



Kentucky Multidisciplinary Commission on Child Sexual Abuse

Kentucky Office of the Attorney General
Regular Meeting
In-Person and Video Teleconferencing
October 07, 2025
Minutes

I. Roll Call and Introductions

The meeting was called to order by Commission Chair, Caroline Ruschell, at 12:02 p.m.

Roll Call

Commission Members Present In Person:

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

Ramsey Dallam, Office of the Attorney General, Special Prosecutions

Erica Paske, Office of the Attorney General, Office of Victims Advocacy
(left at 1:05 p.m.)

Susan Rhema, Licensed Clinical Social Worker, University of Louisville

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

Trena Floyd

Sergeant Betsy Brushway, Lexington Police Department, Crimes Against Children Unit

Commission Members Present Virtually:

Melanie Taylor, Child Protection Branch, Department for Community Based Services
(designee for the Commissioner)

Dolores Smith, Administrative Office of the Courts, Department of 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

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

Rob Sanders, Commonwealth's Attorney, 16th Judicial Circuit

Guests Present In Person:

Laura Kretzer, Children's Advocacy Centers of Kentucky

Jackie Kuryla, Children's Advocacy Centers of Kentucky

Serah Wiedenhoefer, Office of the Attorney General

II. Approval of the August 12, 2025, Regular Meeting Minutes

Ms. Ruschell made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Dr. Sugarman seconded the motion. The vote to approve was unanimous.

III. Review and Approval of Local MDT Protocols

The Commission considered the local multidisciplinary team protocol for Lincoln County. The protocol contains the required language without modifications or additions. Appropriate signatures are listed for all team members and include agency affiliations and roles served on the multidisciplinary team. Ms. Ruschell made a motion to approve the Lincoln County protocol as submitted. Mr. Sanders seconded this motion. The motion passed unanimously.

IV. MDT Model Template Update for 2025

a. Review and Discussion of Draft Template

Ms. Kretzer provided an overview of recent changes to the draft MDT Model Protocol template. Questions and issues were raised and discussed, and additional changes were suggested. The Commission's comments will be incorporated into the draft template and a revised draft will be circulated for review prior to the December meeting. Commission members were asked to thoroughly review the revisions and provide additional feedback within two (2) weeks of receipt.

b. Next Steps

The goal is to approve a Model Protocol template during the December meeting. Commission members were encouraged to share the revised draft with their agencies' leadership and determine the proper agency representatives to sign the new protocol.

V. Review Data Collection Responses for Fiscal Year 2025

Ms. Kretzer discussed data collected from the local multidisciplinary teams for January through June of 2025. Every multidisciplinary team responded, providing information on a broad range of topics such as meeting frequency and the types of cases reviewed.

VI. Discuss Annual Report for Fiscal Year 2025

The Commission considered items to include in the annual report and suggestions were made. These comments will be used to create a draft that will be presented to the Commission for review and discussion.

VII. Review of Open Records Requests

No open record requests were received since the Commission's last meeting.

VIII. Partner Updates

CAC of Kentucky will be offering training hours to the local children's advocacy centers regarding the multidisciplinary teams. It will also be sponsoring training for mental health providers and victim advocates about their roles in case review meetings and how they can contribute.

A hybrid training was held for sexual assault nurse examiners who want to evaluate pediatric patients. There were 22 participants. A conference will also be held to educate medical providers working with children's advocacy centers on participating in multidisciplinary teams.

The Kentucky Department of Education created posters for use in schools regarding recent state legislation addressing sexual exploitation and human trafficking. The posters are available on the Department's website.

Ms. Ruschell is leaving her position with CAC of Kentucky. This will be her last meeting. The Commission expressed its gratitude for her leadership and all that she has done to help children who have experienced sexual abuse.

IX. Meeting Reminder – December 9, 2025, at 10:00 a.m.

X. Adjournment

Mr. Sanders made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Barber seconded. The motion was unanimously passed. Ms. Paske was not present for the vote. The meeting adjourned at 1:37 p.m.

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