

Meeting Title	February Child Welfare Collaborative Meeting
Date	Friday, February 22, 2019
Time and Location	10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. in Room 134 at One Davis Square
Dial-In Information	+1 (646) 749-3122 Access Code: 349-707-709
Web Conference	https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/349707709
Meeting Facilitator	Deputy Secretary Jeremiah Samples
Attendees	<p>State: Secretary Bill Crouch, Deputy Secretary Jeremiah Samples, Nikki Tennis, Laura Barno, Commissioner Linda Watts, Jeff Wiseman, Cammie Chapman, Jennifer Eva, Kent Nowviskie, Tina Mitchell, Jim Weekly, Commissioner Cynthia Beane, Fred Lewis, Amy Lawson-Booth, Jim Weekly, Laura Barno, Chautle Haught, Chenelle Coy-Williams</p> <p>BerryDunn: Nicole Becnel, Courtney Rombow, Lauren McTear</p> <p>Stakeholders: Marissa Sanders, Kelli Caseman, Katrina Harmon, Brenda Hoylman, Steve Tuck, Jayla Murphey, Melody Plumley, Gail Higgins, Tonya Hutchinson, Andrea Dan, Lisa McMullin, Karen Harper, Rhonda Edmonds, Betty Rivard, Steve Fairley, Jackie Columbia, Gracie Bush, Peggy Johnson, Rhonda Edmond, Tammy Rizzio, Beverly Petrelli, Veronica Reynolds, Denny Dodson, Sharon Carte, Jim McKay</p>

Agenda

Item #	Topic and Description	Responsible
1.	Welcome and Introductory Remarks	Jeremiah Samples
2.	Child Welfare Reform Effort Updates	Laura Barno, Cindy Beane, Jeff Wiseman, Linda Watts
3.	Major Issues <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Congregate Care Rates and Length of Stay • Out-of-State Placement of Children • Finding Permanency in Familial Settings for Older Children 	Jeremiah Samples

Item #	Topic and Description	Responsible
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome (NAS)/Drug-Exposed Babies – Prevention and Safety Workforce Shortages Data Weaknesses in Child Welfare 	
4.	<p>Work Groups</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Residential and Emergency Shelter Providers (Existing) Commission to Study Residential Placement of Children (Existing) Judicial Branch (Existing – Court Improvement Program [CIP], Juvenile Justice) Foster Care Parents (Proposed) 	Jeremiah Samples
5.	Open Discussion	All
6.	Next Steps	Jeremiah Samples

Action Items

- Commissioner Beane will share the Medicaid rate increase letter with the meeting group.
- Marissa Sanders will share feedback from the members of her association when it becomes available.

Meeting Notes

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1.	<p>Welcome and Introductory Remarks</p> <p>Deputy Secretary Samples stated the goal of collaborative meetings moving forward is to narrow the focus and start working on specific projects during some major issues. He said he would like to better engage workgroups and identify any need for additional workgroups.</p>
2.	<p>Child Welfare Reform Effort Updates</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Family First <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Laura Barno shared the Department of Health and Human Resources (DHHR) is awaiting further program instructions (PI) regarding prevention services, which has held up development of the State's prevention plans. She added that workgroups are meeting, and that the foster care candidacy workgroup is piloting draft policies and procedures.

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Steve Tuck asked if the study being led by Commissioner Mullins has progressed. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Deputy Secretary Samples said the study is nearing completion and will be presented to the meeting group once available. ○ Jim McKay said a website has been created by stakeholders to share resources regarding Family First Services Prevention Act (FFPSA), and the site also contains information about other states' implementation plans. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ www.familyfirstact.org ● Serious Emotional Disturbance (SED) Waiver <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Commissioner Beane said her team is meeting with the Bureau of Behavioral Health (BBH) and the Bureau of Children and Families (BCF) to ensure the waiver is inclusive. She added the initially proposed services include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Assistive Equipment ▪ Case Management ▪ Community Transition ▪ Mobile Response ▪ Day Habilitation ▪ Job Development ▪ Supported Employment ▪ In-Home Family Therapy ▪ Therapeutic Foster Care ▪ Nonmedical Transport ▪ Respite Care ▪ Peer-Parent Support ○ Commissioner Beane noted that all services have been submitted for rate setting, and the waiver should be released for public comment in April. ○ Steve Tuck asked if the Bureau for Medical Services (BMS) is still estimating 3,000 children being eligible under the waiver. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Commissioner Beane clarified that the 3,000 allotment was only an estimate and can be amended as needed. ○ Deputy Secretary Samples asked for an estimated cost.

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Commissioner Beane estimated a \$33 million cost, but noted that amount is subject to change. ○ Deputy Secretary Samples noted there will be a significant investment made by DHHR to provide these new services. He asked that stakeholders be involved during the public comment period. ○ Commissioner Beane said DHHR will rely on providers to increase community-based services, and that services may be provided by any behavioral health licensed center. ● Coordinated Care Management <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Jeff Wiseman indicated the public comment period was extended, and asked the group to submit comments. He noted DHHR is working on network standards, rate setting, and waiver documents. Jeff said that after the public comment period has closed, DHHR will create a formal comment log with responses. He shared the target implementation date of January 2020, due to legislation. ○ Jeff noted the documents released for procurement will be revised once services to be included in the SED waiver and the FFPSA are determined. ○ Commissioner Beane shared the goal is to get the SED waiver approved by October 2019. This does not mean that SED services will be available on October 1, 2019 because providers will need to apply and be enrolled as SED providers. She that services will start becoming available around January and February of 2020. ● Child Protective Services (CPS) Workforce <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Commissioner Watts said BCF continues to work with the human resources department to expedite the hiring process. ○ Commissioner Watts said her team is also working with State of West Virginia (State) police to provide staff with “active shooter” training. ○ Commissioner Watts said BCF is also working with Kasey Family Programs on mid-level management training. ○ Commissioner Watts said the issue with CPS workers who were at risk of losing their licenses has been resolved, as the social work board has agreed to extend licenses for one year. Commissioner Watts said she is also training staff on court reporting and documentation. ○ Commissioner Watts said the kinship relative review will be shared with the meeting group upon its completion.
3.	Major Issues

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development of New Wraparound/In-Home Services <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Deputy Secretary Samples said Safe at Home is a wraparound pilot project, and the proposed budget would provide funding to implement Statewide. He stated there are shortages of providers across the State, especially in children’s behavioral health. ○ Tammy Rizzio said it is difficult to recruit specialized qualified health professionals and offer competitive pay scales. She asked how to raise Medicaid reimbursement rates. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Commissioner Beane said there was a 20% rate increase in some behavioral health services in January of 2019. ▪ ACTION ITEM: Commissioner Beane will share the Medicaid rate increase letter with the meeting group. ○ Commissioner Watts said there was a Request for Assistance (RFA) for local coordinating agencies to offer wraparound services within the Title IV-E demonstration project. She noted the original intent was to bring children back from out-of-state placements, but the project is now used for children at risk of out-of-home placement. ○ Sharon asked if Commissioner Watts would consider Safe at Home training being offered at community colleges. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Commissioner Watts said she would consider that option in the future as the program expands. ○ Nikki Tennis said there is a national model and national academy for Safe at Home training. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Lisa McMullin said there are Wraparound 101 and Applied Wraparound certification courses. ○ Deputy Secretary Samples asked who the lead on the Safe at Home program is. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Commissioner Watts answered that Amy Lawson-Boothe and Nikki Tennis are overseeing the program, but that she would like an individual from BMS involved as well. ○ Commissioner Watts explained that the program will also be expanded to include children and youth of all ages. ○ Deputy Secretary Samples asked that Commissioner Watts have a discussion with Sharon Carte regarding the Safe at Home program. • Congregate Care Rates and Length of Stay <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Deputy Secretary Samples asked the group for input on reducing congregate care rates.

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Melody Plumley said there is a need to increase the number of community-based providers. ▪ A stakeholder on the phone said that a major issue is the lack of behavioral health services available in rural areas, and the need to provide services prior to a family being in crisis. ▪ A stakeholder in the room said finding providers willing to provide services in the home is difficult, but families are unable to find transportation. She noted that the respite and transportation services to be included in the SED waiver will be hugely beneficial. ○ Laura asked whether emergency medical technicians (EMTs) would be able to provide transportation through Medicaid funding with the SED waiver. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Cindy said yes. She added that nonmedical transportation services could also include extracurricular activities. ○ Commissioner Watts said with the wraparound model, community-based services are vital. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Jim Cagen stated informal supports for protective efforts provide better outcomes. ▪ Deputy Secretary Samples expressed that in the future, DHHR should look into building better infrastructure for informal family supports. ▪ Jim said the family resource centers in each community are the hub for community-based services. ▪ Deputy Secretary Samples indicated a need to better understand the current infrastructure and get input from other states. ○ Betty Rivard said there are some communities with working models. ○ Betty asked if Safe at Home was being taken away. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Deputy Secretary Samples said funding for Safe at Home is undetermined due to federal changes, but DHHR will find other ways to fund the program. ▪ Deputy Secretary Samples said DHHR should communicate to Safe at Home providers that the program will not be discontinued. ▪ Amy said a meeting is scheduled with providers next week, and the topic will be discussed. ● Out-of-State Placement of Children

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Deputy Secretary Samples said the State has had this issue for decades, and there is a lack of providers able to take specialized cases in the State. ○ Betty said that in the past, a community focus has resulted in a decrease in children being sent to out-of-state placements. She added that a focus on hiring licensed social workers and investing in them by offering great working conditions, along with collaborating with judges and providers to offer wraparound services was beneficial. ○ Commissioner Beane noted that when DHHR moved populations to a managed care organization (MCO), parental placements out of state dropped significantly. ○ Commissioner Watts shared that BCF has completed a review of every child in an out-of-state placement to determine who could be served in-state. She added that Amy has been working with emergency shelters and providers to focus on bringing children back to a community setting. ○ Jackie Columbia said that often, her facility has agreed to accept children into placement, but the child is still sent out-of-state due to the multi-disciplinary team (MDT) decisions. ○ Cammie said she has been working with the court, probation departments, and DHHR staff on appropriate outcomes. ○ Katrina Harmon said when a child is moved out of state and then returns, the child's high school credits do not transfer. ● Finding Permanency in Familial Settings for Older Children <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ ACTION ITEM: Marissa Sanders will share feedback from the members of her association when it becomes available. ○ Marissa shared the biggest drawback to accepting older children into the home is that honest and complete background information on the child will not be shared. She added that another issue is lack of support and services available such as crisis services and therapy. She said other concerns include the risk to younger children in the household, prudent parenting, and discipline. ○ Cammie shared that NewView is a deep-dive study with attorney reviewers who review a foster child's record to determine what options are available to establish permanency. ○ Nicki said permanency planning now begins at age 14. She added that some policy changes have taken effect, such as ensuring

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	<p>children who age out of the system have a driver's license, social security card, and birth certificate.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NAS/Drug-Exposed Babies – Prevention and Safety <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Deputy Secretary Samples highlighted that the majority of children entering the foster care system in the State are aged 0 – 5. ○ A stakeholder in the room said through her work in the local school systems, she has found that educators and faculty do not understand trauma and the effects it has on children. She said that the school systems must adapt. ○ Laura said she was approached by an MCO requesting to be involved with prenatal visits for women on Medicaid in order to develop a plan for safe care early in the pregnancy. She clarified the intent is not the remove all children affected by mothers with substance use disorder, but to provide services to the mother and family. Laura stated a meeting is scheduled for March 7, 2019, for MCOs to create a safe care plan instead of involving CPS workers. She said she will share an update from that meeting at the next collaborative meeting. • Workforce Shortages • Data Weaknesses in Child Welfare <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Deputy Secretary Samples shared the intent of DHHR to create a dashboard to monitor progress and share information with the group.
4.	<p>Work Groups</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Residential and Emergency Shelter Providers (Existing) • Commission to Study Residential Placement of Children (Existing) • Judicial Branch (Existing – CIP, Juvenile Justice) • Foster Care Parents (Proposed) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Deputy Secretary Samples said he has set up a quarterly meeting with foster care parents. ○ Jim McKay suggested connecting with the Alliance and Family Resource Networks. ○ Katrina suggested including Becky King with the Department of Education (DOE) in the collaborative meetings. ○ Steve Tuck said that a kinship care work group should be considered. ○ Commissioner Watts said that BCF is completing a study on kinship care and will present findings once available.

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Commissioner Watts said there is a large portion of children in the State being raised by relatives. She noted BCF's plan to contact those families quarterly to offer assistance and link them to programs.○ Karen Harper said that Marshall and Prestera are collaborating on a web-based trauma-informed course as part of ongoing professional development that is also used to train new teachers.
5.	Open Discussion
6.	Next Steps