



Kentucky Office of the Attorney General
Special Meeting
In-Person and Video Teleconferencing
June 3, 2025
1:00 p.m. EST
Minutes

Primary Location:

Kentucky Office of the Attorney General
Conference Room A
1024 Capital Center Drive
Frankfort, KY 40601

I. Roll Call and Introductions

The meeting was called to order by Commission Chair, Caroline Ruschell, at 1:06 p.m.

Roll Call

Commission Members Present In Person:

Jessica Jones, Department for Community Based Services
Denise Durbin, Office of the Attorney General (proxy for Erica Paske, Office of Victims Advocacy)
Dolores Smith, Administrative Office of the Courts, Department of Family and Juvenile Services (arrived at 1:21 p.m.)
Caroline Ruschell, Commission Chair, Children's Advocacy Centers of Kentucky
Jacqueline Sugarman, Physician, Medical Director for Children's Advocacy Centers of Kentucky

Commission Members Present Virtually:

Melanie Taylor, Child Protection Branch, Department for Community Based Services (designee for the Commissioner)
Captain Jeremy W. Smith, Department of Kentucky State Police (designee for the Commissioner)
Ramsey Dallam, Office of the Attorney General, Special Prosecutions (arrived at 1:11 p.m.)
Brittany Barber, Department for Behavioral Health, Developmental and Intellectual Disabilities (designee for the Commissioner)
Susan Rhema, Licensed Clinical Social Worker, University of Louisville
Sergeant Betsy Brushway, Lexington Police Department, Crimes Against Children Unit

Guests Present In Person:

Luke Morgan, McBrayer PLLC
Robyn Diez d'Aux, Office of the Attorney General
Laura Kretzer, Children's Advocacy Centers of Kentucky
Jackie Kuryla, Children's Advocacy Centers of Kentucky
Serah Wiedenhofer, Office of the Attorney General

II. Approval of the February 11, 2025, Regular Meeting Minutes

Ms. Durbin made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Ms. Jones seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. Ms. Ramsey and Ms. Dolores Smith were not present for the vote.

III. Review and Approval of Local MDT Protocols

No protocols were presented.

IV. Public Portions of Multidisciplinary Team Meetings

Mr. Morgan, a lawyer from Lexington, asked the Commission to consider changing language in the model protocol that references public portions of the multidisciplinary team meeting and open records requests. He reviewed statutory language in KRS 620.040 requiring multidisciplinary teams to review investigations, sign confidentiality agreements, and provide annual reports to the public of nonidentifying case information. He also discussed the statute requiring public agencies to hold meetings that are open to the public, KRS 61.810. Mr. Morgan noted an exception for meetings that must be conducted in private under state law and reminded the Commission of the confidentiality requirements in KRS 620.040.

Mr. Morgan acknowledged the value of accountability but believed the content of the multidisciplinary meetings should remain closed to protect confidential case information and investigations. He asked the Commission to change the model protocol template language to explicitly classify the multidisciplinary team meetings as private and confidential and to remove the implication that multidisciplinary team meetings are subject to open records requests.

The Commission asked questions and discussed ways to address Mr. Morgan's request. The Commission will consider the issues raised by Mr. Morgan as part of the protocol update work.

V. MDT Model Template Update for 2025

Ms. Kretzer presented information to assist the Commission as it works to update the model protocol. She suggested approaching the update process by focusing on the protocol's useability, clarity, and accuracy. Ms. Kretzer highlighted areas of the protocol that have presented challenges for the multidisciplinary teams. She also identified key source materials for the Commission's reference. Subcommittees will schedule future meetings to begin work on the protocol update.

VI. Review of Open Records Requests

No open record requests were received since the Commission's last meeting.

VII. Partner Updates

The Citizen Foster Care Review Board of the Administrative Office of the Courts is holding a series of virtual town hall meetings to discuss strategies for improving the foster care system.

The meetings are open to the public. Ms. Dolores Smith will provide a flyer announcing the event that will be shared with Commission members.

VIII. Meeting Reminder – August 12, 2025, at 10:00 a.m.

This was not addressed during the meeting.

IX. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 2:21 p.m.

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