

Meeting Title	Child Welfare Collaborative Meeting
Date	Monday, November 16, 2020
Time and Location	1:30 – 3:30 p.m. Zoom Only
Meeting Facilitator	Kent Nowviskie from the Deputy Secretary's Office

Agenda Items

Item #	Topic and Description	Responsible
1.	Welcome	Kent Nowviskie
2.	Update on Children's Mobile Crisis Response	Nikki Tennis
3.	Update and Q&A Panel on the Agreement Between West Virginia (the State) and United States Department of Justice (DOJ)	Cammie Chapman/ Haley Van Erem
4.	Child Welfare Reform Effort Updates <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Family First Prevention Services Act (FFPSA) – Laura Barno • Children with Serious Emotional Disorder (CSED) Waiver – Commissioner Cindy Beane • Coordinated Care Management (CCM) – Commissioner Beane • Child and Protective Services (CPS) Workforce – Commissioner Linda Watts 	
5.	Open Discussion	All
6.	Next Steps	All

Action Items

- **Kent Nowviskie will send the listserv the CSED waiver rate increases for January 1, 2021, with the Collaborative notes.**
- **Commissioner Linda Watts will check with Chief Information Officer (CIO) Shaun Charles about a report of families in transition from WVCHIP to the MCO.**
- **Kent Nowviskie will include an update on the People's Access to Help (PATH) system with the Collaborative notes.**

Meeting Notes

Item #	Topic and Description
1.	<p>Welcome</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Kent Nowvieskie welcomed attendees.
2.	<p>Update on Children's Mobile Crisis Response</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nikki Tennis presented a mobile crisis response slide deck and began with a history of managed care in the State. The Bureau for Behavioral Health (BBH) released an announcement of funding availability (AFA) for mobile crisis response in BBH's six regions. Mobile crisis response will soon be available statewide once the provider in the eastern panhandle is officially on board. The purpose of mobile crisis response is to help children stay in their home and school communities and to prevent out-of-home placement. Mobile crisis will respond to calls within an hour on average. At the very least, parents will be contacted immediately if geographical constraints prevent on-site arrival within an hour (on-site visits are not required and are the parents' choice). BBH will work with the Regional Clinical Coordinator (RCC) to seek the necessary agencies and community services to meet the family's needs. URL: https://dhhr.wv.gov/bhbf/Sections/programs/ProgramsPartnerships/ChildandAdolescent/Documents/MobileCrisisStatewide.pdf There is no minimum age for mobile crisis response. BBH's crisis referral line provides easier access to community-based services for children and families. The line is funded by a federal System of Care (SOC) grant from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Service Administration (SAMHSA). The referral line vendor First Choice stays on the line with the family until the family is linked with a stabilization team. URL: www.help4wv.com/ccl / Phone: 1-844-435-7498 Contact information will be on the Collaborative website (https://childwelfare.wv.gov/). Outreach and communications teams are working on distributing information to families. Roxanne Chaney is BBH's new lead family coordinator under the SOC grant. BBH conducted a families' survey in the spring, which provided feedback on how families prefer to receive communication. During the pandemic, the primary response from families is to use social media to communicate. Question: Will judges be provided with these resources and will they be able to use these services instead of placement? Will there be any efforts to encourage judges to use these instead?

Item #	Topic and Description
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ BBH communicates with and updates judges during Court Improvement Program (CIP) meetings. Also, there was a recent guardian ad litem (GAL) training this week. Lastly, the foster care ombudsman shares great information on resources, including the referral line.
3.	<p>Update and Q&A Panel on the Agreement Between the State and DOJ</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The State is just over a year into its implementation plan. The State signed the Agreement in May 2019 and agreed to expand services to be accessible and sustainable statewide. • The implementation plan is being revised this season with a goal to be finalized by January 2021. • The State is working to ensure that families who need wraparound services are able to receive services in the easiest possible way. The CSED waiver began March 1, 2020. BBH wraparound services expanded statewide. The Bureau for Children and Families (BCF) continues to serve Safe at Home West Virginia (SAH) to children who meet the requirement despite the waiver expiring October 1, 2019. • BCF is remodeling Therapeutic Foster Care (TFC) and how the Department of Health and Human Resources (DHHR) can serve foster children with TFC as an alternative to being placed in a residential mental health treatment facility (RMHTF). • DHHR continues to work with Assertive Community Treatment (ACT) for young adults with a serious emotional disorder who may benefit from this service to transition to adulthood. • With help from West Virginia University (WVU) and ICF, DHHR is able to evaluate the system and is developing an evaluation plan. DHHR aims to present the plan at the next Collaborative meeting in 2021. The plan measures whether DHHR is asking the right questions and using the right data sources to meet the goal of building a healthy children's mental health system. • Per the Agreement, DHHR has a target of reducing the number of children placed in a RMHTF to 822 children by December 31, 2022. • Recently, the DOJ and DHHR agreed to set a target of 35% reduction, or 712 children, in RMHTF placement by December 31, 2024. • As of October 31, 2020, there were 822 children placed in a RMHTF. Of those children, 12 children were parentally placed. • Haley Van Erem, Beth Kurtz, and Sue Mortensen represented the DOJ on the call and were excited about the State's programs, initiatives, and long-term system reform. Amid the pandemic in the last year, the State is building the foundation toward reaching the goals of the Agreement. • Email for Haley Van Erem at the DOJ: haley.vanerem@usdoj.gov

Item #	Topic and Description
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Haley said the State is presenting community-based options to the court and is increasing education among other stakeholders who make decisions on the children's needs. • Cammie Chapman said there are tools to reach out to stakeholders and CIP communication so judges are aware of all the services in their communities. • Question: Where is the State on reducing the number of children sent to out-of-state facilities? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The State continually works to reduce out-of-state placement. The Agreement does not specify in- or out-of-state placements. ○ On October 31, 2020, 285 of the 822 children in RMHTFs were out of state, which decreased since earlier in the year. ○ DHHR continues to work with in-state providers to serve as many children as possible. • Question: Regarding TFC, what does our research say about how the pilot has been effective in the State, and what aspects of it have been most effective? How have we engaged birth and foster families to learn what they need in order to keep children in their homes? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The State will research the question and respond. • Question: What is the plan for expansion beyond mobile crisis response? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ DHHR is expanding services such as wraparound and ACT to serve more children and young adults. • Question: How have investments in foster family care and in-state group care contributed to reducing pressure on the higher end residential treatment placements? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Working with foster families and increasing TFC will reduce the stress of RMHTFs so that children with higher needs may be served in RMHTFs, in state, when they cannot be served in their community.
4.	<p>Child Welfare Reform Effort Updates</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Family First Prevention Services Act (FFPSA) – Laura Barno <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The Administration on Children and Families (ACF) approved DHHR's five-year prevention plan on September 14, 2020. ○ Next, DHHR's cost allocation plan needs to be approved before receiving claiming. ○ Socially Necessary Services (SNS) providers use Parents as Teachers, which is in the current payment and claiming structures. SNS providers will have simple modifications in order to receive funding payments.

Item #	Topic and Description
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Non-SNS providers have received a new application to complete in order to move forward as soon as the cost allocation plan is approved after January 1, 2021. ○ Question: Is there a mechanism outside of SNS for a community-based provider to offer FFPSA? ○ Question: Is there a flier or slide deck that can be used to share information about the prevention plan and updates to community partners through the Collaborative? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The prevention plan is available on the Collaborative website (https://childwelfare.wv.gov/). ▪ FFPSA is only available to families being served by CPS or Youth Services (YS). ● CSED Waiver – Commissioner Cindy Beane <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ CSED began March 1, 2020, at the start of the pandemic. The program promoted in-person care but then social distancing started. ○ The Bureau for Medical Services (BMS) will increase waiver rates starting January 1, 2021, with the hope to increase the number of CSED providers. ○ BMS has 75 active participants approved for the program. Of those, 30 are on hold because they are currently placed in a psychiatric residential treatment facility (PRTF) or RMHTF. As soon as a child is discharged from placement, community-based programs will be ready to serve and help prevent placement back into the facility. ○ ACTION ITEM: Kent Nowviskie will send the listserv the CSED waiver rate increases for January 1, 2021, with the Collaborative notes. ○ Transportation rates fluctuate with gas prices. ● CCM – Commissioner Beane <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The number of out-of-state placements decreased by 33 between September and October 2020. ○ BMS is making sure children are receiving screenings with their physicians and is relying on care managers to help. ○ BMS is starting CSED trainings for judges again through CIP. ○ Question: Some families new to the waiver are confused about who to call to get a provider. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ If already part of the waiver, the family has a case/care manager. ▪ If the family is in the application process, Aetna care manager Jen Eva can help the families (evaj@aetna.com). ▪ BMS' CSED case manager can help as well.

Item #	Topic and Description
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The foster care ombudsman contacts the care managers to promote their involvement with workers, as well as the GALs and multi-disciplinary teams (MDTs). ○ CSED case managers are from the providers and are separate from the MCO. • CPS Workforce – Commissioner Linda Watts <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ In 2017, the DHHR cabinet secretary committed to workforce recruitment and retention. The last legislative session approved 82 new BCF positions. ○ On-call pay will be implemented in January 2021. BCF is drafting policy. ○ Supervisors received a 5% increase in September 2020. ○ BCF awarded 43 CPS senior positions. CPS seniors will mentor workers to help retain workers. ○ Additionally, BCF will be able to provide incentives to individuals with social worker licensure. ○ Question: In relation to the earlier statement about kids being court-ordered to residential settings, could someone with the court system set up a dashboard to see how many cases a quarter get referred? The subject matter expert (SME) of the Agreement suggested the need to see more accountability measures in various system settings. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ This question will be forwarded to CIP. ○ Question: Is BCF looking at a career ladder for Youth Services or Adult Protective Services (APS)? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ APS is the first step of BCF’s career ladder. Social service workers come next. Youth Services are included with CPS. ○ On-call pay is offered in several states. DHHR will offer \$25 per evening. Each district is setting up a schedule and working with centralized intake. On-call pay will be offered after January 1, 2021, and just to CPS for now. ○ Question: Are there any opportunities to send social work students to field offices for internships rather than just Title IV-E students? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Please contact Commissioner Linda Watts or Deputy Commissioners Tanny O’Connell or Tina Mitchell.
5.	<p>Open Discussion</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BCF’s Comprehensive Assessment Planning System (CAPS) for qualified residential treatment programs (QRTP) was released in January 2020. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Payments for children in care have happened smoothly. The structure, licensure rules, and policy were approved. • Question: Since the RFP for foster family care was withdrawn, what are the plans to meet the mandate for performance-based contracts?

Item #	Topic and Description
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The next step will be for BCF to issue a request for information (RFI), working with agencies to gather more information. ○ Stakeholder meetings are open to more people than just vendors. ○ Any questions or concerns can be submitted to Commissioner Watts. ● Question: As the 2021 Legislative session approaches, does DHHR have any specific initiatives they will be working with lawmakers on that can be shared here? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ None. DHHR hopes for an opportunity to build on what has occurred over the last two legislative sessions. ● Question: Any general update on what is going on with kinship care services at the State level? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Two years ago, BCF worked with Casey Family Programs, who provided recommendations. In the second year, BCF developed gold standards for kinship placement for foster care families to reduce time to certify homes and provide incentive for kinship relatives. Many are older and on fixed incomes. ● Question: Any update regarding the University of Maryland's performance evaluation of the DOJ Agreement? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ DHHR received the second semi-annual report in June 2020, which is on the Collaborative website. ○ The next semi-annual report is anticipated for January 2021 and will be publicized on the same website. ● Question: Any idea what percent of kinship families are getting a navigator? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ DHHR is tracking the number of cases per region per quarter. ● Question: Does DHHR have information about the West Virginia Children's Health Insurance Program (WVCHIP) changeover to the managed care organization (MCO)? Specifically, what is the deadline for families to make that selection? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Families should be making the decisions now. Transitions are going smoothly, and there are no delays in payments of which BMS is aware. ○ WVCHIP Director Jean Kranz can provide more details as necessary. ○ ACTION ITEM: Commissioner Linda Watts will check with Chief Information Officer (CIO) Shaun Charles about a report of families in transition from WVCHIP to the MCO. ● Question: Can DHHR provide an update on the switch to the new system? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ ACTION ITEM: Kent Nowvskie will include an update on the People's Access to Help (PATH) system with the Collaborative notes.
6.	<p>Next Steps</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Questions? Email Kent Nowvskie or childwelfare@wv.gov.

Item #	Topic and Description
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Visit the new Child Welfare Collaborative website for updated information (https://childwelfare.wv.gov/).