own. Susan Fry and some of the people with Daymark participated in a workgroup a few years ago to learn about the Transition to Independence Process (TIP process) and will be working with them to dig into that more for some evidence-based practice.</p> <p>Another practice that assists with the education piece is Better Futures, and then there is a promising practice called Lifeset that Youth Villages has made part of their program for youth transitioning. We are researching and exploring these three practices in the hopes of assisting our youth with independent living.</p> <p>Susan Fry asked about the providers' workgroup and said they had some great recommendations and wanted to know that the status was of those recommendations and when will there be a return of working with the provider community to move forward with those recommendations. Alicia stated that she has recently started reaching out after taking over this role but her plan in the next few weeks is to reach out to everyone individually to hopefully set up a bi-weekly meeting so we can get the vision in writing and ready to move then</p>	

eventually dial it back to a monthly meeting. A lot has happened in various agencies that she needs to catch up on and she is looking forward to doing it but COVID has made it more difficult. Angie Hamilton-Thomas stated she is very excited to hear the State is looking at the Youth Village Lifeset model and said Pressley Ridge has had training on this so they are very excited to hear the workgroups are getting started back up. It was asked if there were any changes in adoption subsidy payments or adoption Medicaid or how that process is being worked. Alicia said they did have in Adoptions after July 1, 2020 had a different subsidy rate. They did require an addendum if the initial documentation went out with the \$600 rate so there was a lot of work until about a couple of weeks ago to make sure everything was in place and correct. To make sure the process ran smoothly Justin Phillips in Policy helped along with Carrie Stalnaker and Rachel Davis to get those completed.

Alicia said Evan Sprigle is helping with the adoptions that happen after age 16 so he can be proactive with the families so they know the educational benefits available to them and they can plan for those. She said that the adoption subsidy inbox or calling the main number for the unit would be where all adoption requests would go. It is better to contact a unit vs a person in case someone is out or unavailable. Alicia said the main number is 304-558-7980 and the number to the unit is 304-356-4595. Alicia said there is a link on the BCF website where people can find the unit's information. Her goal is to make it a UNIT that answers questions vs. a person.

Judge Stowers voiced some concerns over children graduating from high school before they were 18 and not having a place to go and no place to order them to be housed by the State because he has lost jurisdiction for that. We have even drug out dismissals so they can turn 18 and age out of foster care but then sign themselves back in. He asked if anyone else was seeing situations where kids were graduating and ended up homeless because of this gap where they graduate before 18. Susan Fry also mentioned that she saw where they were coming to them before age 18 and getting them into something there as well. Jacob and Susan are working together and building the CTE that goes with the Options Pathway to encourage the youth to get that certificate in addition to the Options Pathway. They don't want to intentionally drag out their education, but this issue needs to be addressed, kids who graduate at 17 or 17 ½ and have nowhere to go. Bamboo Bridge is a place in Putnam County where 3 or 4 girls could get free housing if they are between 16 ½ and 17 years old but the Judges don't have the kind of control to make sure they still get therapy and things they need, although it does take care of the homeless issue in the short term. Susan said she would love to be part of the solution. Cammie asked if Alicia could possibly have a meeting to discuss this issue with Judge Stowers, Cammie Chapman, Susan Fry, and maybe a few others in the courts who could be helpful. Cassandra Toliver with Behavioral Health also said she would be happy to be a part of that group. Alicia said she would be happy to chair that workgroup and will reach out to everyone.

Cammie said that they are working on an SOP for when a child is going out of state that prior to them leaving that we have exhausted all of West Virginia's resources trying to help them stay home. They are working on getting the approval now. There was a face sheet that was introduced so there will be some data gathering to help support this effort but it is still in process and Commissioner Watts will be able to provide more detail on how this will happen. We have better oversight with the kids that are in-state vs out of state so our

Alicia will reach out to those who are interested in being part of this workgroup to set up a meeting. (Completed)

<p>preference is to always keep our kids in our in-state facilities vs sending them out of state regardless of the distance of a family near a bordering state and sending the child out of state.</p>	
<p>Commission Legislative Responsibility and Goals Update</p> <p>GOAL 1: Transformational Collaborative Outcomes Management (TCOM) §49-2-125 (e)(3)</p> <p>Linda Gibson provided the following update:</p> <p>West Virginia has adopted the Transformational Collaborative Outcomes Management (or TCOM) that include the Family Advocacy and Support Tool (or FAST) for Youth Service Workers and the Child and Adolescent Needs and Strengths tool (or CANS) which is primarily used by service providers. The TCOM tools (the FAST and CANS) have a multi-purpose. They can be used at an individual level, service level and a program level. At all levels, they support decision making, intensity of services, service planning, facilitate quality improvement initiatives, and allow for the monitoring of outcomes. The TCOM tools are free, but you must be certified and demonstrate reliability on a case vignette of 0.70 or greater. Re-certification is also required on an annual basis thus ensuring reliability. Trainers that provide technical support and certification training, must score an 0.80 or greater and other requirements as required by the Praed Foundation. Trainers are also required to attend a refresher workshop annually. West Virginia has been involved with TCOM for over 10 years. This began with the West Virginia developing the West Virginia version of the CANS.</p> <p>A year and a half ago, Marshall University, through a grant with the DHHR, Bureau for Children and Families took over the Program Management of TCOM. However, the work that is involved is very much a collaborative effort. These are some of the activities we have been involved in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 223 YS workers were trained on the FAST and this training continues. • Technical Assistance was and is provided to all YS Workers at least twice, or more if requested. • Satisfaction Review on the Training and Technical Assistance of Youth Service Workers which they found the training and technical assistance to be beneficial. Because we did not get the responses we had hoped for, we are looking at ways to improve this. • 182 providers and others were trained in the CANS. • Training was offered Face-to-Face and transitioned to virtual methods due to COVID (ZOOM, Skype, Go to Webinar, Blackboard, and Microsoft Teams). • To promote a “ready workforce” for West Virginia, Marshall has integrated the CANS/FAST Training into Psychology, Counseling Social Work and School Psychology Classes here at Marshall. • MU is now overseeing the CANS and FAST Certification Access Code 	

distribution for DHHR.

- MU has developed a mini animated training video using Vond. The short videos address questions that have come up repeatedly in training. More mini videos are in development.
- Refresher Training was provided for all current WV TCOM Trainers. We also trained 13 new TCOM trainers for WV.
- A Fidelity Review was conducted for Wrap.
- MU works with PCG to further develop the WV CANS system (Repository) for SAH and BBH.
- Marshall University, and the Bureau for Children and Families, submitted a proposal to provide 2 presentations at the Annual International TCOM Conference. We were accepted and we provided these presentations in October. The Marshall TCOM Team and Michelle Dean, who is with the Bureau for Children and Families were the presenters. This year it was a virtual conference.
- Marshall University (representing West Virginia) is involved with a University Partnership that include 18 Universities. This partnership will allow us to learn from one another.
- Recently MU was involved with the WV Quality Review that included a review of information on over 375 youth in residential care. MU provided or completed an initial CANS and a current CANS for each child when one was not provided.
- MU is working on a Cluster Analysis and algorithms for WV children in placement. A team from MU Center of Excellence for Recovery and the Department of Psychology met yesterday with Dr. Stephen Shimshock and Dr. Lyons, who are with the Praed Foundation, to begin working on the cluster analysis section of the report.
- MU is developing a website that will be active by January 2021. Among other helpful information, you will be able to find our training dates for both the FAST and CANS.

GOAL 2: Provider Input at MDT and Court
§49-2-125(d)(4)

Brenda Hoylman provided the update today. She shared her screen with everyone regarding the MDT project that began in 2019. Process slowed due to COVID, but they have gotten 6 surveys out, 5 were this year and 3 are still active. They received 260 from attorneys, 80 from probation, the CAC Cost Center response is still open, but they have received 61 responses. The Foster Care survey is still open, and they have received 386 responses, the Provider response is 92 and is closed and the DHHR worker responses as of December 1st was at 203. They started the interviewing process of the RDs and CSMS around the State and began that process in 2019. They are getting some great responses from the DHHR workers now and that survey is still open. The total

of all responses to the surveys of 1,082. They also sent questions out to the County Superintendents but also will be sending a survey out to the Education staff who participate in the MDTs. They are planning to send it out in February 2021. The full reports for the surveys will be available in January 2021. Brenda, Gabriel Conley, and Amy Sadler started working in November on the MDT and Court Observations. They have started with Putnam and Kanawha county. They have observed several hearings and MDTs so far, but it is just the beginning stage. They plan to extend to several other counties.

The data analyst, Andria Jones is working on an extended presentation regarding the MDTs and will have a more detailed presentation on Thursday, December 17th at the CIP Board meeting.

GOAL 3: Implementation of Every Student Succeeds Act – ESSA

Jacob Green spoke to the group and said that the Education for Children Out of Home Care has had two team meetings since our last Commission meeting. They have been discussing the challenges and things the kids may be going through due to COVID. They have decided not to start any new initiatives but instead support existing initiatives that are dealing with the crisis and what has come from that. Some members of the advisory committee were concerned about the connectivity issues for children who are doing the virtual assignments and the delivery of education. They are planning to do a joint meeting with Jacob's staff and other department staff to see if they can come up with some solutions.

Regarding the MDT survey that they have worked with Brenda's group on, he provided some results that they discussed at the meeting.

- 28 of 55 school districts responded to the survey – the preliminary results indicated that although no county has developed an MDT policy on participation on MDTs
- 25 of the 28 have written procedures,
- 23 of the 28 have delegated responsibility to a school administrator to make sure the appropriate school official attends the MDT
- 22 of the 28 counties reported that the county school district's point of contract with the DHHR's involved in the administration and coordination of school officials attending MDT meetings.

We are continuing to encourage the rest of the responses but unsure of how to get those additional people to respond but still working on it.

The survey identified some need areas by school district that included guidance. Only 2 of 28 had standardized forms for reporting educational information on MDTs. What they have found through communication, is that sometimes it is hard to get the proper officials out to the MDT meetings because the meeting could be last minute or very short notice. Some of the school districts said due to COVID it is more difficult to have regular communication and maintaining contact with students and families. Some counties indicated the need for better coordination between DHHR staff and providers and the juvenile officers as far as when the MDT meetings are to take place, we don't know of the exact breakdown but that is just what is being relayed. They have developed a subcommittee to help work on creating the model forms and procedures,

general information for school officials on education participation in the MDT meetings. Jacob deferred to the excellence of Brenda Hoylman and her team in gathering this information and working with them saying they have worked hard, and he was happy to be a part of it with them.

Jacob said they have been working with someone from Mission WV on the Bridge project on how successful they have been in Clay County. They are wanting to present this information to the Board of Education but now is not the time to present those new initiatives. He said they are hoping to provide that information to them in the Spring. They think it could be successful in other schools and just want to be sure everyone is in the proper mindset to take on a new initiative.

They are still waiting on the data sharing agreement to be approved. It is at the Department of Education's legal office right now. It has a lot of different implications for various projects so they are still hopeful they will get it approved soon.

Stephanie Hayes, the coordinator with the Department of Education she disseminated a technical assistance publication entitled: "COVID-19: Social, Emotional, Mental Health and Wellness Resources for Educators, Families and Students". The publication can be made available to anyone who may want to receive it. They have also heard during their meeting the various reports from the DHHR, Ombudsman, Transitional services, Family First and DOJ among a few others so they are all up to date on these areas.

In a past Commission meeting, Jacob discussed with Commissioner Watts a checklist on caseworker's education. They agreed they would have another meeting to talk about that so Jacob is planning to reach out to Linda to set something up to see what that may look like. He said they have a draft and will propose it to her to see if there should be any changes or revisions.

GOAL 4: Transitioning Youth from Foster Care
§49-2-125(d) (11)

No update was provided.

Additional updates from Commission members

Stephanie Bond provided an update on the Family Treatment courts. In addition to the courts we have in Boone, Ohio, Randolph Roane, Calhoun, and Nicholas counties they just finished training for 3 additional in Braxton, Logan, and McDowell counties. They haven't accepted anyone yet. Logan and McDowell are still in the assessment phases of some participants and Braxton is still working on some treatment team, getting the services in place so they can start soon.

Stephanie said as of the end of November they had 63 active participants throughout the State: 18 from Boone county, 11 from Ohio county 8 from Randolph, 6 in Roane/Calhoun and 20 from Nicholas county. We accept about 68% of those referred. It's not that the others are denied, it's that they choose not to participate in the program; it is voluntary. We have had 11 graduates so far and we have another graduating next Friday from Roane/Calhoun and the

second person graduating from Ohio county in a couple of weeks. All the others have graduated from Boone county. The program is primarily females but 33% are males, 20 males are currently in the program, there were 21 but one man from Boone county died in a car accident traveling to his drug screen. He was doing well, in the highest milestone.

They have transitioned a total of 31 kids back to their parents' custody. Out of the 63 participants now, they have returned 16 back to theirs. It is going well, a lot of success of those in the later stages. It is early to have success statistics, but it takes approximately 9-12 months to complete the program and Boone is the longest running and they have only been open for 12 months. They are going to look at the length of time of permanency, money saved, the repeated maltreatment and other topics to show success. The participants state that the support is overwhelmingly what they needed to help them do well in the treatment. We have funding to open 3 more and sustain all of them for a couple more years. After that, the Supreme Court and Legislature have both stated they would support the Family courts so they will continue assisting these individuals and we hope to have good statistics to prove it is worth the money being spent on these Family Treatment Courts.

Debi Gillespie provided an update on BJS saying they are having continued meetings every Thursday. We have had a few kids who have went to placement, many in out-of-state placements. Many have been spending time in detention, assuming the reason would be COVID issues and there have been a few placements where children couldn't go because there was a COVID incident. Younger kids are coming into detention, under the age of 13, kids on the spectrum or who have severe mental health or IDD, 3 ½ years later still working on those. There is a lack of psychiatric facilities who can handle patients like this. Steve Tuck asked if AETNA was participating in the meetings, Debi said yes, they are. Tyler and others from AETNA are attending the meetings and she is in contact with several others who are looking for kids and connecting them to case managers of all the facilities to make sure they are involved and updated. They have a wealth of knowledge to share with the staff. She has also been in contact with those who are looking for children who have gone missing to see if they have shown up in detention. These operations are happening all the time. Steve asked with the new SOP that Cammie and her group are developing, could that assist Debi with their efforts? Cammie said she felt it would be a very useful resource.

Sheila Paitzel stated that they have been having discussions at the Department of Education about the fact that they are experiencing an increased cost in out of state placements, the piece that is paid for the students with disabilities, they are at the point that the budget is exhausted and they are looking for funds to continue funding the education of these students. They are trying to find new ways to free up funding. She said she also mentioned this at the education meeting, about the education being at the MDT meetings even though they may not be education placements so they could help with the mental health piece. The cost at the out of state facilities go up each year despite the numbers of individuals coming down slightly. Each year we do a separate contract from the DHHR's contract with the facility and one idea they had was to cap the amount they are willing to pay on education, if that is an option but the trend data shows for the 30+ facilities they work with, the price of education for these kids are

<p>going up significantly. She just wanted to make everyone aware in this meeting.</p> <p>Judge Stowers asked if someone could distribute the Education numbers discussed so they could see those numbers and help in whatever way the courts could. He fears there may be a bump in numbers due to COVID before it calms down and level off. Sheila said she put the out of state placement reports in the chat and is available on their website.</p>	<p>(Completed: Mary emailed the link to these numbers after the meeting.)</p>
<p>Meeting Adjourned: Cammie thanked everyone for their time and adjourned the meeting at approximately 12:45pm.</p>	
<p><u>2021 Quarterly Meeting Dates</u></p> <p>Next meeting: March 4, 2021; June 3, 2021; September 2, 2021; December 2, 2021</p>	