



Kentucky Office of the Attorney General
Special Meeting-Video Teleconference

June 12, 2023
10:00 a.m. EST
Minutes

Primary Location:

Virtual Teleconference

I. Call to order:

The meeting was called to order by Commission Chair, Caroline Ruschell, at 10:03 a.m. via Zoom.

Roll Call (All members and guests appeared virtually)

Commission Members:

Caroline Ruschell, Board Chair, Children's Advocacy Centers of Kentucky

Susan Rhema, Social Worker in private practice

Brittany Barber, Department for Behavior Health, Developmental and Intellectual Disabilities
(designee for the Commissioner)

Matthew Collins, Lexington Police Department, Crimes Against Children Unit

Shericka Smith, Fayette County Public Schools, Department of Student Support Services

Jessica Jones, Social Service Worker, Department of Community Based Services, Northern
Bluegrass Specialized Investigative Team

Jacqueline Sugarman, Physician Representative, Medical Director for Children's Advocacy Centers
of Kentucky

Chelsea Harrod, Child Protection Branch, Department for Community Based Services (designee for
the Commissioner)

Deborah Sauber, Kentucky Department of Education, Division of Student Success (proxy for
Christina Weeter, designee for the Commissioner)

Serah Wiedenhofer, Office of the Attorney General (proxy for Heather Wagers)

Guests:

Laura Kretzer, Children's Advocacy Centers of Kentucky

Jackie Kuryla, Children's Advocacy Centers of Kentucky

II. Approval of Minutes

Susan Rhema moved to approve the minutes. Approval of the April 11, 2023 meeting minutes was unanimous.

III. Review and Approve Local Protocols

Laura Kretzer provided a summary of the review process. Ms. Kretzer noted that one of the most common issues in the proposed protocols was the failure to include language specifying local practices. Nevertheless, Ms. Kretzer stated her belief that the Commission has found a process for reviewing the local MDT protocols.

Ms. Wiedenhoefer moved to approve the MDT protocol submitted by the 19th Judicial Circuit, which serves Bracken, Fleming, and Mason counties. The 19th Judicial Circuit's protocol was unanimously approved.

Ms. Wiedenhoefer then moved to approve the Fayette County MDT protocol. Dr. Sugarman observed that the Fayette County protocol does not list the emergency room to be used and failed to address the medical response to physical abuse. Dr. Sugarman expressed her belief that the MDT protocols could be more specific regarding medical protocols but stated that she was comfortable voting on the Fayette County protocol as written. The Fayette County protocol was unanimously approved.

Ms. Wiedenhoefer also moved to approve the Lewis County MDT protocol. The protocol was unanimously approved.

Finally, Ms. Wiedenhoefer moved to approve the Robertson County MDT protocol. Brittany Barber questioned whether it was necessary for each protocol to include a signature from the team member working with the school system. Ms. Kretzer stated her belief that the signature was optional but highly encouraged on the model protocol. The Robertson County protocol was unanimously approved.

IV. Annual Report Review

The Commission has a draft of the annual report that contains raw data and numbers. The draft will be sent to the Commission members for review after the meeting. Everyone was asked to provide feedback.

V. Partner Updates

Ms. Kretzer provided an update on the Multidisciplinary Enhancement Project. As of June 1, 2023, data is being securely sent to the CAC database for review.

Chelsea Harrod updated the Commission regarding the Department of Community Based Services' implementation of alternative responses for reports that do not meet a certain high-risk threshold. This alternative pathway allows DCBS staff to have more engagement with families in some low-risk situations, such as educational neglect or home environment concerns. The change is being done in the hope of comforting families and partnering with them to prevent future maltreatment of children. Implementation of the alternative response pathway will start this fall in the Two Rivers

and Eastern Mountain regions. The alternative response pathway will be implemented in other regions of the state in 2024.

VI. Adjourn

Meeting adjourned at 10:41 a.m.

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