



Psychotropic Medication Advisory Committee (PMAC)

2019 Annual Report

**Department of Social Services –
Children’s Division**

DSS.MO.GOV

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Establishment of the Psychotropic Medication Advisory Committee

The Department of Social Services (DSS) administers several programs to promote, safeguard and protect the general welfare of children in the State of Missouri. DSS has established the Children's Division (CD) to administer and manage the programs for children who are in the legal custody of the state. The CD mission is to protect Missouri children from abuse and neglect; assuring their safety and well-being by partnering with families, communities and government in an ethically, culturally and socially responsible manner. CD has developed specific programs to provide specialized services. These programs keep children safe through investigation, intervention, prevention, early child care, adoption and foster care.

On June 17, 2017, CD became involved in litigation regarding the use of psychotropic medication and children in foster care. The litigation was filed by several children, on behalf of all children in CD custody who presently are, or in the future will be, prescribed or administered one or more psychotropic medications while in state care, and it sought changes in how CD manages psychotropic medications and medical records for children in its custody. CD collaborated with several public agencies to further address the needs of children on psychotropic medication while in the custody of CD. Those best practice protocols were included in a Joint Settlement Agreement (Agreement), along with data measures.

On July 15, 2019, an order granting preliminary approval for the Agreement was filed. In addition to the preliminary approval, the order provided all prospective class members and their legal representatives receive notice of the proposed Agreement. Any individual who had comments regarding the Agreement could write to Class Counsel and/or attend the fairness hearing.

On November 20, 2019, the fairness hearing was held in Kansas City, Missouri. The courts reviewed any written/verbal comments to determine if the Agreement was reasonable, fair and adequate and should receive the court's final approval.

On December 5, 2019, the "Order Granting Final Approval of the Class Action Settlement" was signed and dated by United States District Judge Nanette Laughrey. The court retained jurisdiction of the Agreement for the purposes of enforcing the terms/requirements of the Agreement. To review a copy of the Agreement, please click on the link below.

[Joint Settlement Agreement](#)

A requirement within the Agreement is to appoint and maintain a Psychotropic Medication Advisory Committee (PMAC). The purpose of the PMAC is to provide professional and technical consultation and policy advice to DSS, including MO HealthNet (MHD) and CD on the development and implementation of policy pertaining to the administration of psychotropic medications to children in foster care. The Agreement required the appointment of a chairperson, co-chair and 14 committee members with specific professional credentials. The required PMAC appointments are complete and additional professionals who have information and/or expertise that could contribute to the PMAC have been added. Currently, there are 22 PMAC members (see chart on page 4).

The PMAC is required to meet at least quarterly and prepare an annual report outlining the PMAC's work and progress made by DSS towards implementing the goals established by the Agreement, with the report to be presented to the Director of DSS and published on DSS's website. This annual report will contain the PMAC's work and implementation progress in 2019.

Psychotropic Medication Advisory Committee Members

| Committee Member Name | Role | Affiliation |
|------------------------------|--|---|
| Judge Sue Crane | Chair - Associate Circuit Judge | Associate Circuit Judge - Division VII Thirteenth Judicial Circuit |
| Dr. Laine Young-Walker* | Co-Chair - Child and Adolescent Psychiatrist Chair - Clinical Sub-Committee | Chair Department of Psychiatry – University of Missouri |
| Jennifer Tidball | Acting DSS Director | Department of Social Services |
| David Kurt | CD Director | Children’s Division |
| Todd Richardson | MO HealthNet Division Director | MO HealthNet |
| Dr. Christopher Bellonci* | Child Psychiatrist | Judge Baker Children’s Center |
| Dr. Manuel Hernandez III* | Child Psychiatrist | Saint Luke's Hospital of Kansas City's Crittenton Children's Center |
| Sara Gordon | CASA | CASA of St. Louis |
| Dr. Patsy Carter* | Psychologist | Center for Excellence in Child Well-Being |
| Connie Cahalan | Director of Children’s Services | Department of Mental Health |
| Kristen Dickinson | Parent Attorney | Dickinson Law Firm |
| A.J. | Youth in alternative care | Youth |
| D.C | Youth in alternative care | Youth |
| A.G. | Youth in alternative care | Youth |
| Nick Mebruer | GAL | Mebruer Law Firm |
| Dr. Nathan Beucke | Pediatrician | MU– Pediatrics |
| Dr. Mark Roaseau* | Pharmacist | MO HealthNet |
| Dr. Josh Moore* | Director of Pharmacy | MO HealthNet |
| Dr. Maya Moody* | Pediatrician | Center for Excellence in Child Well-Being |
| Lisa Dyer | Foster Parent | Children’s Division Licensed Foster Parent |
| Carrie Bolm | President/CEO MA-CF | Missouri Alliance for Children and Families |
| Jessica Haslag | Electronic Health Records | MO HealthNet |

* Clinical Sub-Committee Members

Psychotropic Medication Advisory Committee Meetings

In 2019, the PMAC began developing work topics for the PMAC to review. The first PMAC meeting was held on September 9, 2019. During this meeting, the CD Director discussed the appointment of the chairperson and co-chair of the PMAC. In addition to these discussions, several nominations were introduced and completed during the meeting. The chairperson and co-chair nominations were to be reviewed by the Acting Director of the DSS for final appointment.

The members in attendance were:

| | | |
|------------------------|----------------------------------|--------------|
| Dr. Laine Young-Walker | Kristen Dickinson | Nick Mebruer |
| Dr. Mark Roaseau | Dr. Christopher Bellonci (phone) | Lisa Dyer |
| Dr. Nathan Beucke | Dr. Josh Moore | |
| Dr. Maya Moody | Dr. Manuel Hernandez (phone) | |

Also in attendance were two youth committee members.

In addition to the CD Director's discussion, CD staff provided an overview of the Agreement. The overview included a discussion of the Agreement's requirements including but not limited to: psychotropic medication training, enhanced medical records collection, medication monitoring, secondary reviews of prescriptions, and refinement of the informed consent and assent processes. A representative from The Center for Excellence (CFE) presented an overview of CFE's role as the Statewide Clinical Consultant. CFE provides consultations related to psychotropic medications, physical health, and mental health treatment/placement issues. CD staff provided a summary of the PMAC duties with an emphasis on the need for a clinical sub-committee to develop "Excessive Dosage Criteria" guidelines.

The second and final PMAC meeting in 2019 was held on November 25, 2019. During this meeting, the Chair of the PMAC was introduced.

The members in attendance were:

| | | |
|-------------------------|----------------------------------|----------------|
| Judge Sue Crane {Chair} | Dr. Laine Young Walker | Jessica Haslag |
| Dr. Patsy Carter | Kristen Dickinson | |
| Carrie Bolm | Dr. Mark Roaseau (phone) | |
| Sara Gordon (phone) | Connie Cahalan (phone) | |
| Dr. Josh Moore | Dr. Christopher Bellonci (phone) | |

Also in attendance were two youth committee members.

In addition to the introduction of the Chair, CD provided an overview of the November 20, 2019 fairness hearing. The hearing was held in the presence of a United States Magistrate Judge. Upon completion of the hearing the magistrate judge announced that she would be preparing a report and recommendation for the United States District Judge regarding the Agreement; however, there was no final court approval of the Agreement at the time of the meeting.

A general discussion was presented to the PMAC by Missouri Hospital Association members Al Greimann and Sarah Willson regarding the need for expedited informed consent for psychotropic medication administration for children during inpatient hospitalization. The Chair determined that this discussion would need a comprehensive review and indicated that this topic would be continued to the next PMAC meeting.

Clinical Sub-Committee Meeting

During the PMAC meeting on November 25, 2019 the clinical sub-committee required by the Agreement was developed. The work topic for the clinical sub-committee is the development of the "Excessive Dosage Criteria" guidelines.

The clinical sub-committee's work will begin by reviewing the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) medication guidelines, publications from the American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry (AACAP) on psychotropic medications, and reviews of psychotropic medication programs in other states.

The first and only clinical sub-committee meeting in 2019 was held on December 17, 2019.

The members in attendance were:

| | |
|--------------------------------|----------------------|
| Dr. Laine Young Walker {Chair} | Dr. Mark Roaseau |
| Dr. Patsy Carter | Dr. Manuel Hernandez |
| Dr. Josh Moore | Dr. Maya Moody |

During this meeting the Chair established the timeline for the development of the "Excessive Dosage Criteria" guidelines for CD. The clinical sub-committee will submit an initial draft to the PMAC in April 2020 and the final guideline will be available in June 2020.

The clinical sub-committee obtained psychotropic medication program manuals/guidelines from three (3) states. The states were Texas, Florida and New Jersey. The Chair requested that each member select a state manual/guideline, perform an in-depth review and be prepared to discuss the highlights of their review during the next clinical sub-committee meeting.

Summary

DSS, CD worked diligently during the preliminary approval of the Agreement to establish the PMAC. The potential guidance and consultation from the PMAC were determined to be vital parts in the review and implementation of the proposed Agreement requirements.

In December 2019 when the Agreement received its final approval there were a total of 13,052 children (0-17) in foster care. Of that number 2,593 were prescribed a psychotropic medication. This is approximately 20% of all children in foster care. The primary purpose of the Agreement was to address psychotropic medication use in children who are in the legal custody of the state and are in foster care. In anticipation of the needs of the 20%, DSS, CD has dedicated staff and resources to the administration, organization, initiation and monitoring of the requirements in the Agreement. The appointment of members and PMAC work topics in this report demonstrate DSS, CD's progress with the PMAC for 2019.

PMAC 2020

In 2020 the primary work topics for the PMAC will be the development and approval of the "Excessive Dosage Criteria" guidelines and informed consent guidelines for children with inpatient hospitalizations. The purpose of the PMAC is to provide professional and technical consultation to DSS, CD and MHD. This focus should remain consistent as DSS, CD continues to develop, implement, review, and monitor Agreement goals and requirements.