

CHILD WELFARE OVERSIGHT AND ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Minutes of the 4th Meeting of the 2022 Interim

November 9, 2022

Call to Order and Roll Call

The 4th meeting of the Child Welfare Oversight and Advisory Committee was held on Wednesday, November 9, 2022, at 1:00 PM, in Room 131 of the Capitol Annex. Representative David Meade, Chair, called the meeting to order, and the secretary called the roll.

Present were:

Members: Senator Julie Raque Adams, Co-Chair; Representative David Meade, Co-Chair; Senators Karen Berg, Denise Harper Angel, and Whitney Westerfield; Representatives Kim Banta, Lynn Bechler, Josie Raymond, and Nancy Tate.

Guests: Jennifer Hancock, President, Chief Executive Officer, Volunteers of America Mid-States; Jeb Duke, Medicaid Plan President, Humana Healthy Horizons, Humana; Abbie Gilbert, Associate Director, Population Health, Humana; Tom Watson, Mayor, Owensboro, Kentucky; Judge Clint Harris, Family Court, 41st Judicial Circuit; Rachel Bingham, Director, Office of Statewide Programs, Administrative Office of the Courts; and Dalton Miller, Mayor, Stanford, Kentucky.

LRC Staff: Ben Payne, Logan Bush, Eric Rodenberg, and Becky Lancaster.

Approval of Minutes

A motion to approve the minutes of the October 12, 2022, meeting was made by Senator Adams, seconded by Representative Banta, and approved by voice vote.

Family Focused Substance Use Disorder Interventions - Freedom House

Jennifer Hancock, President, Chief Executive Officer, Volunteers of America Mid-States (VOA), discussed the Freedom House recovery program model, statistics regarding positive outcomes for women and children in the program, planned expansion locations and partners, and the national recognition for the program's approach to recovery.

Jeb Duke, Medicaid Plan President, Humana Healthy Horizons, Humana, discussed Humana's contribution to community partners and the benefits of a value-based payment model.

Abbie Gilbert, Associate Director, Population Health, Humana, discussed the white paper report with policy recommendations and innovative payment models, comprehensive screening for all the social needs of members, incentivizing the VOA program with nontraditional support items for quality outcomes, and results from qualified ventures with VOA.

Ms. Hancock discussed how the existing payment model does not incentivize quality, does not capture all treatment costs, and is not sustainable. She discussed various VOA partners for research and evaluations, a five-year longitudinal study, and its leaders.

In response to questions and comments from Senator Berg, Ms. Hancock stated that VOA is meeting only a little of the need for treatment care in Kentucky. The Freedom House has capacity for approximately 60 families at a time and will be adding 75 to 100 additional beds through the expansion. She stated that the program design includes a nurse practitioner that is responsible for parenting and education support for breast feeding and lactation.

Ms. Hancock discussed the importance of VOA being community driven and working with a diverse, strong advisory council. Tom Watson, Mayor, Owensboro, Kentucky, discussed his experience hearing a success story from Freedom House and excitement to set up a new, similar treatment center in Owensboro.

Family Recovery Courts and Restorative Justice Services for Youth

Jennifer Hancock, President, Chief Executive Officer, Volunteers of America Mid-States, discussed partnerships with the Administrative Office of Courts, Family Recovery Courts, and Seven Counties Services, that have additional supports for members to achieve sobriety and family reunification. She discussed VOA's plan for expansions of Family Recovery Courts into other counties.

Judge Clint Harris, Family Court, 41st Judicial Circuit, discussed his experiences working with graduates of the Clay County Family Recovery Court, the positive outcomes for participants, and the impact of recovery on the participants' lives. Ms. Hancock discussed the impact of using more positive and solution-focused language in the courtroom and the accountability for the participants within the VOA program.

Rachel Bingham, Director, Office of Statewide Programs, Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC), discussed how the VOA model accomplished what previous drug court programs by the AOC tried to setup for participants in recovery, and the partnerships working with AOC to align and better accomplish goals for the family treatment model. She discussed the charge, structure, and membership of the Kentucky Judicial Commission on Mental Health established by the Supreme Court. Ms. Hancock discussed the VOA Restorative Justice pilot program, its partnership with AOC, and the improved outcomes for the victim, offender, and community. She discussed the courts, programs, and schools

where the Restorative Justice pilot program will be implemented, new partnerships, and expansions to new counties.

In response to questions and comments from Senator Berg, Ms. Hancock stated that being tough on crime means reducing crime and the Restorative Justice pilot program is a smart approach to reduce recidivism with years of data showing a reduction in offenses. She stated that the therapeutic rehabilitative approach facing victims brings humanity into the justice process.

Discussion of Innovative Pilot Project between Volunteers of America and the Department for Community Based Services

Jennifer Hancock, President, Chief Executive Officer, Volunteers of America Mid-States, discussed VOA's partnership with the Department for Community Based Services (DCBS). The partnership involves treating women with a substance use disorder that are pregnant and parenting, helping them to access treatment, and navigating through the process of receiving treatment with a dedicated liaison to help keep families together when possible. She discussed the Family Connections Program pilot project that will be integrated into three DCBS offices and staffed with a VOA clinician consulting with DCBS to coordinate case management with treatment.

Dalton Miller, Mayor, Stanford, Kentucky, discussed his personal experience working with DCBS, shared the successful experience of a participant regaining custody of her children, and supported having VOA and DCBS work together locally and branching out to neighboring counties. Ms. Hancock discussed the metrics measured in the Family Connections Program and it being a family preservation model, the importance of partnering with DCBS, and the leadership and frontline workers' management between the organizations. She highlighted VOA's goals to meet and exceed the standards as a provider, to affect the systems of care that VOA clients interact with to creatively have better outcomes for all.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:35 PM.