WEST VIRGINIA CODE: §49-2-815

§49-2-815. Pilot program for the use of technology in child abuse and neglect investigations.

(a) Beginning October 1, 2027, the department shall implement a pilot project in two counties that requires the use of mobile devices, including, but not limited to, computers or tablets, to access the department's case management system. The purpose of the project is to assist Child Protective Services workers and the department in conducting child abuse and neglect investigations by using advanced technology to enhance and expedite real-time fact gathering and data management during investigations.

(b) The department shall determine which counties shall participate in the pilot program.

(c) The department shall develop policies to implement the pilot program which shall include, at a minimum, the following:

(1) The mobile device shall have an operating system that is customized for child welfare casework;

(2) The operating system on the mobile device shall allow a Child Protective Services worker to create a contemporaneous, digital record of all components of the investigation;

(3) The mobile device shall automatically and securely upload to the department's server on a daily basis;

(4) The operating system used in the mobile device shall be interoperable with existing department programs to allow relevant quality metrics to be extracted from the operating system into standard reports to be analyzed for systemic improvement; and

(5) The mobile device shall be used on at least 70 percent of the cases in the pilot counties during the time period being studied.

(d) The quality metrics shall be extracted on a monthly basis and analyzed by the secretary and members of his or her staff charged with systemic improvement of the child welfare system.

(e) The pilot program shall terminate five years from the time the department fully implements the pilot program in two counties.

(f) The department shall file annual reports beginning July 1, 2028, and July 1 annually thereafter, with the Legislative Oversight Commission on Health and Human Resources Accountability to provide a program update on the status of the pilot program, including metrics on the use of the technology.

WV Legislature