



Kentucky Office of the Attorney General  
**Regular Meeting-Video Teleconference**

March 7th 2023

10:00 a.m. EST

Agenda

**Primary Location:**

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

**I. Call to order:**

The meeting was called to order by Commission Chair, Caroline Ruschell, at 10:02 am via Zoom.

**Roll Call (All members and guests appeared virtually)**

**Commission Members:**

Caroline Ruschell  
Chelsea Harrod  
Ali Parham, proxy for Heather Wagers  
Matt Collins  
Dr. Susan Rhema  
Brittany Barber  
Dr. Jackie Sugarman  
Jessica Jones  
Christina Weeter (left meeting at 11:03 am; no impact on quorum)

**Guests:**

Laura Kretzer  
Jami McLemore

**II. Review of minutes from October 25th, 2022 meeting:**

Chelsea Harrod made a motion to approve the minutes and Dr. Rhema seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**III. Review Local MDT Protocols for Approval.**

There were no new protocols to review at this meeting, however, each county should be submitting their MDT Protocols for review in the coming months. The model MDT Protocol was revised in 2021 and is available on the Attorney General's website. Most language in the model MDT is statutorily mandated. The protocols are submitted through an email operated by the Attorney

General's Office and undergo an internal review process by the Attorney General's Office prior to the Commission receiving them.

**IV. Analysis of MDT work during 2022 from MDT Commission Data Tool**

Caroline Ruschell explained that in 2022 county MDTs conducted reviews of cases involving 5,059 child sexual abuse cases, 214 human trafficking cases, and 1,323 physical abuse cases. For the first time 100 percent of counties provided feedback. The county experiencing the most child sexual abuse cases was Jefferson County, reporting 352. Jefferson County also had the most human trafficking reports at 34. Hardin County had 134 physical abuse cases which was the most in the state.

**V. Annual Report Review**

Statute mandates the review of data submitted from the local MDTs for the creation of an annual report prepared by the Commission. Caroline stated she would send a draft of the 2022 Annual Report to Commission Members to review. The report findings included a total of 1,236 total MDT meetings were held during 2022. 33,925 total cases were reviewed last year, including 5,711 new cases.

**VI. Review of MDT Commission Requirements**

Caroline reviewed KRS 431.660, including the duties and powers of the Commission. She stated that the Commission shall prepare and issue a model protocol for local MDTs regarding investigation and prosecution of child sexual abuse and roles of the children's advocacy centers on the MDTs. She noted that the last model protocol was completed in 2021.

**VII. Legislatives Updates**

Caroline discussed Senate Bill 119, explaining that it redefines sexual contact to eliminate the requirements to prove sexual gratification. Senate Bill 229 requires the individual who receives the initial disclosure of abuse to provide the details for the report and requires the agency that receives the report of abuse to provide the report to a second agency.

**VIII. Partner Updates**

Brittany Barber stated there was a trauma informed train the trainer hosted 3 times a year. The upcoming scheduled training has already met the capacity of 50 participants.

Chelsea Harrod reported the child abuse hotline was working with Seven Counties to include more staff for after-hours calls.

Meeting adjourned at 11:33 AM.

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