



May 1, 2020

Dear MDT Members,

Thank you for the work you do every day to protect children and families in your community. Local multidisciplinary teams have the opportunity to assist children and families at every phase of their healing process. As you know, this period of isolation, economic insecurity, and changes in school and work routines puts children at increased risk for physical and sexual abuse. With our teachers and counselors removed from regular in-person interaction with children, incidents of abuse may go unreported.

It is incumbent upon our multidisciplinary teams to closely examine the challenges brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic and explore opportunities to respond. This starts by deepening your commitment to case review meetings and staying connected with each member of the team. Doing so will strengthen your community's system of care for children.

The Kentucky Multidisciplinary Commission on Child Sexual Abuse (KMCCSA) is committed to supporting teams and helping them find the tools they need to connect remotely during the crisis. Here are some recommendations:

- Review the 25 Tips for MDTs During the Pandemic: This resource was developed by the Zero Abuse Project and provides a good framework for team discussions.
- For Facilitators – Review the Southern Regional Children's Advocacy Center Tips for Virtual Meetings: Facilitating a remote meeting requires adjusting your approach. This guide will help facilitators think through some of the nuances that arise when team members are not meeting in person.
- Use your local CAC as a resource: If you are a member of an MDT and have questions – please reach out to your local Children's Advocacy Center (CAC). Your CAC can provide remote meeting tools like Zoom and WebEx. The center can also help adjust confidentiality or sign-in forms for team meetings.

These resources can all be found on the KMCCSA webpage of the Attorney General's Office. We hope you will utilize these resources, recommit to your local team protocols and the principles behind the multidisciplinary team. Thank you for all that you are doing for the children of the Commonwealth. Please feel free to reach out to the Commission with any questions or concerns you may have.

Sincerely,

Caroline Ruschell, Chair