

<b>Meeting Title</b>	<b>Child Welfare Reform Collaborative</b>
<b>Date</b>	Tuesday, July 16, 2019
<b>Time and Location</b>	10:00 a.m. – noon in Davis Square, CR 134
<b>Attendees</b>	<p><b>Department of Health and Human Resources (DHHR):</b> Secretary Bill Crouch, Deputy Secretary Jeremiah Samples, Commissioner Linda Watts, Laura Barno, Jeff Wiseman, Kent Nowviskie, Jim Weekley, Amy Hymes, Janie Cole, Susan Richards</p> <p><b>Stakeholders:</b> Steve Tuck, Cindy Largent-Hill, Kelli Caseman, Jackie Columbia, Marissa Sanders, Dave Boim, Amelia Ferrell-Knisely, Jerry Roueche, Katherine Jenkins, Katrina Harmon, Jim McKay, Rachel Thaxton, Brenda Hoylmar, Amy Kennedy-Rickman, Frank Andrews, Jennifer Erin Sorrent, Kelli Caseman, Laura Engle, Tammie Rizzio, Janette Lewis, Lucretia Edge, Sam Hickman, Sharon Carte, Debi Gillespie, Betty Rivard, Melissa Laser</p> <p><b>BerryDunn:</b> Brady Birdsong, Annie Messinger</p>

### Agenda Items

<b>Item #</b>	<b>Topic and Description</b>	<b>Responsible</b>
1.	Welcome and Introductory Remarks	Jeremiah Samples
2.	Legislative Updates	Jeremiah Samples
3.	Child Welfare Reform Effort Updates	Jeremiah Samples
3.a.	Family First	Laura Barno
3.b.	Serious Emotional Disturbance (SED) Waiver	Cindy Beane
3.c.	Coordinated Care Management	Jeff Wiseman
3.d.	Child Protective Services (CPS) Workforce	Linda Watts
4.	Department of Justice (DOJ) Agreement Status	Jeremiah Samples
5.	Foster Family Survey	Kent Nowviskie/ Marissa Sanders
6.	Website Status	Kent Nowviskie
7.	Open Discussion/Other Issues	All

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8.	Next Steps	

### Meeting Notes

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1.	<p>Welcome and Introductory Remarks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Attendees introduced themselves in person and on the phone.</li> </ul>
2.	<p>Legislative Updates</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Deputy Secretary Samples said new legislative rules would be discussed during the next legislative session.</li> <li>Deputy Secretary Samples said DHHR recently received a question that was brought up to the Court Improvement Program (CIP) regarding guardian ad litem. He said the question came from the Senate. He said guardian ad litem are paid for by the Administration. He said DHHR will help but may not be able to control the situation regarding guardian ad litem.</li> <li>Steve Tuck said the Foster Care Ombudsman position has been posted and wondered whether any applications have been received. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Marissa Sanders said the position closed last Sunday.</li> <li>Deputy Secretary Samples said he is unaware at this time of the number of applications because of Cammie Chapman's absence, who is overseeing this aspect of House Bill 2010 (HB2010).</li> <li>Steve Tuck asked about the HB2010 requirement for a study on kinship care. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Commissioner Linda Watts said she presented a report from Second Chance, and will provide further updates later in the meeting under CPS Workforce.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> <li>Betty Rivard said Senators might implement some type of reform regarding guardians ad litem. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Deputy Secretary Samples said the topic comes up from time to time and came up during the last legislative session. He said questions came from the Senate side.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
3.	Child Welfare Reform Effort Updates
3.a.	<p>Family First</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Laura Barno said at the last Collaborative meeting, the Bureau for Children and Families (BCF) had just released the RFA for Qualified Residential Treatment Program (QRTP) beds. She said the scoring process is completed. Award</li> </ul>

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	<p>letters were sent later than planned because BCF had technical assistance (TA) to work through. She said BCF would offer 40 QRTP beds in Phase 1. She said award letters went out late last week.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Laura said BCF finally received the approved list of well-supported, supported, and promising services from the IV-E prevention services clearinghouse. She said the two kinship navigator services that the Administrative for Children and Families (ACF) reviewed were not included on the clearinghouse. She said neither service had enough evidence to be qualified as a “promising” practice.</li> <li>• Laura said BCF is excited to see several services on the clearinghouse not traditionally funded through Medicaid. She said additional services, such as Motivational Interviewing, are still under review.</li> <li>• Laura said Jerry Milner, Associate Commissioner at the federal Children’s Bureau, sent a letter to states about transition payments. Laura said the Children’s Bureau would have further direction soon. She said Casey Family Programs has been hosting phone calls on the issue. She said some states have decided to delay implementing Family First.</li> <li>• Laura said that Title IV-E will provide a 50% match for Family First prevention services funding. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Deputy Secretary Samples said Socially Necessary Services (SNS) would be managed the same way. He said DHHR is open to the idea of community collaborative services.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Laura said Parents as Teachers is on the clearinghouse list and states are still waiting for Healthy Families America currently under review. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ The group said Family Functional Therapy is for ages 12 and older, and not available for younger children.</li> <li>○ Laura said BCF is in communication with the Administration for Children and Families (ACF). She said BCF wants to expand the Safe at Home model for any age. She said Family First should not be in isolation, but rather as part of the overall reform that West Virginia is undergoing.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
3.b.	<p>Serious Emotional Disturbance (SED) Waiver</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Deputy Secretary Samples reported that 500 individuals will be served in the first year and 1,000 in the second year for community-based SED services in the state. Services are currently being provided for approximately 122 institutionalized youth.</li> <li>• Deputy Secretary Samples said the Centers for Medicare &amp; Medicaid Services (CMS) is currently reviewing the SED waiver, specifically the financial models. Anytime an agency engages in the waiver, significant questions arise. The updated waiver is available for public review. CMS has 90 days to review the</li> </ul>

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	<p>waiver as of June 14, 2019. Thus, DHHR expects to get a CMS response this fall. If approved, DHHR will start to assess children for program eligibility in October 2019 and services will become available January 2020.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• When asked about how the SED waiver would fit with the MCO and its utilization management (UM) of Socially Necessary Services (SNS), Deputy Secretary Samples said that he understands it may have caused some confusion. He said there are traditional Medicaid behavioral health services in the contract, which would be available to anyone in a managed care portfolio, but a separate piece in the contract for UM of SNS. He said the Managed Care Organization (MCO) would perform the same services today as KEPRO.</li> <li>• The group asked if eligibility criteria has changed. Deputy Secretary Samples said mandatory components of the contract were not changed, and did not change for those who might have applied.</li> </ul>
3.c.	<p>Coordinated Care Management</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• First touching on the Kinship Care issue, Commissioner Watts said over the years, staff with longevity have left. She is working with staff on the website content for the different programs. She said research is completed.</li> <li>• Commissioner Watts said she is drafting a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). She said she is talking with people in the Family Resource Network (FRN) to see how they can participate. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ The group asked how coordinated care would work with the local drug councils. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Commissioner Watts said the services would be conjoined together. She said once pulled together is when the service gaps will be identified.</li> </ul> </li> <li>○ Betty Rivard asked if the MCO would follow a basic system-of-care model. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Deputy Secretary Samples said prevention services and expanding school health are the focus. He said hopefully, the gaps and the areas of access would be able to be tracked more fluidly.</li> </ul> </li> <li>○ Deputy Secretary Samples said there is language in the contract that the MCO is working on with community stakeholders.</li> <li>○ Deputy Secretary Samples said that as part of the bid process, interested bidders must submit a plan for achieving those goals. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Commissioner Watts said the DOJ agreement is tied into the MCO. For example, she said as DHHR is in the process of</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> </ul>

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	<p>ensuring children are receiving services in the community-based environment, coordinated care will monitor once the child is ready to return to the community and the community liaison is involved. A trigger will be included to access congregate care services.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Deputy Secretary Samples said the MCO is contractually obligated to ensure the child has access to services.</li> <li>▪ Deputy Secretary Samples said when children are successfully reunited with the family; the child is not necessarily out of State custody.</li> </ul> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Commissioner Watts said the MCO would be responsible for providing information on the child's case in conjunction with the State. The MCO would be required to involve the Multi-disciplinary Team (MDT). For necessary cases, the State will be able to bring in a certain level of expertise that may not have existed previously.</li> <li>• The group asked about the role of the foster care families in the MDT process. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Commissioner Watts said families would be heard in the court setting. She said she anticipates the legislature will take up those issues again.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Betty Rivard asked about Phase I and conducting interviews with MDT stakeholders. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Commissioner Watts said for Phase I, almost all counties would be covered and would expand to education, jails, and attorneys.</li> <li>○ Commissioner Watts said Phase I would take several more months to be comprehensive.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Deputy Secretary Samples said vendors would be responsible for laying out how they will be staffed and engage with the State. He said the deadline extended to January 2020 and there's no indication that the State will not meet the deadline.</li> </ul>
3.d.	<p>CPS Workforce</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Commissioner Watts said in light of high staff turnover, BCF is using any mechanism to hire, such as job fairs. She said BCF has a good process with the Office of Human Resources Development. She said the Division of Personnel (DOP) serves as a liaison for hiring for CPS. She said BCF has received approval for new CPS coordinator and CPS Worker Senior positions. She said BCF is also focusing on management and supervision training. She said BCF has started to fill the Coordinator role, with four positions posted thus far. Nine senior positions have been posted, and will be tasked with mentoring new staff. Moving forward, she said BCF would really focus on caseloads and</li> </ul>

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	<p>ways to support staff, such as additional coaching. She said overall, BCF is trying to get staff hired and keep them, if CPS is their desired career path.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Commissioner Watts said in May, BCF had a second supervisory reflection session with Casey Family Programs. She said supervisors wanted more training on trauma issues and ways to help their staff. She said efforts continue to grow mid-level management skills. She said travel issues are on the rise and BCF is breaking barriers with Finance to make travel easier for staff. She said BCF is working to return the credit cards to rental cars for staff convenience.</li> <li>• Commissioner Watts said over the years, regions would come to the rescue to help other regions with caseload backlogs when high staff turnover occurred. She said when Region III needed help; other regions took referrals and sent staff over to help alleviate the backlog. She said BCF is looking at the continuation of maintaining staff. She said when a worker leaves; he or she leaves a caseload. She said in December 2018, BCF started a strategic plan, and is working on the draft. She said BCF is hopeful to not have backlogs occur again.             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Marisa Sanders asked how BCF is helping to prevent caseload backlogging for the regions that are helping. Commissioner Watts said BCF is watching the logs closely. She said BCF has 14 crisis staff as floaters who travel statewide.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Commissioner Watts said Casey Family Programs provided a Kinship Navigator grant report at the last meeting. At the time, Casey Family Programs was not able to continue funding, so BCF worked with Casey to have award a grant to A Second Chance to continue the work. She said staff have asked for recommendations for the kinship foster care model. She said BCF is researching what other states are doing. She said Kendra Boley-Rogers is working with Casey on timelines. She said recommendation reports would be ready by October 1, 2019.             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Steve asked if Commissioner Watts has an idea what the recommendations will be.                 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Commissioner Watts said she doesn't at this time.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> <li>• Commissioner Watts said Casey looked at timeframes for kinship home studies, also tied in with SNS. She said Delaware was on the federal call yesterday. Delaware actually has a different model or program for kinship. She said Kendra would work with the people from Second Chance on kinship.</li> <li>• Commissioner Watts said the target population is mainly for children in kinship foster care to ensure they have access to life domain resources, such as</li> </ul>

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	<p>school, medical care, providers, and Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnosis and Treatment (EPSDT).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Commissioner Watts said unless the child is in custody, the state may be underserving the families. She said if BCF can help families identify the needs early on and get children and family linked to the right resources, then families would receive the appropriate services.</li> <li>● Commissioner Watts said if a child is in State custody, the child would be currently be under the fee-for service Medicaid model. She said if a family needs to support a child with behavioral health issues, then BCF would be responsible for helping the family receive proper care.</li> <li>● Commissioner Watts said the recommendation report will help the State understand better.</li> <li>● Better Rivard asked about a workforce task group as part of the Collaborative. Kent Nowviskie said a Collaborative sub-workgroup focusing on workforce issues is being activated. He said he has received four names thus far and asked stakeholders to contact him with more recommendations.</li> </ul>
4.	<p>Department of Justice (DOJ) Agreement Status</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Due to Cammie Chapman's absence, Deputy Secretary Samples provided the DOJ update. He said DHHR entered into agreement with the DOJ in May 2019 in response to a 2015 DOJ investigation. He said the agreement is unprecedented. He said the State had made progress in the past few years since 2015. He said U.S. Attorney Mike Stuart helped facilitate the discussions with the DOJ.</li> <li>● Deputy Secretary Samples said in essence, DHHR committed to preventing children with severe mental health needs from being institutionalized by increasing the number of home settings and community-based services. He said DHHR is committed to the reducing number of children in congregate care by the end of 2022 and is responsible for a 25% reduction of children (or 722 children) in congregate care.</li> <li>● Deputy Secretary Samples said DHHR must provide the DOJ a report semi-annually. He said ongoing conversations occur more frequently than semi-annually. He said one advantage of the agreement is that the DOJ is now committed to helping the State work through issues with other federal agencies.</li> <li>● Deputy Secretary Samples said DOJ agreed to the SED waiver as a component of the agreement. He said in 2015, the State had 1,030 children in care or an institutional setting, representing 22% of children in custody. He said in 2019, 1,023 of 7,095 children were in institutional care. He said the mitigation</li> </ul>

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	<p>of growth of placement in an institutional setting was due to the explosion of the opioid crisis.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Deputy Secretary Samples said DHHR has an upcoming meeting with the DOJ to review a draft Implementation Plan (IP), which must be drafted within 120 days of May 14, 2019, when the agreement was signed. He said the IP includes a Quality Assurance (QA) Improvement system to help facilitate the delivery of information to DOJ and allows DOJ to monitor DHHR's progress. The date of implementation is October 1, 2020. He said by December 31, 2024, any child in a mental health facility must have been assessed and in the best possible setting for his/her needs.</li> <li>Deputy Secretary Samples said the Department of Military Affairs and Public Safety (DMAPS) and Department of Education (DOE) are both signatories of the agreement, along with DHHR. He said DOJ is looking at children who may be in school or mental health services during school period, as well as children in detention. He said the DOJ terminology was "congregate care," which WV typically refers to as "residential care". He said in 2017, West Virginia was 10<sup>th</sup> in the country for children in congregate care. He said the goal is to get more children into less restrictive environments. He said SED and Safe at Home focus on less restrictive environments for custodial children.</li> <li>Deputy Secretary Samples said the group would have to work together. He said there is no path set for the State. He said he is optimistic the State is starting to head in the right direction.</li> <li>Frank Andrews suggested a briefing on the agreement at the next meeting of the Commission to Study the Residential Placement of Children.</li> <li>Laura Barno reported the Bureau for Behavioral Health (BBH) currently has two Announcements of Funding Availability (AFA) for Crisis Mobile Response and Children's Mental Health Wraparound. She said the responses were scored two weeks ago and BBH is in the process of sending awards. She said there was a good statewide response, at least for Children's Wraparound.</li> </ul>
5.	<p>Foster Family Survey</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Kent Nowwiskie said DHHR is working with Marissa Sanders and the Network to survey foster and adoptive families on the most important issues. He said the survey would also solicit feedback on the ways families would like to establish regular communication with DHHR leadership.</li> <li>Marissa Sanders said the survey is close to ready either this week or next week. She said the survey was primarily written by foster parents in her network. Topics include how supported families feel, retention, how to engage</li> </ul>



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	<p>DHHR leadership, how well foster parents feel heard, as well as collecting basic demographic information.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Kent talked about distributing the survey among the foster care agencies. The group suggested an announcement on the internet.</li> </ul>
6.	<p>Website Status</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Kent Nowiskie said West Virginia Interactive and the Governor's Media Hub are building out a website just for this group, to appear on its own domain, which will be childwelfare.wv.gov. He said that the website is targeted for go-live in September and will contain a schedule and repository of notes from the Collaborative meetings, a comprehensive calendar of child welfare-related events statewide, a repository for reports and data, and updates/FAQs on the major child welfare reform efforts underway in WV. He said the website would also contain info on the status of the State's compliance with the DOJ agreement.</li> <li>• Kent said the goal is to increase transparency. He said anyone may submit questions to him about the website.</li> <li>• Kent said the site will also contain a repository of links and that as the release date gets closer he will put out a call for recommended links via the Collaborative listserv.</li> </ul>
7.	<p>Open Discussion/Other Issues</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Deputy Secretary Samples said there is a request for a breakdown of Child Welfare expenditures, as well as instructions on how to categorize the expenditures.</li> <li>• Commissioner Watts provided an update on family treatment court pilots. She said the pilots are similar to drug court hearings. She said there is a team of staff, including a CPS worker, who provide case management for treatment in the home with the parents present. She said a statewide advisory group is developing the vision and mission statements and is meeting regularly with a goal to implement family treatment on October 1, 2019. She said the teams are at training in Washington, DC.</li> <li>• Jim McKay asked about reduced funding for FRNs. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Deputy Secretary Samples said staff from FRNs and Family Resource Centers (FRCs) gave a presentation to DHHR a few weeks ago and are about to present to the legislature next week.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
8.	<p>Next Steps</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Deputy Secretary Samples said meeting invitees should reach out if interested in being included on the next meeting's agenda.</li> </ul>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li data-bbox="410 338 873 373">• The meeting adjourned at noon.</li></ul>