



# WV Center for Children's Justice

Brainstorm Meeting  
May 6, 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  
Suzy Ardila, Manatee County School District, FL  
Justin Ash, Centralized Intake, WV DHHR  
Barry Ball, United Methodist Church  
Kevin Barney, PRO, Morgan County, HWC Coordinator  
Joetta Basile, Superintendent, Monroe County Schools  
Debbie Bonasso, WV SHIELD, WV FRIS  
Lisa Carmelia, Administrative Coordinator, WV CCJ  
Kelli Caseman, THINK Kids  
Stephanie Condon, Staff at IE Autism Society  
Awit Dalusong, Special Education Behavioral Services, Riverside, CA  
Andrea Darr, Director, WV Center for Children's Justice  
Laurea Ellis, Social Service Coordinator, WV DHHR, 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  
Karen Haring, Liberia, Inc  
Wuela Heceta, Safe at Home  
Mollie Hinzman, Ritchie Co School Counselor, HWC Coordinator  
Emily Hopta, Assistant to the Secretary, WV DHHR  
Phil Lasser, San Antonia Independent School District  
Carol Levine, Senior Fellow, United Hospital Fund  
Mercedes Logans, Staff at San Bernardino County First Five, CA  
Elisabeth Lloyd, Mason County EMS, HWC Coordinator  
Brittany Master, Greenbrier County, Community in Schools  
Rikki McCormick, Lincoln Co. Special Education, HWC Coordinator  
Raquel Welch McLeod, Ohio Co. Student Services, HWC Coordinator  
Amanda Merck, Salud American, San Antonio  
Arlene Molina  
Mandy Mote, Pleasants Social Service & Attendance HWC Coordinator  
Chad Napier, Director WV HIDTA  
Margaret O'Neal, United Way of Central WV  
Robert Peters, Esq. Zero Abuse Project  
Gabe Pullin, CCJ Social Media  
Judge James Rowe, Senior Status Judge, 11<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit  
Phillip Taylor, Hancock County HWC Coordinator

Keith Thomas, Student Support, Cabell Co. Schools, HWC Coordinator  
Linda Thompson, Drug Free Manatee, Florida  
Heather Waters  
Courtney Whitehead, School Counselors, Mon Schools HWC Coordinator  
Sara Whitney, Investigator, Putnam Co. Prosecuting Attorney's Office  
Pamela Woodman Kaehler, WV Ombudsman

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 in formal ZOOM meetings 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 vitality important 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.

**Ideas/Information/Concerns:**

WV DHHR Centralized Intake: Justine Ash, WVDHHR

- The number or referrals on child abuse and neglect to Centralized Intake are significantly lower, even since the last meeting. The referrals they are receiving are more serious in nature. There is an uptick in referrals coming from medical professionals.

- Andrea Darr: We have started a social media campaign on the new face of the mandated reporter and have an infographic being developed that we will ask you all to share

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

- There is a continued decline in meth probably due to logistics and access to ingredients coming from China. Overdoses are down a little and opiates are trending.

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

- Margaret has coordinated with all the United Ways of WV and the WV Department of Education Child Nutrition to distribute yard signs with 211 information at all the WV DE food distribution sites. The 211 resources are vital to families during this pandemic, but many families are not aware of the resource. Several HWC coordinators on the call requested yard signs: Morgan, Pleasants, Mason, Lewis, Wood and Monroe
- 211 operators across the state have been given information on reporting should a child call in and self-report abuse or neglect.
- United Way across the state are receiving approximately 75 calls a day and food is the most common request.
- The state is working on a google docs map with summer feeding sites, senior feeding sites and all the feeding sites on 211 in every county.
- The WVDE, in partnership with county nutrition directors, the state National Guard, Department of Agriculture, Division of Tourism and other state organizations, has provided approximately 1.4 million meals a week to children in the Mountain State. The introduction of the P-EBT will provide an additional resource to families impacted the hardest by the coronavirus pandemic.

#### Student Tracker App: Phil Lasser, San Antonio Schools

- Phil is the developer of the Student Interactions Tracker app being used in the San Antonio Independent School District. Now, when a Handle With Care notification comes in, social workers and campus staff can prepare for virtual contact with the student. The goal is to make sure teachers, social workers and counselors are reaching out to kids and are able to keep track of who reached out and when.
- Microsoft Office Suite had a free app-building platform in their power apps. They built a Student Interactions Tracker app in just one weekend.
- The app tracks interactions with all students at SAISD, including those with Handle with Care notifications. Teachers, counselors, nurses, and principals can track interactions with students by mode; such as phone call, Google Classroom, Zoom, Skype, Classtag, and more. There is also a dashboard with drilldown capabilities. For example, the dashboard can show daily percent of student interactions by grade and all interactions made by counselors. It is updated every day at 4pm. <https://salud-america.org/how-schools-continue-handle-with-care-for-kids-amid-closures-coronavirus/>
- The data is kept in a SharePoint site
- The app can be accessed by phone or through the browser on your computer

- A screen shot showed a list of students in a class on the left and, on the right are check boxes to check if you reached out to them or if another staff has reached out to them. You can also enter free from notes and can see previous notes entered by others.
- Prevents teachers and staff from contacting kids multiple times about the same thing
- The dashboard shows charts of students who have been contacted and by what means and on which students have had no contact
  - Targets the extra supports where needed
  - Custom built just for San Antonio, looking into a template so they can share
  - FERPA, HIPPA compliant
  - Could this be used over the summer
  - Are their tech groups that would create an app pro bono Amanda Merck

P-EBT: An extension to SNAP benefits: Andrea Darr, Margaret O'Neil, Kelli Casemen

- P-EBT is part of [H.R. 6201, the Families First Coronavirus Response Act](#) as a solution that delivers nutrition assistance on an EBT card that can be used to purchase groceries for families with school children who qualify for free or reduced-price school meals when school is out of session due to a pandemic.
- 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.
- P-EBT is an extension of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), administered by DHHR, and is a partnership with the WV Department of Education (WVDE) to assure student nutritional needs are met during this extraordinary time. The amount is approximately \$300 per child.
- P-EBT cards are not placed in food distribution bags nor are they issued to students; they are sent by mail to qualifying families. Families not enrolled in SNAP will receive an EBT card with a balance equivalent to what their child/children would have received by attending school. Families already enrolled in SNAP will receive an additional amount added to their existing EBT card equivalent to what their child/children would have received while attending school.
- Families that have an existing EBT card should receive the P-EBT credit by the end of May. Families who do not currently have an EBT card will receive a card with the P-EBT credit by mail in early June. Receiving P-EBT does not impact a family's financial status or eligibility for any other DHHR program.
- The card functions as a debit card and can be used at any approved SNAP retailer.
- The cards are not transferrable, but families are able to opt out of P-EBT should they not want to participate. It is also true that not all counties participate in the universal free and reduced meal program.
- A resource that may be helpful to the group is WVDE's P-EBT FAQ page: <https://wvde.us/covid19/wv-pebt/>. I am happy to provide additional information and resources if needed.
- More than 231,000 children in the Mountain State are eligible for this benefit, and the P-EBT plan estimates more than \$72 million in federal dollars will be coming to WV households for use in the local economy.
- As of May 4, [16 states](#)—Alabama, Arizona, California, Connecticut, Delaware, Illinois, Kansas, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, New Mexico, North Carolina, Oregon, Rhode Island, Virginia, and Wisconsin—have had their plans vetted and approved by the agency.
- In California it is called Cal Fresh and can be accessed with home delivery. (Stephanie)

### Autism and COVID: Dr. Kiti Freier-Randall and Stephanie Condon

- Social distancing can be very challenging for this population
- Many children will only eat certain foods and certain textures and parents may have difficulty accessing the only foods their kids will eat
- Social distancing may be difficult to adhere to.
- Masks can be an issue.

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

- 30 to 50% of kids in Southern California where she lives are not having contact with the schools.
- Day Care will be opening first, and kids are slowly be transitioned back to their day care and schools
- Children who were never able to be contacted should be priority with the phase in.

### Transition back to school in the fall: Courtney Whitehead:

What types of supports do we need to have in place in fall to support all students and teachers knowing everybody has experienced some sort of trauma at this time. When children come back to school, it will have been at least 6 months since they sat in a traditional classroom setting and where expected to follow classrooms rooms, keep their hands to their selves, know how to walk appropriately through the hallway not to mention the first time they will have opportunities to interact with their peers. What can we do to help child feel safe and address their needs and what can we do to support staff who will be asked to do even more to support the children? A couple of things they have talked about:

- Doing something to bring closure to the current school year
- Rolling out first day of school for kids making bigger transitions such as children moving from middle to high school.

### Andrea Darr, WV Center for Children's Justice

Question: We are experiencing something that was unimaginable just two months ago. Knowing now what you know, is there anything you would do differently in the future regarding relationships with children and their families? For instance:

1. Take the entire staff to ride the school bus at the beginning of the year to see the attendance area
2. Doing relationship mapping with the child with contact information on their trusted adult
3. Trauma Sensitive Schools training mandated for all school employees
4. 2 by 10 identifying kids that s
5. County wide trauma informed day for professional development to have a better understanding of challenges the students are facing
6. More preparation with online resources for teachers so they can successfully implement distance learning especially for the younger students.

### **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, May 20, 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 \(v.1\)<sup>1</sup> 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