

Child Sexual Abuse and Exploitation Prevention Board

December 9, 2020
Special Meeting
9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. EST

Minutes

- I. Welcome and Introductions**
- II. Roll Call**
 - a. Members/proxies present: Heather Wagers, Leanna Homandberg, Matt Johnson, Christa Bell, Traci Bouchard, Delana Sanders, Damien Sweeny, Claudette Patton, and Yvette Smith. OAG staff present: Cathy York, Theresa Gargan and Stacy Woodrum. Guest(s) present: Caroline Ruschell
- III. Review and approval of the Minutes of the Regular Meeting held November 9, 2020**
 - a. Leanna Homandberg moved to approve the minutes.
 - b. Matt Johnson seconded the motion to approve.
 - c. The motion to approve carried unanimously.
- IV. CAC Multidisciplinary Enhanced Approach Update**
 - a. Caroline Ruschell, Executive Director of Kentucky CAC's and the Chair of the KMCCSA, shared a power point on MDT updates. She stated that prior to this approach in Kentucky there were multiple interviews. This can cause a variation of the story over time and the lack of coordination between multiple agencies results in lower prosecution rates. The MDT approach was born out of this. Every state in the county uses this collaborative response.

In 2016, the MDT protocol was updated. That protocol is used as a template for all of the teams in the country. Teams can build and add off of the protocol. The status in 2016-2017 was a range of success across the state. They encouraged teams to go back to the "why". Today's status has more active, engaged teams than ever before. They now have more case reviews on record in 2020 than any other year. Teams have been using remote systems throughout the pandemic. CACs have become stronger with dedicated staff, MDT Enhancement Program and improved tracking systems.

Damien Sweeny, KDE representative, asked if there is an example of how this works with schools in mind. Caroline Ruschell stated that there is still a need to have multiple professionals at the school level. A case that meets criteria needs to get to a CAC as soon as possible. The CAC interview is recorded so that any other professional that need to ask questions can be in the observation room. They can get their questions in through the forensic interviewer. The idea is that there is one recorded interview that other professionals can watch.

Heather Wagers asked if there would be a push to adopt enhanced MDTs statewide and if there would be a cost associated with that. Caroline Ruschell stated that there is a MOU with CHFS to do the pilot program. That MOU is up for renewal. Currently, there is no funding tied to this project. There is nothing legally that is preventing the project from happening. There is an expense to the CACs for this. A lot of the evidence of its effectiveness is antidotal.

As it pertains to funding for medical exams, Caroline Ruschell, stated that there is a Medicaid rate. The Medicaid regulation has a bundled rate of \$538, which has been the amount for years. The regulation requires that a medical doctor perform the exam. In the CACs, the exam can be provided by a SANE nurse. However, if one of these professionals are used Medicaid, it cannot be billed. They are constantly exploring what other funding sources can pay for the exams. The most helpful thing is to have funding that can support any portion of the medical exams, and for the contracts to fund other components of the medical exams.

Heather Wagers suggested that we seek clarity in our statute to address the costs of the exam. Delana Sanders stated that it would also be helpful if someone would review the statutes or CFR with regard to the Medicaid reimbursement. Coding may need to be looked at in this regard. Cathy York stated that she is looking in to the coding that the CACs utilize and whether the lab cost associated with the exams are covered under the regulation. Furthermore, Cathy stated she has reached out to Medicaid to discuss options such as unbundling the rate, but has not been able to set up a meeting at this time.

V. Committee Reports & Assignments

i. Finance and Grants Management

- 1. Financial Report Update of the Child Victims' Trust Fund –**
Heather Wagers stated that some of the Board members asked about the cost of the I Care About Kids website. The management of the website is with Interact and utilizing a master agreement. Stacy Woodrum suggested to have a meeting with the vendor to discuss options to reduce the cost of the website. Heather Wagers volunteered to spearhead this and to advise the board on her progress.
- 2. Update on Families and Children's Place Repayment Plan –** Cathy York, OAG Staff Member stated that she has reached out a few times and only received one response. She will advise them that she will appear in person on a certain date in January. Any board member that wants to attend is to contact Cathy York. Claudette Patton asked why they had an overpayment. Heather Wagers stated the overpayment was discovered in 2004 but it happened in 2001. They overbilled for medical exams. The meeting will be

to attempt for secure a repayment plan that does not include the medical reimbursement. Stacy Woodrum stated that they have a line of credit that would cover this. Heather Wagers stated that she sent out a summary regarding the debt, and can resend this if needed.

ii. Operations and Legislative

1. **Strategic Plan Discussion and Vote** – Committee Chair LeAnna Homandberg stated that she added all of the comments and distributed to the board. Motion to approve made by Yvette Smith. Seconded by Traci Bouchard. Motion passed unanimously.
2. **Bylaws Discussion and Vote** –Delana Sanders stated there is a typo in section 3.1. She also asked if the board is just focusing on Article 7. Cathy York stated that the only changes the OAG had prepared to the document were in Article 7, but they could discuss additional changes at the next board meeting. The proposed changes to Article 7 provide the Board with more oversight for expenditures and increases the monitoring of the Child Victims’ Trust Fund. Section 3 is the non-discrimination clause so the board can apply to be a listed entity for KECC. Motion to approve proposed changes plus correcting the typo that Delana found was made by Traci Bouchard. Seconded by Claudette Patton. Motion passed unanimously.
3. **FY 21-22 Grant Applications Discussion and Vote** – Proxy Board Chair –Yvette Smith asked for a summary of the changes. Heather Wagers stated that the main change to the application was to condense the application and make the review process more efficient. Confidentiality forms associated with the program will now be kept at the individual CAC and will be reviewed at the site visit annually. Additionally, since the Child Victim’s Trust Fund is relatively unknown to the public, additional measurable performance deliverables were included to expand the Commonwealth’s knowledge of the fund. There is a page limit on the grant proposals so that anything beyond the page limit will not be considered by the Board. This will streamline review and require that the grantees focus on answering the questions concisely. Medical exam rate reimbursement increased to \$100 per exam. Yvette Smith stated that the changes strengthen the documents and the process. Christa Bell agreed and stated that the changes address some of the challenges faced with the lengthy applications. Under the match requirement, she suggested using the words “secured funding sources”. Heather Wagers stated she can make that change. Motion to approve with the change referenced by Christa was made by Delana Sanders. Christa Bell seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

iii. Research/Development and Training

1. **Giving Tuesday Update** – Proxy Board Chair – Heather Wagers stated that this is the first year that the Child Victims’ Trust Fund participated in Giving Tuesday. Heather challenged the board members to share information about the Giving Tuesday campaign. The website had 124% increase in “hits” or interactions than the previous week that the CVTF was spotlighted. \$175 was raised during the Giving Tuesday campaign for the Child Victims’ Trust Fund. While not a substantial amount, during the year, the fund had only received one \$50 private donation. This was an opportunity to educate the Commonwealth on the CVTF and the programs the Board sponsors. General Cameron prepared a video that he featured on the Office of Attorney General’s social media accounts. Before next year’s efforts, we will need to explore whether the board and the fund can receive corporate sponsorship or donations.

VI. New Business

- a. **STARK Symposium Conference Sponsorship.** In June of 2021, the Office of Attorney General will provide training on stopping technology facilitated crimes against children in rural communities. The training will be provided for free to all MDT members. The training is recognized nationally and is evidence-based training. The pandemic has changed how forensic interviews are conducted and this will provide some information to attendees on how to combat challenges. Motion to approve \$5,000 for sponsorship of the training was made by Leanna Homandberg. The motion was seconded by Traci Bouchard. Heather Wagers abstained. The motion passed unanimously.
- b. **Fundraising Opportunity** – Claudette Patton explained that Beyond Publishing, a company based out of Texas, had approached her with an idea to feature the Child Victims’ Trust Fund in one of their events. Beyond Publishing has several authors in Kentucky and wants to have an inaugural event called Rescue and Roses. The event would raise funds for human trafficking awareness and programs. The Beyond Publishing company would like the Child Victims’ Trust Fund to be a recipient of donations received for the gala. She stated it would be a great opportunity to raise name recognition of the fund and it would be the only charity in Kentucky receiving funds. Invitations would go out nationally. The publishing company’s goal is for this gala to be a regular event for the derby each year. It would be a major push for the CVTF and bring more awareness for the web-site. Christa Bell asked for information in writing to make it easier to share with Secretaries and Commissioners. Yvette Smith stated that this is a dream fundraiser for the board and agreed that something in writing would be helpful. Claudette stated she will circulate this information to the board

members in advance of the January board meeting and that the members will come prepared to vote on the opportunity at the January 5, 2021 board meeting.

- c. **2021 Board Meeting Dates-** At this time, the board anticipates that meetings in 2021 will be held virtually. Heather Wagers stated it is helpful to have more consistent board meetings throughout the year. Heather suggested the following board dates for consideration:

January 5th @ 1:00 pm

March 17th @ 10:00 am

May 19th @ 10:00 am

July 21st @ 10:00 am

September 15th @ 10:00 am

November 17th @ 10:00 am

A motion to approve these meeting dates was made by Delana Sanders. The motion was seconded by Leanna Homandberg. Motion passed unanimously.

- VII. **Partner Updates & Announcements-**Heather Wagers invited all board members to attend the Trauma Informed Sexual Assault Investigations Training put on by the OAG. VAWA funding is being used. The training is being held virtually on December 16, 2020 and is free to all participants.

- VIII. **Adjourn-**Motion to adjourn was made by Matt Johnson. The motion was seconded by Delana Sanders. Motion passed unanimously.