



# WV Center for Children's Justice

Brainstorm Meeting  
March 25, 2020  
4:00 PM  
Teleconference

<b>Meeting Called By:</b>	Andrea Darr, WV Center for Children's Justice
<b>Minutes:</b>	Lisa Carmelia, WV Center for Children's Justice
<b>Attendees:</b>	Janet Allio, School Nurse, Kanawha County Schools Barry Ball, United Methodist Church Debbie Bonasso, WV SHIELD, WV FRIS Lisa Carmelia, Administrative Coordinator, WV CCJ Rebecah Carson, Director of Centralized Intake, WV DHHR Tracy Dorsey Chapman, Victim/Witness, US Attorney's Office SDWV Andrea Darr, Director, WV Center for Children's Justice Adrienne Elder, HWC Coordinator for Oklahoma Audra Hamrick, Director of Public Health Practice & Service Learning, WVU School of Public Health Ed Jacobs, HWC Coordinator for Massachusetts Chad Napier, WV HIDTA Michele Perozich, social worker, Monongalia County Schools Robert Peters, Esq. Zero Abuse Project Gabe Pullin, Technical Assistant, WV Center for Children's Justice Judge James Rowe, Senior Status Judge, WV Supreme Court of Appeals Michelle Shaffer, WV State Police Crimes Against Children Unit Robyn Venoy, Hopewell Health Systems, HWC Coordinator in Ohio Courtney Whitehead, Director of School Counselors, Monongalia County Schools

The WV Center for Children's Justice is receiving many inquiries about how HWC can work during the COVID 19 Crisis since the children are not in school. There is great concern for the health and welfare of children stuck in isolated and potential unsafe situations.

## How do we reach children at risk and provide resources when kids are not in school?

1. HWC notices are still vitality important as most of the notices go to essential school staff who have relationships with the children who need to be handled with care and will be able to contact the kids should the need arise.
2. School staff can still have contact with kids through the internet:
  - School iPads and Surfaces

- Schoology (Teachers use Schoology to post their classroom materials online; provide a safe forum for students to discuss their ideas and collaborate on projects; and to assign and collect homework electronically. It helps students stay organized and it keeps the class connected.
  - Apps like Remind, Class DoJo and Google talk
    - \*many children do not have access to the internet
3. Food distribution either through picking up meals at the school or bus drivers running their routes to drop off meals at their stops is a great point of contact to reach kids and families.

**Ideas/Information/Concerns:**

Senior Trooper Michele Shafer stated that things are quiet. Troopers are grounded to the office except for emergency situations. They are not receiving as many mandatory reporter referrals. She thinks there will be an increase in cyber tip.

Chad Napier, WV HIDTA State Coordinator reported that with limited data it appears that overdoses in WV are down slightly. This could be since drugs are not moving in their normal patterns and frequency.

Rebecah Carson, Supervisor for WV Centralized Intake said referrals are down 100 to 120 per day and their normal is 250-270 per day. Most of these referrals are domestic violence related. Centralized Intake is functioning at full capacity. They have been teleworking without any interruptions. CPS response times are the same as before, however, they are trying to do as much by telephone as possible. Questions arose about children who self-report. Rebecah said it is usually an older child. She said this is usually a lengthy process but will immediately set up a protocol with her staff to expedite the process when a child calls to self-report.

Judge Rowe said that the courts are closed except for emergency hearings which include emergency/abuse neglect cases.

Barry Ball with United Methodist Church reported that churches are now basically functioning online.

Courtney reported that Monongalia County school counselors are meeting weekly to communicate with each other. They are calling students to keep tabs on them and have created an online referral form for students who need someone to talk to. They are also doing a wellness Wednesday activity to help students learn coping skills during these times.

Michelle Perozich reported that school based social workers are working with all local agencies to keep tabs on their kids and delivering food boxes to the front porches of kids involved with the food pantry. They are working closely with child advocates and law enforcement to try to help their high-risk kids and are asking teachers to notify them if the teacher is unable to reach the child by Chromebook or telephone. They are providing information to these families about

services, they are making high school kids aware of the fusion center app so that they can make reports, they are creating safety plans with the kids that include code words and they are making sure that kids have access to the hotlines. They are collecting old cell phones and giving it to families without phones so they will at least be able to call 911.

Audra with WVU School of Public Health thinks it might be helpful to put out a statewide message to continue to send HWC notices. Let law enforcement know that teachers still have contact with kids and that this will give teachers a heads up to make sure to contact those students. She also suggested giving children a signal to put in their window to announce that they are not doing ok.

Kelly Caseman with WV THINK Kids (<http://thinkkidswv.org/>) has concerns about how kids' basic needs are being met. Food instability is an issue even without this crisis. How can we provide a sense of stability with so many kids whose stability has been disrupted? Many children are cornered in chaos.

Robert Peters with the WV SHIED Task Force (<https://www.shieldwv.com/>) said that SHIELD is producing two or three videos oriented to different age groups to cover online and body safety information. He will include information about the CI reporting hotline in the videos.

- How can a child safely reach out for assistance?
- Could information be disseminated through social media.

Adrienne reported that Oklahoma City has been distributing a 211 informational poster to their communities in several different ways: through yard signs, through the Post Office targeting high risk zip codes, through neighborhood alliance emails, through school food distribution sites as well as lunch sacks. They are also trying to provide information on Mental Health for youth in stigma free and kid friendly language. Relationship Mapping is available as an opportunity for communities receiving HWC notices is working with available school staff to identify, who is a caring adult, who has a relationship with the student, and who can reach out by phone or through school apps.

Ed Jacobs with the Plymouth County District Attorney's Office in Plymouth Massachusetts said that in his community schools are asking staff to reach out to kids, particularly high-risk students. He said that social distance doesn't mean emotional distance.

Robyn Venoy relayed information about the Text Connect Crisis Hotline. Teens (and others) can text 741741 from anywhere in the United States or Canada to talk with a crisis counselor. Robyn suggested disseminating it to teachers and staff as well as putting this information in a social /emotional wellness lesson for students.

Andrea asked Gabe to get creative about a Law Enforcement HWC campaign. She wants her to send something out on social media every week.

Chad Napier and Michelle Shaffer said they would do a PSA video for social media from law enforcement to law enforcement.

Debbie loves the idea of putting something in the window such as a happy or sad face. Andrea wants Gabe to ask Jenny's team to see what they can come up with.

Michelle Perozich asked where to direct people who want to foster. The answer is Mission WV. We need to add this to the media push.

**Andrea recapped:**

Gabe will start a campaign on social media for LE to continue to send the notices.  
Robert is checking to see if 911 still works without services on discarded cell phones.  
Chad, Michelle and Barry will do a short video reminding LE to continue to send notices  
Adrienne is going to send information about their 211 campaign and on relationship mapping.  
Michelle Perozich is gathering a list of crisis numbers for kids.  
Andrea will talk to Jenny about creating a family help signal.

**Additional Emails after the Meeting:**

Tiffany Hendershot: Can the National Guard help with checking on HWC kids

Tracy Chapman: Teachers are recording themselves reading stories for kids to view via DoJo. Maybe they can read stories that incorporate personal safety, asking for help, etc. They are also using a google app for kids to read with teachers. Meet.google.com. They allow teachers to connect virtually with their students. Could we produce a Tips For Teachers on how to connect with at risk kids or HWC kids using these resources.

Robert Peters: Not sure if crisis lines can be called without service

Resources:

WV 211 for resources in your county <http://www.wv211.org/>

WV Food Link to access food in your area <http://foodlink.wvu.edu/>

WV Department of Education info about schools <https://wvde.us/covid19/>

WV Department of Education info about feeding site locations for students  
<https://wvde.us/covid19/feeding-site-information/>

National Center for school mental health COVID Tips and Resources  
<http://www.schoolmentalhealth.org/COVID-19-Resources/>

First responder contact info by county <https://go.wv.gov/wv help/>

Help and Hope WV resources for those struggling with substance use and mental health disorders <https://helpandhopewv.org/covid-19.html>

Protection of Children during the Coronavirus Pandemic (v.1)1 from the Alliance for Child Protection and Humanitarian Action  
[https://www.unicef.org/media/65991/file/Technical%20note:%20Protection%20of%20children%20during%20the%20coronavirus%20disease%202019%20\(COVID-19\)%20pandemic.pdf](https://www.unicef.org/media/65991/file/Technical%20note:%20Protection%20of%20children%20during%20the%20coronavirus%20disease%202019%20(COVID-19)%20pandemic.pdf)

National Suicide Prevention Lifeline at 1-800-273-TALK (8255).

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