



Kentucky Office of the Attorney General
General Meeting
November 10, 2020
10:00 a.m. EST
Agenda

- I. Call to order.
- II. Roll call and introductions: Caroline Ruschell, Laura Kretzer, Dr. Jackie Sugarman, Cathy York, Heather Wagers, Susan Rhema, Angela Morris, Shericka Smith, Alicia Miller, Chelsea Harrod, Theresa Gargan, Amy Burke, Christie Penn, Christina Weeter-Guest Haley, Kent School of Social Work
- III. Review of minutes from September 8, 2020 meeting-Chelsea Harrod stated that #5 needs clarification in that the figure she reported was for one of their regions, not all of them. Motion to approve the minutes with the change made by Christie Penn. Motion passed.
- IV. Commission Annual Report and Recommendations-
All Board members received a draft of the Annual Report. Laura Kretzer stated that the biggest section in the beginning of the annual report did not have many changes. It explains what the Commission is and a basic introduction of the model. On page 3, section B is the Model Protocol and she is working with Heather Wagers to get an update on the number of counties currently working on an approved protocol. Section D includes updated information regarding the number of cases reviewed by MDT's across the state for the fiscal year, which was a slight decrease as well as a statement about the changes to case review due to COVID-19. Also highlighted is the work of the Commission to put together some resources and make those public for MDT's to encourage case review. There is a note stating that there was not a decline in the number of case review meetings. She suggested that the Board put the letter and the resources that were provided at the end of the document. Those are currently on the web-site. The section on the Multidisciplinary Enhancement-Pilot Program is to discuss the implementation of the MDT pilot project where 3 CAC's are receiving the reports from centralized intake at

an earlier timeframe. This section is new to the report. She thought it was important to include the information on the feedback from the MDT partners in those areas as far as what their experience was with working with the CAC's through the outcome measurement system. There is a chart comparing the overall MDT survey results versus the results for the individual programs participating in the MDT. Section E includes some new considerations and recommendations wherein she highlighted the continued use of technology, which seems to have strengthened the teams as well as talking about possible expansion of the Central Intake Pilot Program. Over the last legislative session, there was a new statute regarding female genital mutilation. The Cabinet updated their regulations this fall regarding investigating that issue as a separate definition of child abuse/neglect. This might be something important for the Board to look at because it was included in part of the statute talking about joint investigation and MDT response. Heather Wagers has provided feedback for changes needed. Chelsea Harrod stated that in their new policy, it is clearly outlined that those cases are to be handled identical to human trafficking cases. Caroline Ruschell agreed. She also stated that they would be tracking all of those allegations as they do with human trafficking cases. They have a certain protocol with their human trafficking cases regarding notifications but those are not fully complete yet through their automated system. Until that happens their protocol is for central intake to contact their branch to start that tracking process. They have not received any of those types of cases yet. Caroline Ruschell stated that is relevant to the model protocol discussion. Laura Kretzer stated the report is a draft that is open to suggestion, comment and revision. Caroline Ruschell discussed how to handle the revisions and comments. Shericka Smith suggested putting the document in to google form for editing. Caroline Ruschell and Laura Kretzer agreed. Caroline Ruschell asked proxy members what the period for turn around on the draft would be. Edits will be turned in by the end of the week of the 20th with a final version by the first of the year. Christina Weeter asked who specifically the audience for this report is (the Legislator, general public). Caroline Ruschell stated that it is all of them. The report is also a requirement of the statute that governs the Board. The statute also requires the Board to Collect data and report on it as well as provide recommendations to the Governor. The Annual Report is used to satisfy the requirement of the statute. The report has evolved to include antidotal and fist hand stories about teams and their success stories. The Board has taken different measures to collect data for the report. There is a form for MDT's to sue for statistical data but there isn't a good response. Some of the data the board would like to use is not very workable. The CAC data tends to be the best data because they participate in every MDT and are tracking a lot of information. Edits are due by November 20th.

V. Elect Leaders for 2021-

Caroline Ruschell stated that in the past they have elected a President, a Chair and a Co-Chair (which in the past have been from law enforcement). The Board is interested in electing a Chair for next year. Heather Wagers agreed and stated that the OAG will provide administrative support. Christie Penn nominated Caroline Ruschell as Chair for

next year. Angela Morris seconded. All were in favor. Caroline Ruschell is the new Chair for 2021.

VI. Model Protocol Discussion-

Caroline Ruschell stated that there are a list of things they are required to do which are outlined in the statute. One of those is to approve a model protocol for the state. The Board produces a full model protocol for local teams and creates a template. The idea is that every team needs to use the model protocol template as the foundation. It can be added to it but nothing can be taken away. A lot of the model protocol is a compilation of the regulations and statutes that are in place in KY. An example of something a team may add would be to review all physical abuse cases. The protocol only requires review of sexual abuse cases. The protocol is posted on the OAG web site. It is time to update the model protocol based on changes in the law, regulations and standard operating procedures. Dr. Sugarman can talk about the new pediatric SANE initiative that they are trying to launch in the state. Caroline Ruschell asked if anyone has any thoughts on what the timeline should be for updating the protocol or things that need to be included in it. Staying up to date on the protocol is very important. Dr. Sugarman suggested using sub-groups to work on the protocol. Caroline Ruschell stated that was a good idea to tackle pieces of the protocol. It is broken down by in some cases by professional agencies. Having the relevant agency look at and present at a meeting is a great idea. Caroline Ruschell asked Heather Wagers to assist in breaking down groups. Heather Wagers stated that right now we do not have a law enforcement officer who is a detective with specialized training but we do have a representative from State Police. Since the OAG is the chief law enforcement officer in the state, the OAG can assist with the law enforcement area. Caroline Ruschell stated that the groups should be in place by the end of the year. Dr. Sugarman stated that she thinks it would be helpful to have one person in each group that is not in the field. Caroline Ruschell suggested having two professions in a group. Heather Wagers agreed. Angela Morris stated that the legislative session may have some impact on the protocol.

VII. Partner Updates

Amy Burke stated that the tool kit is live and is on the OAG website. It is accessible to anyone. She has asked everyone (prosecutors, law enforcement, victim advocates, social workers) to look at it with a critical eye. If there is anything that needs editing, explanation or inclusion, please reach out to Heather Wagers or herself. She wanted to give a shout out to Dr. Sugarman for the information she shared that is included in the resources as far as training. She also tried to break down and lead people to different resources whether they are law enforcement, social workers or MDT members. She did include information linking people up to the National Children's Advocacy Center for some trainings on what to contemplate when putting together MDT's with the biggest push being the victim centered approach with trauma informed and that you have to let go of the divisions. Trying to push prosecutors to become more engaged with social workers, CAC's and especially with doctors and do the investigation together as a unit as

opposed to compartmentalizing different sections of it. She borrowed a lot of things from the internet including a prosecutors handbook published in 2003 by Dr. Victor Veet and the National District Attorney's Association (long term prosecutor and trainer). She approached it as in this tool kit way that people can go in to it and take away what they may need from it and leave the rest. They can also add to it. She asked prosecutors that if you come upon a new instance, especially with COVID, to let them know as a whole so the tool kit can be updated. The tool kit was written for a prosecutor to try to make them more comfortable with the cases in hopes that they will take them on. There is information that is usable for everyone. They do want to build off it. At the roll out, the General stated that this is not a finish line but it is a starting line. They do want to get out on the road and meet regionally with different stakeholders. In the meetings they can figure out where to go from here, what can we plan from here, what do we need to include and how can we all work better. We need to take the partnerships and seriously go after the issue of maltreatment and abuse to children. She encouraged comments. Any ideas are welcome.

Heather Wagers stated that partners wrote a letter of support for the Starks Symposium. We did receive acknowledgment that we will have the Zero Abuse Project. We will be providing virtual training for Stopping Technology Facilitated Abuse for rural kids in June of 2021. Amy Burke wrote a 40-50 page application for this with letters of support. We received a lot of good feedback from them. They only choose 3-6 places over a course of two years and KY was one of the states selected.

Heather Wagers stated that the CSAEP Board is going to be doing "Giving Tuesday" as sponsorship of the Child Victims' Trust Fund. All of the money goes to help prevention programs in KY as well as help reimburse the CAC's for sexual medical exams. She stated they are trying to expand the amount of funding we provide to our partners.

Christina Weeter stated that the School Safety and Resiliency Act passed in 2019 and was revised in 2020. Most of that work is the responsibility of the KDE. She stated that KDE has been doing a lot of work with trauma informed practices. They are getting school districts up to speed on what trauma is and how to recognize signs of trauma and to respond in a trauma appropriate way. Fayette County is one of their pilot districts through their project. The first round of project aware was for 5 years. They are now on to a second aware project with three new districts. They provide intensive supports to the pilot districts but also provide the training and support across the state to any district they can encourage to participate in some different learning collaborative. Many aspects in the Act relate to trauma in terms of trying to make schools more trauma informed. There is a goal to increasing the number of school counselors and mental health providers. They have to provide a trauma team that will help lead the trauma informed work of each school. There is also a provision in the Act that requires law enforcement officials that are called to a scene where trauma is involved to notify the school of that trauma. They have been working with partners to think about how to provide information to educators to know what to do with the information when they get that

call from law enforcement. They have been unofficially calling it handle with care, which is a model that has been implemented in several other states including West Virginia. She also stated that her division of KDE is responsible for missing children reports in infinite campus. Those reports are monitored every day to be sure the schools are notified of missing children. They have been trying to push out a lot of training, especially during the pandemic, on making sure that both staff and students are addressing wellness and mental wellbeing. They are trying to put as much out there as they can to mitigate the current circumstances.

Chelsea Harrod stated that safety model that is being implemented by DCBS has some tools that they are putting to use. They purchased three tools that they are working on. One of the newest tools they are working on is the new intake tool as well as the safety and risk assessment tool. The goal is to implement those tools in the next 2 years. They are working to customize their intake tool. The goal of that group is to review all of their statutes and regulations with their policies to ensure some concrete definitions. They are not just talking about definitions in their laws but also on risk factors, safety threats, different types of allegations and what that means. Once they have that set of concrete definitions, it will help with consistency of reports statewide. There is a lot of research that backs that process. She wants to share some number that are from 2018, 2019 and 2020 YTD. For 2018 (these are for all reports called in to central intake) 133,700, 2019 was 128,600, and 117,200 so far in 2020. There are roughly 20,000 less reports than there were in 2018. In regard to reports that met their criteria for an investigation, for 2018 there were 56,200, in 2019 50,600 and so far in 2020 46,800. The reduced number is not just due to the pandemic. Many resources have come in to the state in the past two years the goal of which is to help families and reduce their involvement. Some other reasons may be policy changes that they are working on ensuring that when a report is called in and it meets their criteria, that is truly meets that threshold for abuse and neglect. They want to make sure that they are not involved when they don't need to be involved. Dr. Sugarman asked if there was a breakdown in the cases that met the criteria (physical, sexual and neglect). Chelsea Harrod stated that it is broken down by their intake. It only breaks down substantiated cases. So far, in 2020, out of the 46,800 that met the criteria, only 10,400 were substantiated. There were 2,700 investigations that were families in need of services which means they provided services and worked with the family. Dr. Sugarman asked about numbers from other states. Chelsea Harrod stated that she has been on a team that has been working on a screening threshold analysis. She can ask if there are any forward facing documents with those numbers. She also stated that she believes KY accepts more reports. She does know that KY accepts more cases for maltreatment. Heather Wagers stated that we can share that information on the OAG KMCCSA page.

Amy Burke asked if their report includes if a guardian, mother or father commits the maltreatment cases that come in? Does it account for those that they do not accept because there is no one to work a plan for? Chelsea Harrod stated they do not include cases that do not meet criteria. She stated that the 117,200 calls noted above would

include cases that do not meet the criteria. That includes non-caretaker reports as well as a resource link. It does not have to be an allegation call. It also includes law enforcement assists. The smaller number of 46,800 met DCBS criteria. Carline Ruschell stated it is challenging to try to group it by types of abuse.

Susan Rhema stated that she has been working with the Cabinet on a new grant that is going to look at services for youth who have been trafficked that are in residential centers. The portion of the grant that she is mostly involved in is developing a training for the therapist working with these youth. She asked what prompted the change/addition to the new statute/regulation relating to female genitalia mutilation. Chelsea Harrod stated she could look for that piece of legislation that was passed last year. Part of that legislation was that the Cabinet would investigate those types of allegations. She will gather that information and share it with the group. Heather Wagers stated that Senator Julie Rocky Adams was the primary Bill sponsor of the Bill. One of her public comments was Kentucky is among fifteen states where that was still legal and a federal ban that had been placed for more than 2 decades was found unconstitutional in 2018. Senate Bill 72 would make performing female genital mutilation on minors a felony, would ban trafficking girls across state lines for this purpose and stripping the medical license of providers convicted of performing this practice. Susan Rhema stated that she has extensive experience with that community. Her experience is that there is very little of this happening in KY. If there is a shift in this or we start to see it in KY, she would like to be involved in that conversation. She stated it was more of a cultural practice than a religious practice. She stated she has worked closely with that community and they are not bringing that practice to the US. She is also a part of the National Network of Refugee Health Providers. They have many materials and can share that with medical providers. She would like to be a resource in this area. Amy Burke stated that no prosecutors are reporting seeing these cases. If these cases do come up she can put Susan Rhema in touch with them. Caroline Ruschell stated that she wonders how that information is tracked. Chelsea Harrod stated they have not had any cases reported to DCBS yet. Dr. Sugarman suggested that Susan Rhema do some training for medical providers at the CAC's.

Angela Morris stated that KY Youth Advocates are hosting in collaboration with DCBS and the courts, family first forms about prevention services. She added that link on the chat for anyone who wants to attend. DCBS put together a Know Your Rights and Responsibilities pamphlet for families in abuse and neglect cases. They are trying to become a trauma informed care agency. She asked for resources in that regard. Laura Kretzer stated that on December 9th they are working with the UK Child Trauma Center to provide a secondary traumatic stress training. That is open to all MDT partners and CAC program staff. Caroline Ruschell mentioned the TEND Academy is a good resource.

VIII. Adjourn

Heather Wagers made a motion to adjourn. Shericka Smith seconded. The motion passed.

Please note that the Office of the Attorney General does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, pregnancy, age, veteran status, genetic information, disability, sexual orientation, gender identity, political affiliation or status as a smoker.