

Meeting Title	Child Welfare Reform Collaborative Meeting
Date	Wednesday, December 18, 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, Kent Nowviskie, Tony Richards, Jean Kranz, Nikki Tennis, Jim Weekley, Deputy Commissioner Janie Cole, Fred Lewis, Keith King, Secretary Bill Crouch</p> <p>Stakeholders: Pamela Woodman-Kaehler, Rachel Kinder, Sam Hickman, Brenda Hoylman, Gabe Conley, Sue Mortensen (DOJ), Haley Van Erem (DOJ), Ryan Wilson (DOJ), Amy Rickman, Melody Plumley, Delegate Terri Funk Sypolt, Frank Andrews, J. Columbia, Melinda Danko, Scott Inghram, Jo Dee Gottlieb, C. Cline, Jacki Englehardt, Katrina Szilaj, Tammie Rizzio, Steve Tuck, Katrina Harmon, Andrea Darr, Jerry Rouche, Betty Rivard, Jim McKay</p> <p>BerryDunn: Brady Birdsong, Courtney Rombow, Sarah Abbott</p>

Agenda Items

Item #	Topic and Description	Responsible
1.	Welcome and Introductory Remarks	Jeremiah Samples
2.	Introduction to the Office of the Foster Care Ombudsman	Pamela Woodman-Kaehler
3.	Kinship Care Study Recommendations	Linda Watts
4.	West Virginia (WV) Bureau for Behavioral Health: Initiatives for Children and Families	Christina Mullins/ Nikki Tennis
5.	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 	DHHR
6.	Department of Justice (DOJ) Agreement Status	Cammie Chapman
7.	Open Discussion/Other Issues	All
8.	Next Steps	All

Meeting Notes

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1.	Welcome and Introductory Remarks
2.	<p>Introduction to the Office of the Foster Care Ombudsman</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pamela Woodman-Kaehler introduced herself. She said she is happy to serve in the new Foster Care Ombudsman role in West Virginia. She is a DHHR-certified foster/adoptive parent and was a Child Protective Services (CPS) worker for four years. She also served as the state coordinator for the federally mandated Citizen Review Panel for years and has experience as a healthcare administrator for outpatient services. She has a master's degree in social work. Pamela said she has adopted eight children from the West Virginia foster care system. • Pamela said that as the Foster Care Ombudsman, she will serve as an independent and impartial public defender to investigate and advocate for foster children and parents, including investigating complaints filed on behalf of the foster child or parent; monitoring legislation, regulations, and policies related to foster care; and establishing a statewide uniform reporting system to analyze complaint data. She will help foster children and parents learn how to work within often-complex systems and provide resources and assistance. Her office is housed within the Office of Inspector General (OIG). • Pamela said her next step is to develop actionable steps and goals for implementing a robust and scalable program design. She noted a case management system will be necessary, as well as community and stakeholder relations. • A stakeholder asked if the Office of the Foster Care Ombudsman will produce reports. • Pamela responded that her office will produce quarterly and annual reports, as well as ad hoc reports for stakeholders.
3.	<p>Kinship Care Study Recommendations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commissioner Linda Watts explained that the Kinship Care Study has been an initiative over multiple years, in partnership with Casey Family Programs, to study West Virginia's kinship relative foster care model and how the state could improve program, practice, and communications. • Commissioner Watts said the Bureau for Children and Families (BCF) manages 2,679 homes on a day-to-day basis. She said BCF is looking into regional pilots of the study's recommendations, followed by statewide implementation, such as potentially linking kinship relatives to more education, training, and financial resources as well as reducing the number

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	<p>of months it takes to become certified. She stated this initiative is a priority in 2020.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Frank Andrews asked whether BCF will offer Parent Resources for Information, Development, and Education (PRIDE) training. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Commissioner Watts she would link Frank with Scott Inghram from Concord. • ACTION ITEM: Commissioner Watts will send the Kinship Care Study Recommendations presentation and report to the group. • Delegate Terri Funk Sypolt asked if kinship relatives have to be certified foster parents before receiving financial assistance. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Commissioner Watts said there are financial assistance options, such as Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) for blood relatives, and demand payments for fictive kin. Once certified, the kinship relative can receive the foster care daily rate. ○ Deputy Secretary Jeremiah Samples noted that Delegate Pack recently asked DHHR to review those rates. ○ Andrea Darr mentioned that she believes Carla Harper once created a document explaining financial resource streams for various foster care placements. • ACTION ITEM: Deputy Commissioner Janie Cole will check with Carla Harper to see if she has a document explaining financial resource options for certified foster care and kinship placements.
4.	<p>WV Bureau for Behavioral Health (BBH): Initiatives for Children and Families</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commissioner Christina Mullins noted that BBH's initiatives are not specific to children involved with the child welfare system. • Commissioner Mullins discussed the High Fidelity Wraparound Services pilot. She explained that wraparound itself is not a treatment, but a process—including engagement, plan development, plan implementation, and transition—to make sure treatments are coordinated and children can grow up in the community and home, which is a better outcome at a lower cost. She said the family is a central partner, and wraparound aims to develop problem solving and coping skills in family members. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Commissioner Mullins said pilot results showed: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 79% of children met serious emotional disorder (SED) criteria. ▪ 57% completed the individualized wraparound plan of care. ▪ 91% maintained or increased grade point average (GPA).

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Commissioner Mullins noted DHHR is working to synchronize wraparound services across bureaus, including Safe at Home, CSEDW, and BBH services. ○ Commissioner Mullins said BBH will next take this model statewide. An Announcement of Funding Availability (AFA) will go live on January 1, 2020. ● Commissioner Mullins spoke about BBH's children's mobile crisis and response pilot. She said BBH wants to improve availability. In the BBH model, the family defines the crisis, and the goal is to respond within one hour to interrupt the immediate crisis. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Andrea Darr asked where the pilot is currently operating. ○ Nikki Tennis said the pilot started at United Summit and Fayette, Monroe, Raleigh, and Summers (FMRS). The pilot has since expanded to two more areas and will soon expand further. ○ Commissioner Mullins noted BBH still needs mobile crisis providers in Region 1. ○ Commissioner Mullins said BBH is also adding a centralized call line when they go statewide with this initiative. If there is a surge in calls, the line will be designed to roll over to individual crisis agencies. ○ Commissioner Mullins noted an AFA is out now, and BBH is considering a cost differentiation in the panhandle regions if that makes it more financially feasible for providers in those regions to participate. ○ Nikki said applications are due on January 24, 2020. ● Commissioner Mullins gave an update on Positive Behavior Supports (PBS) initiative. She said this is an evidence-based strategy to improve independence and quality of life, decrease behavioral challenges, and teach new skills. ● Commissioner Mullins gave an update about BBH's efforts to provide substance use disorder (SUD) treatment with a family focus, including centers that accept women and their children in residential treatment, as well as the Drug Free Moms and Babies program that aims to help prevent child removal. She said 79% of program participants had a drug free delivery, which is better than the statewide average. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Commissioner Cindy Beane added that the Medicaid SUD waiver began in July 2018 with a relatively small number of beds and has grown to approximately 740 beds statewide, with over 300 peer recovery support specialist (PRSS) beds. She agreed that all of these initiatives are family-focused to keep families intact.

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Pamela asked if there is a demand for programs where fathers and their children can live together. ○ Commissioner Mullins said BBH is analyzing demand for that service and speaking with providers. ● ACTION ITEM: Kent Nowviskie will send the BBH Initiatives for Children and Families presentation to the Collaborative.
5.	<p>Child Welfare Reform Effort Updates</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Family First Prevention Services Act (FFPSA) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Laura Barno said that on December 13, 2019, BCF submitted the first official draft of its five-year Prevention Plan to the Administration for Children and Families (ACF). She said the State Plan Amendment (SPA) submitted in September 2019 is still pending ACF review, and BCF anticipates approval soon. ○ Laura noted that FFPSA includes a payment opportunity for foster children to accompany a parent into a SUD program. ○ Laura said once the Prevention Plan is in a final format, it will be uploaded to the Collaborative website and the BCF website. ○ Laura noted two federal bills have been introduced related to FFPSA. ○ Deputy Secretary Samples said DHHR has been in contact with West Virginia’s congressional delegation about supporting these FFPSA-related bills, and he encourages stakeholders to reach out to their delegation and share their opinions. ○ Jim McKay asked if it would be possible to review a copy of the Prevention Plan. ○ Laura said yes, although it should be understood that this version is a draft and may have significant changes based on federal feedback. ● ACTION ITEM: Laura Barno will send the draft Prevention Plan to the Collaborative. ● Medicaid Waiver for Children with Serious Emotional Disturbance <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Commissioner Beane noted the CSEDW is not only for children in foster care, but for any children who are West Virginia residents, meet medical and financial eligibility, and have behaviors affecting their lives at home and school. The waiver aims to help these children stay in a home and community-based setting. ○ Commissioner Beane said the Bureau for Medical Services (BMS) is currently training providers to prepare them for service delivery and

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	<p>plans for waiver membership will grow slowly. She said the waiver is nearing Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) approval.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Pamela asked if the waiver has a limited number of slots. ○ Commissioner Beane said yes, but BMS can ask for additional slots. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Coordinated Care Management <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Deputy Secretary Samples said the selected managed care organization (MCO), Aetna Better Health of West Virginia, is working with BCF to prepare the workforce for the transition. He said a lot of behind-the-scenes readiness work is occurring. He noted the implementation date is February 1, 2020, but that is subject to change. He expressed the importance of a successful transition. ○ Commissioner Watts said she and her staff are working with Aetna to help ensure they have a holistic picture of children, and she believes children will see better service delivery through this transition. ● Child Welfare Workforce <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Commissioner Watts said BCF is using a special hiring rate in certain counties and doing continual doing job fairs, as well as maintaining an online recruiting presence. ○ Commissioner Watts said about 10 counties are fully staffed. ○ Commissioner Watts said BCF received federal approval for their Program Improvement Plan (PIP). ○ Deputy Secretary Samples noted the child welfare workforce will be discussed during the state legislative session.
6.	<p>DOJ Agreement Status</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Deputy Secretary Samples asked DOJ attendees if they would like to share any updates. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Haley Van Erem stated DOJ and West Virginia entered into the agreement in May 2019. She said DOJ and West Virginia are in the process of finalizing the Implementation Plan, which will then be posted publicly for comments. ● Ryan Wilson asked about the subject matter expert (SME). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Haley said the SME will prepare semiannual reports with assessments of agreement compliance and recommendations. ○ Secretary Bill Crouch said DHHR is enthusiastic about the SME's expertise.

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Betty Rivard asked if DHHR has a position on reducing required credentials for social workers. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Secretary Crouch said this issue will be further discussed during the legislative session.
7.	<p>Open Discussion/Other Issues</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kent Nowvskie explained that the schedule for 2020 Collaborative meetings will go out soon. He said DHHR will hold most meetings in Charleston but would like to go to other regions around the state, perhaps on a quarterly basis. He said if any organization is interested in hosting a meeting, please let him know.
8.	Next Steps