

# **TOBACCO SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT FUND OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE**

## **Minutes of the 5th Meeting of the 2020 Interim**

**October 15, 2020**

### **Call to Order and Roll Call**

The 5th meeting of the Tobacco Settlement Agreement Fund Oversight Committee was held on Thursday, October 15, 2020, at 10:30 AM, in Room 171 of the Capitol Annex. Representative Myron Dossett, Chair, called the meeting to order, and the secretary called the roll.

Present were:

Members: Senator C.B. Embry Jr., Co-Chair; Representative Myron Dossett, Co-Chair; Senators Matt Castlen, Dennis Parrett, Robin L. Webb, and Whitney Westerfield; Representatives Kim King, Phillip Pratt, Brandon Reed, Rachel Roberts, and Dean Schamore.

Guests: Dorsey Ridley, Executive Director, Governor's Office of Agricultural Policy; Bill McCloskey, Deputy Executive Director, Governor's Office of Agricultural Policy; Amy Neal, Executive Director, Governor's Office of Early Childhood; Dr. Sarah Vanover, Director, Division of Childcare, Department for Community Based Services, Cabinet for Health and Family Services; Paula Goff, Division of Maternal and Child Health, Kentucky Department for Public Health, Cabinet for Health and Family Services; Jennifer Washburn, Executive Director, iKids Inc.

LRC Staff: Nathan Smith, Kelly Ludwig, and Rachel Hartley.

### **Report on the projects considered for funding at the September meeting of the Agricultural Development Board**

Dorsey Ridley stated at the August meeting of the Agricultural Development Board, Daviess County approved funds to help pay for premiums and awards for the 4-H and Future Farmers of America at the Lions Club Fair. Mr. Ridley informed the board that Senator Hornback and Senator Parrett voiced concern over the approved funds during the committee's September meeting.

Bill McCloskey described the Agricultural Development Board's (ADB) projects for September. Mr. McCloskey highlighted programs including the County Agriculture Investment Program (CAIP), Deceased Farm Animal Removal, Meat Processing Level 2

Expansion, Next Generation Farmer, Shared-Use Equipment Program, and the Youth Agriculture Incentive Program (YAIP).

The projects discussed included:

- Triple J Farm was approved for up to \$180,000 in multiple county and state funds to build a new farm market.
- Hinton's Orchard and Farm Market was approved for up to \$10,000 in multiple county funds to expand its commercial kitchen, which will include an additional food preparation area and increased concessions capacity for the fall.
- Owen County Farm Bureau was approved for up to \$4,000 in Owen County funds to improve accessibility at the farmers market facility.
- Greenup County Extension District Board was approved for up to \$10,000 in Greenup County funds to purchase mobile livestock pens, which will be used for the Greenup County Fair and other agricultural events.
- Nash Farms was approved for up to \$45,679 in multiple county and state funds to develop a produce facility that will be designated for receiving, washing, packaging, and storing fresh produce.
- Kentucky Agriculture and Environment in the Classroom was approved for up to \$120,000 in state funds for educational materials and program services to grow agricultural literacy, develop future consumers, and encourage students to consider agriculture-based professions.
- The Kentucky Department of Agriculture was approved for up to \$259,000 in state funds over two years to continue to support the Kentucky Grape and Wine Council Initiatives.
- Wilburn R. Sisco was denied \$10,000 in state funds to build a pond for his cattle operation. The On-Farm Water Management Committee recommended denying the request as it did not meet eligibility criteria.
- Ghost Horse Highland Farm and Gifts was denied \$1,500 in state funds to develop a spring to harvest water for livestock. The On-Farm Water Management Committee recommended denying the request as it did not meet eligibility criteria.
- Honey Tree Farm was denied \$6,160 in state funds to install a water line and waterers for livestock. The On-Farm Water Management Committee recommended denying the request as it did not meet eligibility criteria.

### **Early Childhood Development**

Amy Neal stated the Governor's Office of Early Childhood (GOEC) received \$25,439,100 in tobacco settlement funds for Fiscal Year 2021. The majority of the funds are used for the Child Care Program and Health Access Nurturing Development Services (HANDS).

In 2018, the Early Childhood Advisory Council implemented a five year strategic plan. The mission is to provide leadership and direction for Kentucky by providing a comprehensive and sustainable prenatal-to-age-five early childhood system that will ensure a strong foundation for all children.

Dr. Sarah Vanover stated the Division of Child Care (DCC) has a budget allotment of \$9,750,000 for Fiscal Year 2020, and the majority of the funds go directly to providers through quality incentives with Kentucky All Stars. The tobacco settlement funds are used as matching funds to receive the federal Child Care and Development Fund block grant.

In response to Representative King, Dr. Vanover stated most of the federal funding goes directly to subsidies. Federal approval allowed centers to use subsidies while they were closed based on enrollment instead of attendance.

In response to Senator Embry, Dr. Vanover stated there is a list of centers and how they rate at [kynect.ky.gov](https://kynect.ky.gov).

In response to Representative Dossett, Dr. Vanover stated prior to the closure in March 2020, DCC was serving approximately 28,000 children. Currently, 50 out of 1,776 licensed centers are temporarily closed and 16 out of 216 certified homes are temporarily closed. Since March 19, 2020, 94 new centers have opened.

Jennifer Washburn stated she has owned and operated iKids in Benton, Kentucky for 21 years. They are rated five stars by GOEC and are licensed for 97 children. In partnership with Marshall County High School, iKids has a program for co-op placements for seniors and juniors to earn child care credentials. There are also programs with Murray State University and Western Kentucky Community and Technical College System for practicum placements.

Paula Goff stated Early Childhood Mental Health (ECMH) receives \$1,000,000 annually from the tobacco settlement funds, and the funds are part of the match for the Maternal and Child Title V Block Grant. The services include consultations, trainings, evaluations, and therapeutic services for children from birth to five years old.

Child Care Health Consultation receives \$1,000,000 annually from the tobacco settlement funds. The funds support ten regional health consultants and two trainers to provide technical assistance and training on health, safety, and social-emotional development to licensed and certified childcare providers.

HANDS is a statewide home visitation program. In Fiscal Year 2020, HANDS served over 4,000 families. The program is designed to assist overburdened parents during the prenatal period until the child's third birthday.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.