

2020 REGULAR SESSION

HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS & REVENUE

BUDGET REVIEW SUBCOMMITTEE ON HEALTH & FAMILY SERVICES

2nd Meeting

February 5, 2020

The Budget Review Subcommittee on Health & Family Services of the House Standing Committee on Appropriations & Revenue held its 2nd meeting of the 2020 Regular Session on February 5, 2020, at 10:00 AM, in Room 129 of the Capitol Annex. The Chair called the meeting to order, and the secretary called the roll.

Members Present: Representative Danny Bentley, Chair; Representative Melinda Gibbons Prunty, Vice Chair; Representatives Adam Bowling, Deanna Frazier, Kimberly Poore Moser, Russell Webber, Susan Westrom and Lisa Willner.

Guests: Eric Friedlander, Acting Secretary, Cabinet for Health and Family Services; Eric Lowery, Executive Director, Office of Finance and Budget, Cabinet for Health and Family Services; Eric Mather, Inspector General, Office of the Inspector General, Cabinet for Health and Family Services.

LRC Staff: Miriam Fordham, Kevin Newton, Ben Thompson, Dillard Collier, and Jim Thornton.

Cabinet for Health and Family Services Overview

Acting Secretary Friedlander provided an overview of the Cabinet for Health and Family Services' (Cabinet) scope of responsibilities and included a discussion of funding. He stated that the fiscal biennium 2020-2022 proposed budget is a good one for the department and will help the Cabinet with its outreach efforts. Acting Secretary Friedlander listed the biennium budget priorities of each department in the Cabinet, including the staffing needs of the Department for Community Based Services.

In response to questions from Representative Westrom, Acting Secretary Friedlander stated that the issue of minimum expectations and standards for the Sober Living Communities would need to be addressed by a collaborative effort of all parties involved, including the courts. Acting Secretary Friedlander stated that Recovery Kentucky is a good model for developing certification guidelines.

In response to a question from Representative Willner, the Acting Secretary said that a key to preventing trauma and domestic violence would be by increased investments in independent living programs.

In response to a question from Representative Moser, Secretary Friedlander stated that Family First and the Kentucky Strengthening Ties and Empowering Families (KSTEP) programs are funded at their previous level in the current budget proposal.

In response to a questions from Representative Prunty, Mr. Friedlander said the Cabinet would follow all laws in place. The Secretary stated that people must be supported enough to get to work and the section 1115 Medicaid waiver could possibly place extra barriers in the system, thereby preventing some from entering or re-entering the workplace. These same individuals could possibly end up at another point in the system.

General Administration and Program Support

Director Lowery gave an overview of the direct service agencies within the Administrative Support Unit and a breakdown of the budget in FY 2020- 2022. The presentation also addressed components in the recommended budget for the Cabinet.

Inspector General Mather discussed the responsibilities of the office of Inspector General.

There being no further business to come before the subcommittee, the meeting was adjourned at 11:11 a.m.