



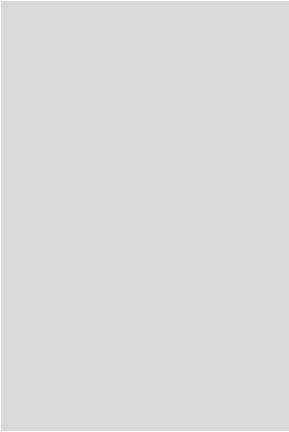
WV Center for Children's Justice

Brainstorm Meeting
May 20, 2020
3:00 PM
Teleconference

Meeting Called By: Andrea Darr, WV Center for Children's Justice

Minutes: Lisa Carmelia, WV Center for Children's Justice

Attendees: Janet Allio, School Nurse, Kanawha County Schools
Rebecah Carson, Centralized Intake Supervisor, WV DHHR
Barry Ball, United Methodist Church
Kevin Barney, PRO, Morgan County HWC Coordinator
Beth Bert, Executive Director, Autism Society Inland Empire, CA
Perry Blankenship, McDowell County HWC Coordinator
Angeline Brauer, Health Ministries for the SDA church in North America
Tahnee Bryant, Children's Mental Health Wrap Around, DHHR, BHHF
Debbie Bonasso, WV SHIELD, WV FRIS
Lisa Carmelia, Administrative Coordinator, WV CCJ
Linda Carter, Children's Justice Act, Louisiana
Kelli Caseman, THINK Kids
Roxanne Chaney, Bureau of Behavioral Health
Tracy Dorsey-Chapman, U.S. Attorney's Office, SDWV, Victim Witness
Awit Dalusong, Special Education Behavioral Services, Riverside, CA
Andrea Darr, Director, WV Center for Children's Justice
Rachel Davisworth, WV DHHR, BHHF
Tracy Desovich, SRI Education
John Duffy, Kanawha Lead School Counselor & HWC Coordinator
Kiti Freier-Randall, Pediatric Neurodevelopmental Psychologist, Kid Fare
Joni Greenberg, School Counselor, Berkeley Co, HWC Coordinator
Audra Hamrick, Public Health Practice & Service Learning, WVU SPH
Katrina Harmon, WV Child Care Association
Amanda Harrison, WV Department of Education
Stephanie Hayes, Lead School Counselor, WV Dept. of ED
Mollie Hinzman, Ritchie Co School Counselor, HWC Coordinator
Emily Hopta, Assistant to the Secretary, WV DHHR
Ed Jacobs, Plymouth County, MA District Attorney's Office
Robin Lewis, HWC Coordinator
Mercedes Logans, Staff at San Bernardino County First Five, CA
Amanda Merck, Salud American, San Antonio
Mandy Mote, Pleasants Social Service & Attendance HWC Coordinator
Chad Napier, Director WV HIDTA
Heida Penix, Children's Justice Ace, Texas
Robert Peters, Esq. Zero Abuse Project
Paige Presler-Jur, RTI International



Gabe Pullin, CCJ Social Media
Cari Stone, Behavioral Health Disabilities Specialist, WV DHHR, BHHF
Phillip Taylor, Hancock County HWC Coordinator
Keith Thomas, Student Support, Cabell Co. Schools, HWC Coordinator
Linda Thompson, Executive Director, Drug Free Manatee, Florida
Cassandra Toliver, WV BHHF
Heather Waters, IEHP
Courtney Whitehead, School Counselors, Mon Schools HWC Coordinator
Sara Whitney, Investigator, Putnam Co. Prosecuting Attorney's Office

Meeting began at 3:00 pm and adjourned at 4:00 pm

Purpose of the Meeting: The WV Center for Children's Justice/Handle with Care Program is receiving inquiries about how HWC can connect with children and families during the COVID 19 Crisis. **How do we reach children at risk and provide resources when they are not in school?** There is great concern for the health and welfare of children stuck in isolated and potentially unsafe situations. We are facilitating an informal ZOOM meeting every other Wednesday to connect professionals around the state and county to brainstorm on innovative ways to connect with children.

Themes that have emerged: (cumulative list)

1. HWC notices are still vital as most of the notices go to essential school staff who have contact with kids through the internet (School iPads, Schoology, and apps).
*many children do not have access to the internet
2. Food distribution is a good and *sometimes the only* point of contact to reach kids and families.
3. We need to promote the 211 resource.
4. Referrals to CPS have dropped sharply. We need to reach out to the new faces of mandated reporters.
5. Telehealth is extremely beneficial in very rural areas.
6. More preparation with online resources for teachers so they can successfully implement distance learning especially for the younger students.
7. Online child exploitation has escalated significantly during the pandemic.

Ideas/Information/Concerns:

WV DHHR Centralized Intake: Rebecah Carson, WVDHHR

- The referrals to Centralized Intake are still down significantly but are increasing little by little each week. They took in 468 CPS reports from May 10-16. The number is up from the previous week but still way below average.
- The new HWC reporting abuse flyer is finalized and sent to everyone on the call. Attendees were asked to help with distribution of the flyer.
- The WV Department of Education has also developed reporting materials for educators to use in recognizing signs of abuse or neglect in remote learning.

Chad Napier, WV High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA)

- Things are still slow. Overdoses are starting to pick up a little and most of them are the result of opiates.

Virtual Series on Keeping Kids Safe and Well: Debbie Bonasso

- Several groups have come together to host a Prevention Summit/Virtual Series: [Connect WV – Working Together to Keep Kids Safe and Well](#). The first of the five-part series started today, May 20, 2020 and will go through June 17th every Wednesday from 10:00am to 11:15am. There were over 300 in attendance today with Dr. Jim Harris in a session on self-care and managing stress. The sessions are free, offer CEUs, and offer graduate credit.
- A second series will follow this one and will focus on Connections Matter, ACEs 101, Risk and Protective Factors, and Search Development Assets.
- All sessions are recorded and will be put on a YouTube channel.
- This group is working on a website that will offer an educator toolkit, parent educator toolkit a fun Friday Activity, and resources for community members to keep kids safe.

THINK KIDS: Kelli Caseman

- THINK Kids is interested in learning how children and their parent's, guardians, and caregivers are coping with the challenges created by the COVID-19 pandemic. They have created a survey and are soliciting/collecting responses from counties to get a better understanding of the family's basic needs, challenges to accessing services and who is caring for the children during this difficult time. The information will be used to advocate for kids on the community level. Partners can use this to inform policymakers on the kids'/families' needs in their communities. The information becomes more useful as more people take the survey, so please share: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/GLQYD55>

211 resource on yard sign: Margaret O'Neil, United Way of Central West Virginia

- The yard signs with 211 information are printed and available at any United Way in WV. Everyone is encouraged to pick them up and place them where children and families who need services can be made aware of the resource.

P-EBT: An extension to SNAP benefits: Amanda Harrision, WV Dept of Ed, Child Nutrition

- The West Virginia Department of Education (WVDE) and the West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources (WVDHHR) applied for and received a The United States Department of

Agriculture (USDA) Pandemic Electronic Benefits Transfer (P-EBT) cards to support child nutrition needs during the COVID-19 pandemic.

- When schools closed due to COVID we had approximately 80% or more of student enrollment that lost out on that direct access to school meals. P-EBT is essentially reimbursing the student households for the breakfast and lunch lost when schools closed. It ends up being about \$313 that can be used similar to SNAP. It is a onetime benefit
- It is retroactive only based on student eligibility. For a student who already had access to free and reduced meals, they will get an allotment for March, April, and May. New applications are only eligible based on the month they applied. This benefit is only available to institutions who participate in the federal school lunch program.
- It is strictly tied to the National School Lunch Program.
- There is new legislation (the HEROs Act) being introduced that would extend the program to children in day care.
- If children do not qualify for P-EBT, they are being directed to other resources such as 211 and DHHR to help link them up with grocery assistance.
- A resource that may be helpful to the group is WVDE's P-EBT FAQ page: <https://wvde.us/covid19/wv-pebt/>.

Transitioning Children with Autism back to school: Dr. Kiti Freier-Randall

- Adjusting to this pandemic has been stressful for everyone and it is especially stressful for children with autism and other neurodevelopmental disabilities who have significant trouble with transition or any change.
- For these families, the stressors are magnified. In addition to the role of being a parent and caregiver of a child who might have challenging needs, the parents now must be the speech/language therapist, the occupational therapist, behavioral treatment, and educator for the child.
- The gaps in services for this population will cause substantial learning loss and the gains that have been made will be lost because for many children repetition and routine is critical to maintain the gains that they make.
- There are characteristics of the disorder itself, particularly in ASD that are triggered by the current situation and by our processes of transitioning back.
 - Routine: for the child with ASD routine is critical. We need to start simulating going back to some routine. Routine helps to decrease dysregulation when we know what we are expected to do next.
 - Social distancing is tough for any child but especially for a child with delays or neurodevelopmental disabilities. These children often have trouble following rules and regulations in our society and environment and now with minor infractions you can get into a lot of trouble.
 - Social distancing can also be interestingly difficult for a child with ASD because on one hand they typically don't want to be near or close to people but on the other hand they don't understand social pragmatics so if there is a desired activity all that goes aside and they go straight to what they are focused on to meet that need without thinking about the distancing issue.
 - Sensory issues as it relates to food create many stressors for the children and families. In order to feel safe and secure in their environment, routine is so important and for some on them just changing the type of food they eat can be difficult because of texture or color of the food wrapper or they may only

certain foods from certain brands. This can be very stressful for families in terms of continued access to those particular foods or for poor families who rely on food banks and limited variety.

- Sensory issues as it relates to wearing masks.
 - Because of sensory issues, a child may not want something around their face. It can be triggering for a child with sensory issues
 - It is hard to read emotions with a mask covering your face. For a child who have less repertoire understand nonverbal behavior, the mask makes it more difficult for them to read social cues
 - Awit Dalusong, who is with Special Education Behavioral Services with the from County Department of Education in Southern California developed a guide to help persons with autism to tolerate wearing masks.
<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1J416ofwa6nSh1Oo44F9qMiyaXyH250ZM/view>
- We need to be empathetic with these children and their families. There can be sensory tool kits and can be used to help them dealing with this dysregulation. When they are calm, help their parents teach coping strategies before they start reintegrating. Parents should ask the children's therapist to do some social stories with the children on washing hands, social distancing, distance learning, on new routines at home and on wearing masks.
- Beth Burk with the Autism Society of the Empire is wrapping up a survey from family members and adults with autism in their community. They want to put some data around things they were seeing antidotally. They knew they had families who did not have access to food from food banks and school meals that the child would eat because of sensory issues. They had children who would not eat for days because of this. The survey found that 65% of children and adults with autism are so restricted in their eating that they were restricted to a certain type or brand of food. They also found that one in four in the survey could not tolerate wearing masks because of sensory issues. Because of the lack of mask wearing and safety issues, it is creating a lot of fear in families. They do not want to send their child to school or go out into the community because they cannot trust their child to conform to the new safety rules. So, they will not leave the house or may not let professionals in the house, are stressed to the max because of their child's needs and maybe aggressive behaviors, on top of a lack of resources.
- Research shows that children typically only do as well as their caregiving environment is doing. So, we need to shore up supports and safety. We need to take responsible action on safe re-integration. The transition back will be even more stressful then the transition to stay at home.

The Faith Community Reaching out the Community: Barry Ball, United Methodist Church

- Barry wrote a memo that went out to all the Methodist Churches, the WV Council of Churches and WV Catholic Charities. It included a resource section with all hotline numbers for Domestic Violence, Sexual Assault, Human Trafficking, Suicide Prevention, and the Child Abuse Hotline. He all included information about the 211 resource and that they could pick up yard signs with the 211 information from the local United Way.

He encouraged them to include the resources in their printed bulletins, social media or whatever they are using to get information out to their congregation. He reminded the pastor's that they are mandatory reporters and they need to keep their eyes open and suggested them to talk to the kids when they make pastoral calls.

- Many WV Churches have summer camp staff have put together a virtual summer camp once a day.
- Perry Blankenship added that the counselors at schools and the faith community have access to a book of resources at hand which they use to connect families with resources.

Transition back to school in the fall: What types of supports are needed

- The WV Dept of Education has put together a team to work on a plan for transitioning back to school and what the fall could look like.
- Monongalia County is offering some virtual summer programs like their Summer Snowflakes Program which was developed to address time lost from snow days. The program is focused on summer reading, summer feeding and summer well being and working on different ways to keep kids connected. They will continue their Summer sizzler reading series every week and they are looking at ways to implement their "Ready Freddy" program which is for children who have not been in traditional PreK but are going into Kindergarten or for older students starting PreK.
- Dr. Kiti also added that in her discussion with a group of kids, the children were not focused on masks or social distancing but on wondering if teachers and staff will give them some grace period of time to get used to sitting all day, being in school, and being able to focus and listen. They were also concerned about what their new school (if moving up) would be like. The Middle and High Schools in Monongalia already created step up videos for the children to see their new schools and meet their teachers.
University High School – virtual Step up day
<https://sites.google.com/boe.mono.k12.wv.us/stepupday2020/home>
- Mon County has also created and are collecting surveys from parents, students and teachers focused on this time of remote learning so they can assess how to improve on things. They want to find out what the real concerns are so they can address those, in hopes of lessening the difficulties coming back.
- Dr. Kiti asked if there would be a possibility in one of the education journals to put a "Process During COVID" article together to help school districts with some of the ideas we are hearing about.

Reaching out to Kids over the Summer: Katrina Harmon with the WV Child Care Association

- Katrina had been in a meeting with United Way of Central WV concerning allocation reviews for nonprofits who usually have summer programs for kids. The staff are working hard to find ways to keep in touch with kids all summer long and to keep those touch points going.
- The WV Child Care Association have 15 member agencies that are serving foster care children across the state. There are three weekly calls with child placement agencies as well as residential treatment centers and the Safe at Home workers to work with the Department to come up with family visitations on site at those facilities. They have been maintaining virtual visitation between bio families and the children since this

started in March. Now they are starting to have the conversations about what in person visitations look like. The in-person visitations are slated to start happening next week and overnights visits will begin a little farther down the road as they see how things are opening back up.

Online Child Exploitation

- The U. S. Attorney's Office for the Southern District of WV had four indictments last week and three involved undercover cases where the defendant traveled across state lines with the intent to have sex with a minor. There was one attempted sex trafficking case that did involve a minor. The pandemic is fueling online exploitation since children are isolated and spending so much time on the internet.
- Robert Peters reported that online child exploitation cases have exploded. Reports to the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children have more than doubled. If you look at the stats of cyber tip lines reports of online exploitation, in March of 2019 they were just under a million for that month and in March of 2020, the reports jumped to 2 million. Globally across the 47 cyber tip lines, one of which is the United States, reports have increased by 30%.
- There was a great Facebook Live discussion on Online Child Sexual Exploitation and Online Safety. It featured Steve Grocki, Chief of the USDOJ's Child Exploitation Section, Callahan Walsh, a child advocate for the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children, John Pizzuro, Commander of the New Jersey Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force, and Mi Yung Park, Government Relations Director for A21. In a time where there is an expected increase in online exploitation, especially among minors, this information could save another life and equip parents and caregivers with the knowledge needed to recognize a dangerous situation before it happens. You can watch is by going to: [Facebook.com/A21Campaign](https://www.facebook.com/A21Campaign)

Ideas of Supports for Children and Staff Transition Back to School (cumulative list)

1. Doing something to bring closure to the current school year.
2. Take the entire staff to ride the school bus at the beginning of the year to see the attendance area.
3. Doing relationship mapping with the child with contact information on their trusted adult.
4. Trauma Sensitive Schools training mandated for all school employees.
5. 2 by 10 identifying.
6. County wide trauma informed day for professional development to have a better understanding of challenges the students are facing.
7. More preparation with online resources for teachers so they can successfully implement distance learning especially for the younger students.
8. Rolling out first day of school for kids making bigger transitions such as children moving from middle to high school.

Recommendations from HWC Brainstorming meetings: (cumulative list)

1. Handle with Care notices need to continue *especially* when school is out.
2. Schools should continue telephone check-ins whenever possible.
3. Schools should continue to offer virtual counseling whenever possible.

4. Every child should receive at least one contact weekly from a school employee.
5. Use food distribution points of contact to disseminate information to children and families.
6. Electronic student assistance referral forms are a great way for students reach out to school staff when they need help.
7. Promote the 211 Resource.
8. School nurses need to continue to check in with kids on medications and/or have chronic conditions.
9. Prioritized COVID testing for children needing placement and the runners coming back into care.
10. Promote the National Suicide Hotline.
11. Develop an informational flyer for the new faces of mandating reporting.
12. Develop a list resources to help with the transition back to “normal”

The next meeting will be at 3:00 pm on Wednesday, June 3, 2020.

RESOURCES SECTION

WV SPECIFIC RESOURCES:

[WV Child Abuse Hotline](#) 1-800-352-6513

[WV DHHR COVID 19](#)

[WV 211 for resources in your county](#)

[WV Department of Education info about feeding site locations for students](#)

[WV Food Link to access food in your area](#)

[WV Department of Education info about schools](#)

[WV HELP](#) Mobil Friendly Website for First Responder contact info

[Help and Hope WV COVID resources](#) for those struggling with substance use and mental health disorders

[24-hour helpline for West Virginians who need help with addiction or mental illness.](#)

[THINK Kids COVID 19 Resource page](#)

NATIONAL RESOURCES:

CHILD HELP: NATIONAL CHILD ABUSE HOTLINE: 1-800 4 -A -CHILD (1-800-422-4453)

CRISIS TEXT LINE: Text HELP to 741741 to reach a Crisis Counselor

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE HOTLINE: 1-800-799-SAFE (1-800-799-7233)

NATIONAL SEXUAL ASSAULT HOTLINE: Call 800-656-HOPE (1-800-656-4673)

DARKNESS TO LIGHT HELPLINE: 1-866-4-LIGHT (1-866-367-5444)

NATIONAL SUICIDE PREVENTION LIFELINE: 1-800-273-TALK (1-800-273-8255)

NATIONAL HUNGER HOTLINE: 1-866-3HUNGRY or 1-877-8HAMBRE or text "food" to 97779.

COVID RESOURCES:

<https://dhhr.wv.gov/COVID-19/Pages/default.aspx>

"Responding to Child Abuse During a Pandemic: 25 Tips for MDTs"

Liberia, Inc. WV Coronavirus Survival Kit

WVU Medicine Children's: COVID 19: Resources

Mind Wise how to build protective factors during the COVID 19 Crisis

Protection of Children during the Coronavirus Pandemic (v.1)1 from the Alliance for Child Protection and Humanitarian Action

COVID RESOURCES FOR TEACHERS AND SCHOOL STAFF:

Teaching Through Coronavirus: What Educators Need Right Now, Teaching Tolerance

National Center for School Mental Health COVID Tips and Resources

Using Social and Emotional Learning to Help in Times of Stress: Coronavirus Disease 2019 – Hull Services

When planning next school year – from Paradigm Shift Education and Dr. Eric Rossen.

Counselor Check in request forms from Monongalia County

[Student Crisis referral form in Cabell County](#)

COVID RESOURCES FOR PARENTS AND CAREGIVERS:

[Parent/Caregiver Guide to Helping Families Cope With the Coronavirus Disease 2019 \(COVID-19\), The National Child Traumatic Stress Network](#)

[How to Support your child's resiliency in a time of crisis – American Academy of Pediatrics](#)

Healthy Children – American Academy of Pediatrics
<https://www.healthychildren.org/English/Pages/default.aspx>

[Helping Children Cope with Coronavirus and Uncertainty – Harvard Graduate School of Education](#)

[Helping Children Cope Emotionally with the Cononavirus, American Academy of Experts in Traumatic Stress](#)

[Talking to Children About COVID -19: A Parent Resource – National Association of School Psychologists](#)

[How to Talk to your Kids about the Coronavirus – PBS](#)

[Trauma informed Parenting during COVID19 with Tracy Leanord](#)

[Khan Academy, a free, world-class education for anyone, anywhere](#)

[Mind Wise Tips for Parents: Supporting you child during the COVID 19 Crisis](#)

[Mind Wise Tips for Parents: Self Care during the COVID 19 Crisis](#)

[Mind Wise ACT at home for Parents](#)

[Mind Wise ACT at home for Middle School](#)

[Mind Wise ACT at home for High School](#)

OTHER RESOURCES:

[Safety plan template/ Suicide Prevention Lifeline](#)

[How guide to relationship mapping at school](#)

[Mind Wise weekly mental health challenge](#)

COPING SKILLS FOR KIDS RESOURCES:

[BrainPop video on the Caronavirus](#)

[Coping skills toolbox](#) (this is amazing)

[Coping skills for kids breathing](#)

[Miss Kendra's list and child safety activities](#)

DRAFT