



Kentucky Office of the Attorney General
Regular Meeting-Video Teleconference

February 11, 2025

10:00 a.m. EST

Minutes

Primary Location:

Virtual Teleconference

I. Roll Call and Introductions

The meeting was called to order by Commission Chair, Caroline Ruschell, at 10:01 a.m., via Zoom.

Roll Call (All members and guests appeared virtually)

Commission Members:

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

Jessica Jones, Department for Community Based Services

Erica Paske, Office of the Attorney General, Office of Victims Advocacy

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

Susan Rhema, Licensed Clinical Social Worker, University of Louisville

Lieutenant Morris Farris, Department of Kentucky State Police (proxy for Captain Jeremy W. Smith,
designee for the Commissioner)

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

Ramsey Dallam, Office of the Attorney General, Special Prosecutions

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

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

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

Jacqueline Sugarman, Physician, Medical Director for Children's Advocacy Centers of Kentucky
(joined at 10:05 a.m.)

Guests:

Laura Kretzer, Children's Advocacy Centers of Kentucky

Jackie Kuryla, Children's Advocacy Centers of Kentucky

Serah Wiedenhofer, Office of the Attorney General, Trafficking and Abuse Prevention and
Prosecution

II. Approval of the December 10, 2024, Regular Meeting Minutes

Ms. Jones made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Sergeant Brushway seconded the motion. The vote to approve was unanimous. Doctor Sugarman was not present for the voting.

III. Review and Approval of Annual Report for Fiscal Year 2024

The Commission reviewed the latest draft of the Annual Report for Fiscal Year 2024, which incorporates previous suggestions from Commission members. Additional changes were suggested to further explain the statistical data appearing in the Annual Report. Ms. Jones made a motion to approve the annual report with the proposed changes. Ms. Barber seconded the motion. The vote to approve was unanimous.

IV. Review and Approval of Local MDT Protocols

The Commission considered the local multidisciplinary team protocols for Boone and Greenup Counties. The protocols contain 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 Boone County and Greenup County protocols as submitted. Mr. Sanders seconded this motion. The motion passed unanimously.

V. Overview of Recent Data from Local Multidisciplinary Teams

Ms. Kretzer presented the Commission with a summary of data received from the local multidisciplinary teams using the MDT Data Collection Tool. The data reflects responses from one hundred percent of Kentucky's local multidisciplinary teams. The data includes information such as team membership, frequency of team meetings, and the number and types of cases reviewed for calendar year 2024.

VI. Steps Taken by DCBS in Responding to Fatal and Near Fatal Child Physical Abuse Cases

The Department of Community Based Services investigates all reports of child fatalities or near fatalities that occur due to alleged abuse or neglect. Ms. Taylor presented an overview of the processes used in designating child fatality and near fatality cases and conducting internal reviews of those cases.

VII. Federal Executive Orders and the MDT Model Protocol

Ms. Ruschell informed the Commission that a local child advocacy center raised questions regarding the potential implications of recent federal executive orders regarding diversity, equity, and inclusion. The Commission reviewed some of the language appearing in the model protocol that might be impacted by federal action. This will be a consideration as the Commission updates the model protocol and approves local team protocol submissions. Commission members were encouraged to share any guidance provided by their individual agencies regarding handling language in policies and procedures.

VIII. Planning MDT Model Template Update for 2025

Commission members were placed into working groups to review specific sections of the model protocol template. Meetings for the working groups will be scheduled at a later date and guidance will be provided regarding the updating process.

IX. Review of Open Records Requests

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

X. Partner Updates

CAC of Kentucky is holding its Legendary Partners Award Ceremony to recognize those individuals from the field who have gone the extra mile for child victims of abuse. The event will be held on March 25, 2025, at the Capitol Rotunda. There will be a reception at 1:00 p.m. The ceremony begins at 2:00 p.m. An invitation will be sent to Commission members via email.

XI. In Person Meeting Reminder – April 8, 2025, at 12:00 p.m.

Ms. Ruschell reminded the Commission of the next meeting, which will be held on April 8, 2025. This will be an in-person meeting held at the Kentucky Attorney General's East Office.

XII. Adjournment

Ms. Ruschell made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Barber seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 11:18 a.m.

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