

Meeting Title	Child Welfare Collaborative Meeting
Date	Wednesday, April 17, 2019
Time and Location	1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. in CR134 at One Davis Square
Dial-In Information	1-312-757-3121 / Access Code: 838-496-629
Web Conference	https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/838496629
Meeting Facilitator	Deputy Secretary Jeremiah Samples
Attendees	<p>State: Secretary Bill Crouch, Deputy Secretary Jeremiah Samples, Commissioner Linda Watts, Commissioner Cindy Beane, Commissioner Christina Mullins, Laura Barno, Cammie Chapman, Kent Nowviskie, Nikki Tennis, Jeff Wiseman, Amy Hymes, Jennifer Eva, Keith King, Fred Lewis, Susan Jackson, Deidre Craythorne</p> <p>Stakeholders: Jackie Columbia, Susan Frye, Veronica Reynolds, Kathy Szafran, Debbie Gillespie, Karen Yost, Sam Hickman, Diane Hughes, Audrey Morris, Denny Dodson, Steven Fairley, Amy Summers, Matt Rudder, Renee Brady, Robin Renquest, Katrina Harmon, Gwen Davis, Brenda Hoylman, Marissa Sanders, Renee Harrison, Jerry Roueche, Sharon Carte, Andrea Darr, Kelli Caseman, Jayla Murphy, Steve Tuck, Betty Rivard</p> <p>BerryDunn: Brady Birdsong, Courtney Rombow</p>

Action Items

- **Deputy Secretary Samples will determine if an analysis of child welfare service profit margins is necessary.**
- **Kent Nowviskie will include an agenda item for FRCs and FRNs in the May 2019 Child Welfare Collaborative Meeting**
- **Commissioner Watts will present kinship care study results at the May 2019 Child Welfare Collaborative Meeting.**
- **Inspector General Jolynn Marra will attend a future Child Welfare Collaborative meeting to discuss the status of the Foster Care Ombudsman office.**
- **Deputy Secretary Samples will schedule a meeting specifically with foster parents by the end of June 2019.**
- **Kent Nowviskie will update the group on the status and release date of the Child Welfare Collaborative website at the May meeting.**
- **BerryDunn will provide a Zoom web conference for the May 2019 Child Welfare Collaborative Meeting.**

Meeting Notes

Item #	Topic and Description
1.	Welcome and Introductory Remarks
2.	<p>Qualified Residential Treatment Programs (QRTP)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commissioner Watts reviewed the QRTP presentation with the group. • Commissioner Watts highlighted the success found with the Safe at Home program. • Commissioner Watts noted the Family First Prevention Services Act (FFPSA) is significant legislation providing unprecedented federal support. • Commissioner Watts explained the Department of Health and Human Resources (DHHR) intention to procure for QRTP and to gear the program to the highest-need children who historically have been placed out-of-state. • Commissioner Watts stated the slow start into QRTP will minimize the State of West Virginia (State's) financial risk. • Commissioner Watts said the initial procurement will convert 100 current level II or III beds, with roughly 25 per region. She noted that only current residential providers in the State are eligible to apply. • Commissioner Watts stated that as QRTP is implemented, community-based services will also be expanded. • Deputy Secretary Samples said DHHR will offer an enhanced daily payment for QRTP, plus capitalization funding. • A stakeholder asked what services are involved in aftercare. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Laura Barno said aftercare services are not federally defined, and she said the Request for Applications (RFA) will solicit providers to explain their program. • Steven Fairley asked for further explanation of the success found with the Safe at Home program. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Commissioner Watts said an independent evaluator provides regular reports to DHHR documenting that the majority of children in the program are successful. ○ Deputy Secretary Samples said providing services to younger children and families will lend to a higher success rate. He added that as community-based services are expanded, lower-needs children will be served in the community.

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Amy Hymes asked that any concerns regarding the Safe at Home program be emailed to her. ● Steven Fairley asked for information regarding profit margins with the Safe at Home program. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Commissioner Watts said the daily rate was approved by federal partners and was based on the assumption that providers would serve children with varying levels of need. ○ Deputy Secretary Samples said DHHR will consider conducting an analysis of the child welfare service array. ○ ACTION ITEM: Deputy Secretary Samples will determine if an analysis of child welfare service profit margins is necessary. ● Commissioner Watts said DHHR will continue to model the national wraparound approach, even if the Safe at Home program is not extended past September 2019. She noted that many high-needs children will be served by the Serious Emotional Disturbance (SED) waiver, while those who require a less stringent model will be served with a wraparound approach.
3.	<p>The Role of Family Resource Centers (FRCs) and Family Resource Networks (FRNs)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Deputy Secretary Samples said that due to feedback from stakeholders, a discussion regarding how to better leverage FRCs and FRNs is necessary. ● Susan Jackson explained the FRC is a hub in the community meant to provide resources to any community member in need. She added that the FRC is intimately involved in the community, strengthening families and the community itself. The FRC offers services including parenting classes, recovery assistance, play dates, community events, pantries, life skills classes, etc. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Audrey Morris gave an overview of the Morgan County Starting Points FRC, including describing how the FRC receives referrals from probation officers, Child Protective Services (CPS), and courts. ○ Diane Hughes gave an overview of the Upper Kanawha Valley Starting Points FRC and explained some other services offered through the FRC include Parents as Teachers, summer programs, abuse prevention programs, car seat safety instruction, bring your parent to school day, positive parenting programs, General Education Diploma (GED) assistance, job connections, afterschool programs, and play therapy.

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commissioner Watts noted that FRNs differ from FRCs in that FRNs were not designed to deliver direct services. • Betty Rivard suggested that DHHR utilize the System of Care (SOC) pyramid. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Commissioner Mullins said the most recent version of the SOC pyramid being is being used by the Bureau of Behavioral Health (BBH), particularly in Expanded School Mental Health. She highlighted that prevention must be population based, not only focused on high-needs children. • Deputy Secretary Samples suggested additional conversation regarding FRCs and FRNs be included as an agenda item in the May 2019 Child Welfare Collaborative Meeting. • ACTION ITEM: Kent Nowvskie will include an agenda item for FRCs and FRNs in the May 2019 Child Welfare Collaborative Meeting. • Andrea Darr shared a website meant to identify services available in all areas of the State and asked that any suggestions for services to include be e-mailed. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ go.wv.gov/helpmewv
4.	<p>Child Welfare Reform Updates</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Family First <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Laura Barno said she and Cammie Chapman have been traveling the State presenting on FFPSA, Coordinated Care Management (CCM), the SED waiver, and other child welfare reform initiatives. ○ Laura stated meetings are scheduled with federal partners for early adopters of FFPSA. ○ Cammie Chapman said she is writing legislative rules for child-placing and residential-treatment providers for FFPSA, and noted she will ask for stakeholder input soon. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Deputy Secretary Samples said an overview of rule changes will be provided in an upcoming Child Welfare Collaborative Meeting. ○ Laura said the final prevention Program Instructions (PI) as well as the clearinghouse is expected to be released in late April 2019.

- **SED Waiver**

- Commissioner Beane said the SED waiver will be released for public comment April 23, 2019. She specifically asked that stakeholders review Appendix C and provide feedback.
- Commissioner Beane said that the number of SED slots included in the waiver are estimates and may be amended.
 - Commissioner Beane stated 250 slots per year are reserved for children from Psychiatric Residential Treatment Facilities (PRTF) and congregate care settings.
- Commissioner Beane shared her concerns regarding a shortage in workforce and asked that providers consider offering waiver services.
 - Deputy Secretary Samples noted the aggressive expansion of children's services and suggested a separate meeting be held to discuss potential solutions to workforce shortages.

- **CCM**

- Jeff Wiseman said the public comment period is closed and shared that over 400 comments were received. He said DHHR has made revisions to the Request for Proposal (RFP) based on feedback and said responses to comments are planned to be released on April 30, 2019.
- Jeff stated that the plan is to release the RFP on June 1, 2019, with an award date in August 2019.
- A stakeholder voiced concern with the references to child welfare in the draft documents.
 - Jeff said the RFP solicits responses from vendors and should not be overly prescriptive. He said contract negotiations are inevitable.

- **CPS Workforce**

- Commissioner Watts said the Division of Personnel (DOP) approved a special hiring rate for CPS workers.
- Commissioner Watts said she is reviewing interview tools used by DHHR.
- Commissioner Watts said she is working with Casey Family Programs to build mid-level management training.
 - Steve Fairley asked what value Casey Family Programs brings to DHHR.

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Commissioner Watts said DHHR has a longstanding partnership with Casey Family Programs and shared that Casey Family Program’s goal is to assist States in their child welfare systems. ▪ Laura said Casey Family Programs offers technical, financial, and policy consulting as well as knowledge gained from working with other states. ○ Commissioner Watts said she continues to visit county offices, but is also creating an informative webinar to update staff on child welfare reform initiatives.
5.	<p>Solicitation of Suggested Statutory Changes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deputy Secretary Samples asked that as stakeholders identify areas for improvement within the child welfare system requiring a statutory change, stakeholders should share those suggestions with DHHR. He said legislators are committed to improving the child welfare system.
6.	<p>Open Discussion</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deputy Secretary Samples asked the group for topics for open discussion. • A stakeholder asked if any progress has been made in studying kinship care. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Deputy Secretary Samples said House Bill 2010 requires DHHR to conduct a study on kinship care. ○ Commissioner Watts stated she will present kinship care study results during the May 2019 Child Welfare Collaborative Meeting. She added that she is working toward having a practice model by October 2019. ○ ACTION ITEM: Commissioner Watts will present kinship care study results at the May 2019 Child Welfare Collaborative Meeting. • A stakeholder asked for an update on the ombudsman position. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Deputy Secretary Samples said he is working with the Office of Inspector General to determine specifications for the position. He added that he will ask the Inspector General to join a Child Welfare Collaborative Meeting to discuss the ombudsman office and its functionality once more information is available.

Item #	Topic and Description
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ ACTION ITEM: Inspector General Jolynn Marra will attend a future Child Welfare Collaborative meeting to discuss the status of the Foster Care Ombudsman office. ● A stakeholder asked for an update on the previously suggested foster parent sub-group meeting. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ ACTION ITEM: Deputy Secretary Samples will schedule a meeting with foster parents by the end of June 2019. ● A stakeholder suggested DHHR offer more transparency. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Deputy Secretary Samples said he is actively working with DHHR's communications unit to create a website for the group to share information, data, and documents. ○ Kent Nowviskie noted the West Virginia Office of Technology (WVOT) has stringent policies regarding the sharing of internal documents. ○ ACTION ITEM: Kent Nowviskie will update the group on the status and release date of the Child Welfare Collaborative website at the May meeting.
7.	<p>Next Steps</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● ACTION ITEM: BerryDunn will provide a Zoom web conference for the May 2019 Child Welfare Collaborative Meeting.