

BUDGET REVIEW SUBCOMMITTEE ON JUSTICE AND JUDICIARY

Minutes of the 1st Meeting of the 2025 Interim

June 4, 2025

Call to Order and Roll Call

The 1st meeting of the Budget Review Subcommittee on Justice and Judiciary was held on June 4, 2025, at 9:00 AM in Room 129 of the Capitol Annex. Representative Stephanie Dietz, Chair, called the meeting to order, and the secretary called the roll.

Present were:

Members: Representative Stephanie Dietz Co-Chair; Representatives Adam Bowling, Daniel Elliott, and Josh Bray.

Guests: Randy White, Commissioner, Department of Juvenile Justice; Elzie Burgher, Executive Director, Office of Support Services, Department of Juvenile Justice; Hilarye Dailey, Deputy Commissioner, Department of Corrections; Nathan Goens, Assistant General Counsel, Office of Legal Services, Justice and Public Safety Cabinet; and Rebecca Norton, Budget Director, Justice and Public Safety Cabinet.

LRC Staff: Zachary Ireland, Perry Papka, and Benjamin Thompson.

Update - Department of Corrections - Medical Services Contract

Hilarye Dailey, Deputy Commissioner, Department of Corrections; and Nathan Goens, Assistant General Counsel, Office of Legal Services, Justice and Public Safety Cabinet provided information regarding the department's contract with Wellpath, a medical services provider.

In response to questions from Chair Dietz, Mr. Goens noted that Wellpath's reorganization plan was confirmed on May 9, 2025 by the bankruptcy judge. Mr. Goens stated that there was no impact to the Department of Corrections due to Wellpath's bankruptcy. Ms. Dailey said that there has been no lapse or reduction in services because of Wellpath's bankruptcy filing.

In response to a question from Representative Bray, Ms. Dailey stated that the department was unaware whether Wellpath was in debt to Kentucky hospitals.

Update - Department of Juvenile Justice - High-Acuity Mental Health Facility & Medical Services Contract

Randy White, Commissioner, Department of Juvenile Justice; and Elzie Burgher, Executive

Committee meeting materials may be accessed online at <https://apps.legislature.ky.gov/CommitteeDocuments/17>

Director, Office of Support Services, Department of Juvenile Justice provided an update regarding the department's request for a high-acuity mental health facility as well as ongoing negotiations with Wellpath to become the medical services provider for incarcerated juveniles.

In response to questions from Chair Dietz, Mr. Burgher said the high-acuity mental health facility did not yet have funding and there are only preliminary concepts for the facility. Ms. Norton stated that the facility would have 24 beds. Eight of those beds would be for assessment and stabilization. Ms. Norton noted that the Cabinet for Health and Family Services is also requesting a similar facility for youth who are not justice involved.

In response to questions from Representative Bowling, Mr. Burgher noted that there was one juvenile who had been placed out of state. Historically there have been around five juveniles placed in out of state facilities but it has become harder to get other states to accept them.

Adjournment

There being no further business before the subcommittee, the meeting was adjourned at 9:59 AM.