

Kentucky Office of the Attorney General
Regular Meeting-Video Teleconference

February 22, 2022

10:00 a.m. EST

Primary Location:

Conference Room "A"
1024 Capital Center Drive
Frankfort, Kentucky 40601

Minutes

- I. **Call to order.**
- II. **Roll call:** Caroline Ruschell, Dilyana Pursley, Susan Rhema, Heather Wagers, Rewa Zakharia, Christie Penn, Jackie Sugarman, Christina Weeter, and Chelsea Harrod.
 - a. **Guests:** Laura Kretzer, Cathy York, Jenna Cassidy, Caroline Rinehart, and Todd Willard.
- III. **Review of minutes from November 9, 2021 meeting:** Christina Weeter requests that the acronym be changed to KDE. Heather Wagers motions to approve the amendments made by Christina Weeter on the November 19, 2021, minutes. Motion seconded by Christie Penn. Motion passed unanimously.
- IV. **Partner Updates:**
 - a. **CAO:** Todd Willard shared the current issue their office is having with local law enforcement not filing reports for minors if the parent does not want to file a report. Todd Willard and Jenna Cassidy wanted guidance on how to interact with law enforcement on the issue of filing reports for minors. Caroline Ruschell opens the floor to anyone with ideas about the issue. The following statutes were discussed KRS 620.030, KRS 620.0401D, KRS620.0403, and KRS620.0405A. Christina Weeter suggested contacting experts at UK's Center on Trauma and Children, led by Dr. Ginny Sprang. Dr. Sugarman pointed out that children do not have to have the consent of their parents to receive an STI exam. Caroline Ruschell reminded the commission members that a part of their role is to respond to situations at the local level and there will always be some struggle. Caroline Ruschell warned that this issue might rise to that level. Dilyana Pursley provided insight about what it's like to try and interview a child whose parents do not want the child to have an interview and how it can be problematic. Caroline Ruschell suggested the Office of Trafficking and Abuse Prevention and Prosecution within the Office of Attorney General examines other similar law enforcement jurisdictions. Heather Wagers agreed and assigned it to Cathy York to research and update the Commission at a later meeting.

- b. **KDE:** Christina Weeter made the commission aware of HB 410 which would eliminate requirements related to professional development (child abuse and neglect would fall into that).
 - c. **TAPP:** Heather said she will be presenting at Murray State University on human trafficking.
 - d. **CAC:** Laura Kretzer stated that CAC is bringing Cathy Crabtree to present on MDT and trainings. The target is CAC directors and how local programs can enhance working in this MDT environment. This will take place in early May.

- V. **Discussion of KMCCSA Annual Report:** Caroline Ruschell and Laura Kretzer shared the work they have been doing work on the annual report. The report needs to provide guidance and clear expectations about when MDT's should turn in the protocol. Laura Kretzer and Caroline Ruschell announced they created an FAQ document in addition to the report to provide clarity on topics that are not in the report but would be helpful. Caroline Ruschell would like to approve the FAQ document in the next meeting. Caroline Ruschell said there is no timeline for the protocols to be submitted, and there should be more guidance on that. Cathy York said the current regulation requires a new protocol every six years. Cathy York stated that going into the regulation, an MDT should submit their model protocol prior the six-year expiration. Cathy York suggests the commission explains that the expectation is they would file a new protocol before the regulation is in effect. Christie Penn stated the advantage of giving them six years is the commission does not have to review all the new protocols at once. Caroline Ruschell asked if there is anything else that needs to be added in the annual report. Chelsea Harrod asked about encouraging local meetings to update the protocol in a regional rotation. Laura Kretzer will look into putting a recommended timeline in the FAQ.

- VI. **Opinion from Franklin Circuit Court:** Cathy York presented that the Franklin Circuit Court (FCC) issued an open records opinion last month that was related to a request for documents associated with the Fish and Wildlife Commission. Several of the board members did not have public/state email addresses and the Court admonished state government about using personal devices to go about state and government business. Cathy York inquired that anyone on the KMCCSA commission not using a state email address to contact us and the OAG would help them have one created. Cathy York reminds the commission that we want to conduct any state/government business over our state accounts.

- VII. **Legislative Update on Bills Impacting MDTs:** Caroline Ruschell stated they are working hard on the budget for funding CA programs and MDT's. The CACs are also advocating for Senate Bill 8 to pass which would assist CACs with financial reimbursement for child sexual abuse exams performed. Christina Weeter suggested members review HB 270 which is related to child abuse awareness and instruction for grades kindergarten through ninth grade.

- VIII. **Adjourn:** Heather Wagers motioned to adjourn. Seconded by Caroline Ruschell. Motion passed unanimously.

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.