



Supreme Court of Appeals State of West Virginia

News

Administrative Office
1900 Kanawha Blvd., East
Bldg. 1, Room, E-316
Charleston, West Virginia 25305
(304) 340-2305 Jennifer Bundy
(304) 340-2306 April Harless
(304) 558-1212 FAX
Web Site: www.courtswv.gov
Facebook: [wvjudiciary](https://www.facebook.com/wvjudiciary)
Twitter: [WVCourts](https://twitter.com/WVCourts)
Flickr: www.flickr.com/photos/courtswv/
Email: Jennifer.Bundy@courtswv.gov
Email: April.Harless@courtswv.gov

23rd Judicial Circuit Hosts Meeting to Improve Services for Children

For immediate release Friday, November 8, 2019

MARTINSBURG, W.Va. – Professionals who work with youths in the juvenile justice system in the Twenty-Third Judicial Circuit (Berkeley, Jefferson and Morgan Counties) spent the afternoon on Thursday, November 7, discussing how to work better together.

The purpose of the four-hour stakeholders meeting was to bring everyone together to discuss a unified approach. More than 125 people attended.

“Our inaugural Juvenile Justice Stakeholder meeting was an important step toward ensuring the safety of the children in the Twenty-Third Circuit,” said Circuit Judge R. Steven Redding. “The event was well attended and included judges, attorneys, child protection service workers, CASA workers and representatives from various youth service providers. The participants shared ideas on how we can strengthen our capacity to protect, while also providing due process and systemic efficiency to those families we serve.

“I am grateful for the tremendous interest and participation of the attendees and look forward to making the stakeholders meeting an annual event,” Judge Redding said. He attended along with Judges Bridget Cohee and Debra McLaughlin. The three judges made a presentation on local practice and procedure in juvenile cases.

“Despite the challenges we face, particularly with the opioid crisis, the public can be assured that many dedicated and committed child advocates are working tirelessly toward healthier and safer communities,” Judge Redding said.

There also were presentations by Cindy Largent-Hill, Director of the Supreme Court’s Division of Children and Juvenile Services; Brenda Hoylman, Child Welfare/Juvenile Justice Manager for the Supreme Court; and Gabe Conley, Kandi Greter, and Andria Jones of the Supreme Court’s Court Improvement Program. They talked about the Department of Health and Human Resources (DHHR) Family First Initiative; new legislation, policies, and rules; juvenile placements; and West Virginia Court Improvement Program projects and processes, followed by an open discussion on local practices, policies and procedures.

The meeting at the Comfort Inn Aikens Center in Martinsburg was paid for by the West Virginia Court Improvement Program.

##