



Kentucky Office of the Attorney General
Regular Meeting-Video Teleconference

August 8, 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 10:02 a.m. via Zoom.

Roll Call (All members and guests appeared virtually)

Commission Members:

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

Dolores Smith, Administrative Office of the Courts, Family and Juvenile Services

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

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

Susan Rhema, Social Worker in private practice

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

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

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

Rob Sanders, Commonwealth Attorney for the 16th Judicial Circuit

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

Rewa Zakharia, Office of the Attorney General, Special Prosecutions

Heather Wagers, Office of the Attorney General, Trafficking and Abuse Prevention and Prosecution

Guests:

Laura Kretzer, Children's Advocacy Centers of Kentucky

Jackie Kuryla, Children's Advocacy Centers of Kentucky

Jami McLemore, Office of the Attorney General, Trafficking and Abuse Prevention and Prosecution
Serah Wiedenhoefer, Office of the Attorney General, Trafficking and Abuse Prevention and
Prosecution

II. Approval of the June 12, 2023, Minutes

Chelsea Harrod made a motion to accept the minutes, and Brittany Barber seconded this motion. The motion to approve the June 12, 2023, minutes was unanimous.

III. Review and Approval of Local MDT Protocols

Commission Chair Ruschell provided an overview of the MDT protocols and outlined the Commission's responsibilities surrounding these protocols. Laura Kretzer then explained the process for reviewing local MDT protocols. The Commission considered the local protocols for the following counties: Ballard; Calloway; Carlisle; Fulton; Graves; Hickman; Marshall; McCracken; Grayson; Larue; Meade/Breckinridge; Nelson; Crittenden; and Green. Chair Ruschell made a motion to approve all the local MDT protocols. Delores Smith seconded this motion. This motion passed unanimously.

IV. Annual Report Review

The Commission discussed the annual report. Questions from several Commission members were addressed by Chair Ruschell and Ms. Kretzer. Additional changes will be made to the annual report based on the Commission's comments. Consideration of the annual report was continued to the next meeting.

V. Partner Updates

Ms. Wagers told the Commission of an upcoming training focused on missing children. In partnership with the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, the Office of the Attorney General will provide information for advocates, social workers, and law enforcement pertaining to at-risk youth and missing children cases.

Ms. Harrod shared that the Department for Community Based Services updated a contract through Community Action, which resulted in additional funding to supply concrete goods and services to individuals involved with CHFS. This funding will allow Cabinet workers to address the needs of families with which they work.

Ms. Smith told the Commission that the Administrative Office of the Courts will be hosting a two-day event to address the prevention of child maltreatment and out-of-home placement throughout the state. Workshops will be held to identify resources, gaps, practices, and programs pertaining to child welfare with the goal of developing an action plan for the betterment of children statewide.

Ms. Kretzer spoke of a recently filed change to the administrative regulation impacting the standards for children's advocacy centers. The proposed regulation references the current national accreditation standards and places emphasis on the coordination of services and on multidisciplinary

teams. According to the feedback from the National Childrens Alliance, the model protocol developed by the Commission meets the national standards.

VI. Adjournment

Ms. Wagers made a motion to adjourn. Jessica Jones seconded this motion. The motion was unanimous, and the meeting was adjourned at 11:00 a.m.

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