

HOUSE BUDGET REVIEW SUBCOMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND FAMILY SERVICES

Minutes of the 1st Meeting of the 2023 Regular Session

February 15, 2023

Call to Order and Roll Call

The 1st meeting of the House Budget Review Subcommittee on Health and Family Services was held on February 15, 2023, at 10:00 AM in Room 169 of the Capitol Annex. Representative Adam Bowling, Chair, called the meeting to order, and the secretary called the roll.

Present were:

Members: Representative Adam Bowling, Member; Representative Kimberly Poore Moser, Representative Ken Fleming, and Representative Lisa Willner.

Guests: Pam Smith, Director, Division of Long Term Services and Supports, Department for Medicaid Services, Cabinet for Health and Family Services; Leslie Hoffman, Deputy Commissioner, Department for Medicaid Services, Cabinet for Health and Family Services; Amy Staed, Executive Director, Kentucky Association of Private Providers; Lesa Dennis, Acting Commissioner, Department for Community Based Services, Cabinet for Health and Family Services; Shannon Hall, Chief of Staff, Department for Community Based Services, Cabinet for Health and Family Services; and Mary Carpenter, Executive Advisor, Department for Community Based Services, Cabinet for Health and Family Services

LRC Staff: Miriam Fordham, Kevin Newton, and Benjamin Thompson.

Approval of Minutes

Representative Fleming made the motion to approve the minutes of the February 8 meeting of the subcommittee. Representative Willner seconded the motion and the minutes were approved without objection.

Update on Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) Waivers

Ms. Smith and Ms. Hoffman provided an overview of the HCBS Waivers and the waiting lists associated with each.

In response to questions from Representative Fleming, Ms. Hoffman noted that if a waiver slot is vacated, then the slot would not be reassigned but would remain with the individual until the following waiver year.

In response to a question from Representative Moser, Ms. Hoffman noted that the policy to keep a waiver slot reserved for an individual that vacates it is a federal policy by The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS). Ms. Hoffman noted that the policy is intended to protect individuals that need to vacate the waiver temporarily but will need it again. There are various reasons someone may need to temporarily vacate a waiver slot.

Implementation of Medicaid Reimbursement Increases for HCBS Waiver Services

Ms. Staed presented the service provider perspective on the status of HCBS waivers.

In response to a question from Representative Bowling, Ms. Staed noted that she believes the Cabinet for Health and Family Services is committed to making the retroactive waiver rate increases easy to navigate for service providers.

Update on Recruitment and Retention of Social Workers

Ms. Dennis, Mr. Hall, and Ms. Carpenter provided an overview of the Department for Community Based Services (DCBS) and information concerning efforts to increase the number of social workers in the DCBS.

In response to questions from Representative Bowling, Mr. Hall confirmed that the workforce numbers have increased and caseload numbers have decreased across regions in the state. Mr. Hall noted that the locality pay increase for those working in Jefferson County has not incentivized anyone to transfer there from nearby counties and regions.

Adjournment

There being no further business before the subcommittee, the meeting was adjourned at 11:24 AM.