

2022 REGULAR SESSION

HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS & REVENUE

BUDGET REVIEW SUBCOMMITTEE ON HEALTH & FAMILY SERVICES

2nd Meeting

February 2, 2022

The Budget Review Subcommittee on Health & Family Services of the House Standing Committee on Appropriations & Revenue held its 2nd meeting of the 2022 Regular Session on February 2, 2022, at 10:00 AM, in Room 169 of the Capitol Annex. The Chair called the meeting to order, and the secretary called the roll.

Members Present: Representative Danny Bentley, Chair; Representatives Adam Bowling, Ken Fleming, Deanna Frazier Gordon, Kimberly Poore Moser, Melinda Gibbons Prunty, Steve Sheldon, Susan Westrom and Lisa Willner.

Guests: Frances Feltner, Ph.D., Director, University of Kentucky Center of Excellence in Rural Health; Ernie Scott, Director, Kentucky Office of Rural Health (KORH); Eric Friedlander, Secretary, Cabinet for Health and Family Services (CHFS); Eric Lowery, Executive Director, Office of Finance and Budget, CHFS; and Adam Mather, Inspector General, Office of the Inspector General, CHFS.

LRC Staff: Miriam Fordham, Kevin Newton, and Amie Elam.

**Kentucky Office of Rural Health**

Dr. Feltner and Mr. Scott provided an overview of the Kentucky Office of Rural Health (KORH) as well as the Kentucky State Loan Repayment Program (KSLRP).

In response to a question from Representative Frazier Gordon, Dr. Feltner noted that the inclusion of medical specialties such as vision and hearing in loan repayment programs are determined at the federal level.

In response to questions from Representative Moser, Dr. Feltner stated that practitioners that participate in KSLRP must be completely finished with their academic programs and fully licensed.

In response to questions from Representative Fleming, Dr. Feltner noted that there is a large need for physicians, nurses, pharmacists, and behavioral health workers in the majority of rural Kentucky.

In response to a question from Representative Westrom, Dr. Feltner said that the number of Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs) has increased across the state. Mr.

Scott noted that the number of rural health clinics in the state had increased by about eighty in the last ten years.

In response to a question from Representative Gibbons Prunty, Mr. Scott noted that a FQHC look-alike receives many of the benefits of a FQHC but does not receive federal grant funding. Dr. Feltner noted that many FQHC look-alikes eventually transition to FQHCs.

In response to a question from Representative Willner, Mr. Scott stated that medical specialty guidelines are determined by the federal government.

In response to a question from Chair Bentley, Dr. Feltner said that KORH travels the state as well as attends various conferences to advertise the KSLRP program.

In response to questions from Representative Moser, Dr. Feltner noted that twenty-four individuals were denied participation in the program last year. Dr. Feltner stated that many of the smaller rural clinics are unable to afford the required one-to-one match for KSLRP.

#### **Approval of Minutes**

Representative Frazier Gordon made the motion to approve the minutes from the January 19 meeting of the subcommittee. Representative Westrom seconded the motion, and the minutes were approved without objection.

#### **Cabinet for Health and Family Services Overview**

Secretary Friedlander provided a brief presentation on the CHFS, including its various duties and fiscal needs.

In response to a question from Representative Fleming, Secretary Friedlander stated that the Department for Behavioral Health, Developmental and Intellectual Disabilities was intending to roll out the Tim's Law pilot program in a careful and effective way.

In response to a question from Representative Willner, Secretary Friedlander noted that the Office of Dementia Services was recently funded with federal grants. Secretary Friedlander stated that focusing attention on the commonwealth's aging population was of high importance. Mr. Lowery noted that the Governor's request for the Office of Dementia Services was four hundred and eighty-two thousand dollars per year.

#### **General Administration and Program Support**

Mr. Lowery and Mr. Mather presented information regarding the General Administration and Program Support budget unit within CHFS.

In response to questions from Chair Bentley, Mr. Mather noted that the cabinet was working to determine whether it would be best to utilize the Kentucky All Schedule Prescription Electronic Reporting (KASPER) system to monitor medical cannabis or if it would be best to create a new electronic prescription monitoring system.

There being no further business before the subcommittee, the meeting was adjourned at 11:26 AM.