

Meeting Title	Child Welfare Reform Collaborative Meeting
Date	Tuesday, October 22, 2019
Time and Location	10:00 a.m. to noon in CR134 at Davis Square
Attendees	<p>Department of Health and Human Resources (DHHR): Deputy Secretary Jeremiah Samples, Commissioner Cindy Beane, Commissioner Christina Mullins, Commissioner Linda Watts, Laura Barno, Jeff Wiseman, Kent Nowviskie, Tony Richards, Cammie Chapman, Jean Krantz, Katie Moss, Nikki Tennis, Sarah Sanders, Jeff Wiseman, Jim Weekley, Jessica Holstein, Laura Hunt</p> <p>Stakeholders: Cindy Largent-Hill, Marissa Sanders, Katrina Harmon, Brenda Hoylman, Amy Kennedy-Rickman, Betty Rivard, Frank Andrews, Melanie Plumley, Rachel Kinder, Will Lawrence, Lauren Fredrick, Tanya Hutchinson, Angie Hamilton, Steve Fairley, Lisa McMullin, Melissa Laster, Joan Ohl, Melissa McIntire, Sharon Carte, Kelly Thompson, Sam Hickman, Sharon Carte, Andrea Darr, Kelly Caseman, Brenda Hoylman, Jessica Mann, Barb Mallory, Jerry Roueche, Tammy Rizzio, Michel Smith, Kelly Nicely, Kathy Szafran, Gabe Conley, Margaret O'Neal, Samantha Riska, Jackie Columbia, Senator Patricia Rucker, Kelly Caseman, Tammie Rizzio</p> <p>BerryDunn: Brady Birdsong, Courtney Rombow, Lauren McTear</p> <p>Media: Amelia Ferrell Knisely</p>

Agenda Items

Item #	Topic and Description	Responsible
1.	Welcome and Introductory Remarks	Jeremiah Samples
2.	Mission WV: The Bridge	Kelly Thompson
3.	Public Health Analysis of Children in Foster Care 2017	Christina Mullins
4.	Child Welfare Reform Effort Updates <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Family First • Children with Serious Emotional Disorders Waiver (CSEDW) • Coordinated Care Management • Child Welfare Workforce 	Jeremiah Samples
5.	Department of Justice (DOJ) Agreement Status	Jeremiah Samples

Item #	Topic and Description	Responsible
6.	Foster/Adoptive Parent Survey	Kent Nowviskie
7.	Open Discussion/Other Issues	All
8.	Next Steps	All

Action Items

- ~~Kent Nowviskie will send the Public Health Analysis of Children in Foster Care PowerPoint to the Child Welfare Collaborative meeting group.~~
- ~~Kent Nowviskie will share link to the Foster/Adoptive Parent Survey with the Child Welfare Collaborative meeting group. (complete)~~

Meeting Notes

Item #	Topic and Description
1.	Welcome and Introductory Remarks
2.	<p>Mission WV: The Bridge</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kelly Thompson explained Mission WV's programs, specifically The Bridge, Framework, and THINK. • Kelly said The Bridge provides academic support for youth in out-of-home placements at risk of aging out of the foster care system. She said the program is currently available exclusively in Clay County and provides one-on-one mentoring, advocacy, post-secondary education planning, academic mentoring, assistance with credit recovery and college funding, and tutoring resources. Kelly said supplemental items to support basic needs, scholarships, family expenses, and extracurricular activities meant to normalize youth's educational experience are also provided. Kelly said one paid, part-time mentor averages a caseload of 28 – 33. • Kelly highlighted the positive outcomes found through the program. She noted the current wait list and said currently school counselors refer individuals to the program. Kelly said the average cost per student is \$1,500 per year. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Frank Andrews said the program is very successful, but needs more attention and funding. ○ A stakeholder said McKinney Vento funding might be a viable option to explore. ○ Tony Richards suggested exploring funding through after-school programs.

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Kelly said ideally youth on the wait list in Clay County would be served before expanding the program, but expansion based on county need is the goal.
3.	<p>Public Health Analysis of Children in Foster Care 2017</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Commissioner Christina Mullins shared a preview of the analysis and explained that the complete presentation will be shared at Legislative Oversight Commissioner on Health and Human Resource Accountability (LOCHHRA) in November 2019. ● Commissioner Mullins reviewed the PowerPoint, noting the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ West Virginia's foster care rate is above the national rate, which can be attributed to the opioid epidemic. ○ The analysis included all children who spent one or more days in foster care in 2017. ○ Children under five years of age are disproportionately placed into care. ○ Drug abuse and neglect are the most common removal reasons. Drug abuse alone is not a sufficient removal reason. ○ Children and youth are most likely to enter care at the start of the school year, between August and October. ○ Mothers in foster care are less likely to receive pre-natal care in the first trimester. ○ It is important to implement repeated outreach during the prenatal period. ○ One in 10 children interacted with a public health prevention program prior to removal, with that number rising to 1 in 5 post-removal. ○ It is vital to increase referrals and utilization of prevention programs. ○ There is a strong opportunity for healthcare providers to identify at-risk children prior to entry onto foster care. ○ Over half of children and youth in the analysis were eligible for Medicaid prior to placement. ● Commissioner Mullins explained the Drug-Free Moms and Babies program that integrates obstetrical care and substance use disorder (SUD) treatment. ● Commissioner Mullins explained that as individuals step down in detox to a level 3.5 or below, it becomes appropriate for families to be together. She highlighted a project under development in which both parents could

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	<p>participate in the same SUD program, with parents residing in different wings of the building along with their children.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sharon Carte asked if the Managed Care Organization (MCO) will have elements built into the contract to measure children at risk of abuse and neglect. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Deputy Secretary Samples said the goal is to develop a predictive model to prevent removal. • Marissa Sanders asked how many SUD treatment facilities for families currently exist. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Commissioner Mullins said about 10. • ACTION ITEM: Kent Nowvickie will send the Public Health Analysis of Children in Foster Care PowerPoint to the Child Welfare Collaborative meeting group. • Betty Rivard asked how kinship families fit into the SUD recovery model. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Commissioner Mullins said the model is conceptualized as a parent-child model. ○ Deputy Secretary Samples said a separate kinship study will be presented by Commissioner Watts at LOCHHRA and a future Child Welfare Collaborative meeting. • Betty asked if current Mountain Health Trust (MHT) vendors can offer Medicaid-reimbursable prevention services prior to the onboarding of the specialized MCO. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Jeff said there is opportunity with MHT providers to improve the frequency of well-child visits to avoid children becoming at-risk. He said an ongoing MHT procurement will more heavily focus on social determinants of health (SDoH).
4.	<p>Child Welfare Reform Effort Updates</p> <p>Family First</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Laura Barno said DHHR has submitted the Title IV-E State Plan Amendment (SPA) to comply with the Family First Prevention Services Act (FFPSA). She said she has received comments from the Administration for Children and Families (ACF). • Laura said the five-year prevention plan is in draft form under review by the legal team. She said federal response to other states has been slow, and she noted that Jerry Milner is reviewing all prevention plans to help ensure consistency. She said other states have received comments questioning the ability to ensure fidelity. Laura said the goal is to submit the prevention plan

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	<p>by the end of the month, and once the plan is approved, DHHR can claim retroactively.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Laura explained the federal legislation titled the FFPSA Transition Act, which allows the continuation of Title IV-E funding, the 50% spend on well-supported services to be waived over a three-year period, and provides states with the funding to develop prevention programs. She said the funds would be allocated based on population, with 3.5 million dollars allocated to West Virginia. <p>CSEDW</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Commissioner Cynthia Beane said the waiver continues to progress. She said Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) has to approve the MCO and CSEDW at same time, but permission to publish policy ahead of approval has been granted. Commissioner Beane said she anticipates the waiver will be out for public comment in November, and she said Kent Nowviskie will notify the Child Welfare Collaborative meeting group once opened for comment. She noted although the planned effective date is January 1, 2020, a soft rollout for eligibility will begin prior to January. Deputy Secretary Samples said the CSEDW will be available to all children who meet eligibility, and the initiative will mark the largest expansion in services in many years. Commissioner Beane noted all individuals who qualify for CSEDW will be in specialized MCO. Commissioner Beane said the number of waiver slots available is subject to expand as needed. <p>Coordinated Care Management</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Jeff Wiseman said the team has completed the evaluation of the procurement. He said an award recommendation was made and will be announced pending the Division of Personnel (DOP) approval. Jeff noted questions from CMS have been received and responses are due back by November 1, 2019. <p>Child Welfare Workforce</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Commissioner Watts said she has seen some slowing in turnover. She said the Bureau for Children and Families (BCF) has upgraded some positions and lowered caseloads. She also noted DHHR's request for additional positions. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Deputy Secretary Samples noted that DHHR has also requested "on call" pay for off-hours work.

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commissioner Watts said she is working with Marshall University, which has become the Center of Excellence for the Child and Adolescent Needs and Strengths (CANS) and the Functional Assessment Screening Tool (FAST). • Commissioner Watts highlighted the newly established pay differential of 20% (plus compression for tenured workers) in the eastern panhandle (Berkley, Morgan, and Jefferson counties). She explained the significant loss of experienced personnel due to bordering states' higher pay. • Betty Rivard highlighted the need for additional workers in Berkley County for family drug courts. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Commissioner Watts said she will reach out to the council to discuss.
5.	<p>DOJ Agreement Status</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cammie Chapman said DOJ comments on the DOJ Implementation Plan (IP) were received on October 16, 2019. • Cammie said the University of Maryland School of Social Work – Institution for Innovation and Implementation was awarded the subject matter expert (SME) position outlined in the agreement. • Cammie said BerryDunn is offering project management to DHHR for the implementation of the DOJ agreement.
6.	<p>Foster/Adoptive Parent Survey</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kent Nowviskie explained the survey created in collaboration with Marshall University and the Foster and Adoptive Parents Network. He said the survey has been distributed to child placing agencies, but he encouraged participation from all applicable parties. Kent noted the survey's closing date of November 18, 2019. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ ACTION ITEM: Kent Nowviskie will share link to the Foster/Adoptive Parent Survey with the Child Welfare Collaborative meeting group.
7.	<p>Open Discussion/Other Issues</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deputy Secretary Samples said the Office of the Inspector General (OIG) has selected an ombudsman who is planned to onboard November 8, 2019. He said the ombudsman may participate in the November Child Welfare Collaborative meeting. He said funding for additional positions is not available currently, but a request for additional funding has been submitted. • Barb Mallory explained West Virginia's 2-1-1 information and referral hotline. She said the program has undergone recent reform and asked the group to spread the word.

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Frank Andrews asked Cammie Chapman if the finalization of the DOJ agreement is expected to be delayed. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Cammie said the public comment will occur once DOJ and DHHR have agreed on the IP. She said at that point, she will share the IP with the Child Welfare Collaborative meeting group. Cammie noted once the IP is finalized, it becomes the terms and conditions (T&C) of the agreement. • Betty Rivard asked for an update on the Multi-Disciplinary Team (MDT) study. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Brenda Hoylman said data is being collected. She said the goal is to complete and distribute the study by the end of November 2019. • Kent Nowviskie stated that a workforce subgroup is being created to work on reform efforts and enhance the workforce outside of DHHR. He asked that anyone interested in being involved contact him.
8.	Next Steps