

**Court Improvement Oversight Board
Minutes from Meeting on July 25, 2014
City Center East - Charleston**

Members Present: Judge Gary Johnson, Chair, Fran Allen, Barbara Baxter, Judge Duke Bloom, Katherine Bond, Stephanie Bond, Karen Bowling, Cammie Chapman, Emily Chittenden-Laird, Andrea Darr, Patricia Dettori, Denny Dodson, Nancy Exline, Jacob Green, Judge Mary Ellen Griffith, Sue Hage, Kathie King, Mike Lacy (by proxy Caren Bills), Cindy Largent-Hill, Catherine Munster, Robert Noone (via phone), Jackie Payne (via phone), Tina Payne, Kim Runyon Wilds, Mark Spangler, Judge Robert Stone, Judge Derek Swope (via phone), Nikki Tennis, Natalie Terry and Joyce Yedlosky.

Others Present: Peter Conley, John Hedges, Kandi Greter, Tabettha Blevins, Susan Wilmerink, Lori Stotler, Ashley Connolly and Tamerra Gilmore.

1. The Board reviewed and approved the minutes from the April 25, 2014 meeting.
2. Nancy Exline reported that the psychological reports payment issue has been investigated and worked out. It is anticipated that the process will be much smoother. The APS Healthcare Report on this issue was provided to the Board. A new provider list will be given to the courts listing those who will do the services and reports at the new rates. This will continue on the next meeting agenda.
3. Committee Reports
 - A. Youth Services Committee

Cindy Largent-Hill reported on the activities and meeting held yesterday. She discussed the ongoing efforts to achieve better utilization of Chafee funds. Board members discussed concerns about getting greater access and use of these funds for youth in need. Cindy also discussed the committee's work on the AFS and runaway issues and outlined the committee's next steps to get to the specifics of the Clyburn litigation and use of the Robert Shell Juvenile Center. Judge Johnson added information about the recent PEW meeting in Vermont. Bob Noone provide a form order he developed to outline duties of all stakeholders. Nancy Exline will provide the committee an outline of Chafee.

B. Behavioral Health Committee

Judge Bloom reported that the Statewide Mental Health Services publication is soon to be distributed.

C. Training Committee

Judge Stone and Nikki Tennis reported on the just-completed cross-trainings in Bridgeport and Charleston. There were 200-300 attendees each of the 4 days. The presentations and organization of the conference were excellent. Nikki also reported that the New View reviewers are hard at work on their cases and the database is almost complete.

D. Data, Statutes and Rules Committee

Judge Swope and Nikki Tennis reported on the committee's activities. They discussed the statutory retreat to occur next week and efforts done in preparation for the meeting. Nikki also reported that a Rule 6 case is on the Fall Docket of the Supreme Court, which hopefully will provide some guidance on issues of concern to the BCSE. Sue Hage reported that the Department got the official word that they passed the Title IV-E review. Nikki also discussed the committee's efforts to improve ICPC outcomes by exploring the use of border agreements used in some states.

E. C-PACS Committee

Judge Griffith reported on the committee's recent activities. The committee recommends that drug screening training be considered for inclusion in the cross-trainings and judicial trainings. Joyce Yedlosky discussed the lack of battered parent adjudications and efforts to determine why it is not happening (or not reported in the data). Also, they are doing training and surveys on the topic of battered parent adjudication. They hope to increase its use to result in better outcomes.

F. MDT Committee

Sue Hage reported on the committee's activities, including work on a desk guide for the MDT process.

G. Out-of-Home Education Workgroup

Jacob Green provided a written report and discussed the activities of the Out-of-Home Advisory Committee. He detailed some of the report data. He indicated that the preliminary data show a lack of progress testing for approximately 1,400 children. They are looking into this issue now. He also discussed the work directed toward getting better MDT participation

by education personnel. He also reported on the Department of Education's efforts to hire a new Education Transition Specialist for children. Others in this position prove very effective when children are changing schools. He also provided a new pamphlet to be distributed to provide information on out-of-home education.

H. New View Project

Nikki Tennis reported on the progress of the team of current reviewers. She also discussed the new database for the project that is nearly in operation.

I. Three Branch Team

Secretary Bowling reported on the recent meeting in Milwaukee. One thing they learned through a presentation by Dr. John S. Lyons is the value of using a universal CANS assessment tool. A copy of his presentation was provided. She indicated the Department has accelerated efforts to utilize an assessment tool quickly in each case. Judge Johnson and Commissioner Exline also commented on the value of the universal assessment tool. The Department hopes to have all staff trained in its use by the end of the year. Sue Hage added that Dr. Lyons visited West Virginia in June and his report from randomly looking at 60 cases will be completed soon. The report will be shared with the Board. Nancy Exline discussed the progress toward the Title IV-E Waiver Demonstration Project. They are officially in the formal negotiation stage. The plan is to get the project in full operation by Summer 2015.

J. Juvenile Justice Commission

Stephanie Bond reported on the meeting last week in Burlington, Vermont with the Pew Commission. The WV Task Force to work on juvenile justice reform is beginning a series of meetings directed toward proposals for the Legislature being ready by December. Cindy Largent-Hill then reported on the Juvenile Justice Commission's recent work. In the lawsuit, the Commission was ordered to monitor DJS facilities. She also said the Commission is looking at improving attorney representation for Juveniles.

Cathy Munster raised the issue of use of GALs in appropriate cases. The issue was referred to the Youth Services Committee for further study.

4. Judge Swope earlier reported on the Statutory Retreat during his committee report.
5. John Hedges provided and discussed the written Budget and Expense Reports for the three grants.

6. Tabby Blevins provided the CANS Data Report and the Board discussed the positive trends.

7. Other/new business

Nikki Tennis provided brochures on two upcoming conferences.

Fran Allen suggested that a committee look at adding intellectual disability as grounds for termination of parental rights, as done in other states.

Andrea Darr said the new WV Help app is now available for Android smartphones.

8. Next Board meeting will be at 10:30 a.m. on October 24, 2014 at the WVCADV Offices in Elkview.