



Health & Human Services Collaborative

An arm of the Family Resource Network

KIT Work Group December 2019

Key Statistics

- Since 2010, the West Virginia drug-induced death rate has been approximately twice the national rate. In 2017, the rate for the United States was 22.7 deaths per 100,000, and West Virginia's rate was 56.3. Berkeley County was significantly higher at 73.1, and Jefferson County was 40.8. (Morgan County total population was too low for data requirements). (*Center for Disease Control and Prevention – Online Data Base "WONDER" found at wonder.cdc.gov*)
- The impact of the crisis is evident in child welfare data. A 2017 report of child removal data since 2010 produced by the WV Department of Health and Human Services, Bureau for Children and Families, Child Protective Services Department showed the sharp increase beginning in 2013 and growing at a drastic rate. From January 2013 to January 2019, the number of children in care grew by 70% to 6,791. (*West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources, Bureau for Children and Families, "Legislative Foster Care Reports" available at <https://dhhr.wv.gov/bcf/Reports/Pages/Legislative-Foster-Care.aspx>*)
- Local child welfare data provided by WV Department of Health and Human Services shows an increase in reports of abuse and neglect in the three counties of Berkeley, Morgan, and Jefferson of 8% each year from 2016 through 2018. (*Kathryn Bradley, West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources*)
- West Virginia has the highest foster care entry rate (13.3 per 1,000 children) of any state. (*U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, Administration on Children Youth and Families -2019 Child Welfare Outcomes Data*)
- According to Kid's Count Data for 2016-2018, 6% of children (24,000) reside in kinship (extended family or close friends) care. (*West Virginia Kids Count Data at datacenter.kidscount.org*)
- Grandfamilies.org fact sheet for West Virginia shows 21,304 grandparents are householders responsible for their grandchildren who live with them, and of those 4,453 live in poverty. (*Grandfamilies.org "GrandFacts – West Virginia"*)
- Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) have been linked to increased lifelong vulnerability to lifelong physical and mental health issues, including addiction. A 2014 study available through the West Virginia ACEs Coalition showed that 55.8% of adult West Virginians reported at least one ACE, with over half of that group experiencing multiple ACEs. (*Adverse Childhood Experiences Coalition of West Virginia (2018). "Stumbling Blocks or Stepping Stones: Findings on Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) in West Virginia." Provided at www.wvaces.org*)

Challenges:

- Ongoing opioid crisis - impact on family and child well-being
- Insufficient number of in-state placement options (especially for specific populations)
- Medicaid reimbursement amounts/delays impacting provider options
- Adapting to changing legislature regarding service delivery and the corresponding needs for staff training
- Search Institute 40 Developmental Assets – schedule of presenters in school and working to have surveys conducted in schools

Proposed strategies:

- Grant application to meet resource and referral needs and ongoing effort to identify family needs to keep children safe and secure in homes
- Ongoing training – KIT/CEO subcommittee survey of training needs and continuation of training opportunities
- Join the Assets Movement – Outreach of 40 Developmental Assets into area middle schools - public screenings of *Paper Tigers* and *Resilience* documentaries

Successes:

- Although not granted, an application for a federal grant for a Family Resource Center and satellite was submitted by a multiple agency collaboration.
- Grant application received a high rating and will be given corrective attention for follow-up grant application(s) by a KIT grant subcommittee.
- Eighty-six individuals attended training on *Reactive Attachment and Grief Therapy Disorder* (09/12/19)
Eighty-nine individuals attended training on *Motivational Interviewing* (11/06/19)
- Ongoing collaboration with The Children's Home Society of WV provided continuing education credits for both events. Support for the location and presenter cost was the result of collaboration with Berkeley County Schools/Project aware and West Virginia DHHR.



Family Resource Network
of the Panhandle, Inc.

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Serving Berkeley, Jefferson and
Morgan counties