WEST VIRGINIA CODE: §49-2-131

§49-2-131. Caseworker services pilot program.

(a) (1) The Department of Human Services shall, within 90 days of the effective date of this section, establish a pilot program through which it shall enter into a contract with one or more qualified private entities to provide caseworker aide services to supplement existing departmental staff within the Bureau for Social Services with administrative support services using a human services technology platform to allow departmental staff more time for personal interactions with children and families served by the department.

(2) Caseworker aides retained under the contract shall meet substantially equivalent education, experience, training, and background check requirements as departmental caseworkers and caseworker aides.

(3) The department shall maintain supervisory and decision-making authority over all cases, and contracted caseworker aide personnel shall operate under departmental policies and oversight.

(b) The department shall deploy contracted caseworker aide services in one or more districts comprised of no more than three counties in the aggregate meeting criteria established by rule or policy, including, but not limited to:

(1) Average caseloads exceeding state or federal guidelines;

(2) Persistent vacancy rates among child welfare positions; or

(3) A disproportionate percentage of children from that county placed in out-of-state foster care or residential facilities.

(c) (1) The pilot program shall operate for 15 months following the execution of the contract allowing for a three-month onboarding process to establish departmental priorities and workflow processes and a one-year operational period.

(2) Prior to the conclusion of the pilot program, the department shall submit a written report to the Joint Committee on Health detailing the pilot’s implementation, performance outcomes, costs, and recommendations for continuation or expansion.

(3) The department may, at its discretion, continue or expand the pilot program statewide if the evaluation demonstrates improved case management capacity or outcomes.

PART VIII – Reports of Children Suspected of Abuse.

WV Legislature