



STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN RESOURCES

Bill J. Crouch
Cabinet Secretary

Bureau for Children and Families
Commissioner's Office
350 Capitol Street, Room 730
Charleston, West Virginia 25301-3711
Telephone: (304) 558-0628 Fax: (304) 558-4194

Linda M. Watts
Commissioner

May 13, 2020

To the members of the Citizen's Review Panel,

First, I'd like to commend your service to the children and families of West Virginia. Your review of our policies and practice in Child Welfare cases is invaluable. Thank you for your report dated December 19, 2020. I've reviewed the report as well as the recommendations and offer the following;

1. Increase training to foster/adoptive parents in Reasonable and Prudent Parenting.

The Bureau for Children and Families will explore the ability of foster parent training providers offering more in-depth training on Reasonable and Prudent Parenting. DHHR does have an on-line training available to the general public.

2. Provide consistent training to ASO providers statewide on Motivational Interviewing.

BCF will determine if ASO providers are training all staff in Motivational Interviewing and if not, determine if BCF training can offer this training through on-line blackboard as we've done in the past.

3. Provide additional training to Child Protective Services workers on Human Trafficking.

The Bureau will explore the option of offering child and youth services workers additional training on Human Trafficking. We've determined through case review that front line workers may not understand the complexities of offering service to victims of trafficking who may not be victims of abuse.

4. Improve communication between the Women Infants and Children (WIC) program and Child Protective Services workers.

Communication between the WIC program and state office policy staff has only recently improved at the State Office level. The Bureau of Children and Families will develop a group with both Bureaus to determine the best course of action to improve this communication in the field.

5. Provide the CRP with a copy of the West Virginia approved Program Improvement Plan (PIP).

A copy of the approved West Virginia Program Improvement Plan is attached to this response.

Sincerely,

Linda Watts, Commissioner