

CHFS ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE, OPERATIONS & ADMINISTRATION TF

Minutes of the 5th Meeting of the 2022 Interim

October 19, 2022

Call to Order and Roll Call

The 5th meeting of the CHFS Organizational Structure, Operations & Administration TF was held on Wednesday, October 19, 2022, at 3:00 PM, in Room 131 of the Capitol Annex. Senator Stephen Meredith, Chair, called the meeting to order, and the secretary called the roll.

Present were:

Members: Senator Stephen Meredith, Co-Chair; Representative David Meade, Co-Chair; Senators Ralph Alvarado and Karen Berg; Representatives Danny Bentley, Keturah Herron, and Kimberly Poore Moser.

Guests: Eric Friedlander, Secretary, Cabinet for Health and Family Services; Wendy Morris, Commissioner, Department for Behavioral Health, Developmental and Intellectual Disabilities, Cabinet for Health and Family Services; Stephanie Craycraft, Deputy Commissioner, Department for Behavioral Health, Developmental and Intellectual Disabilities, Cabinet for Health and Family Services; Dr. Steven Stack, Department for Public Health, Cabinet for Health and Family Services; Melissa Goins, Division Director, Department for Family Resource Centers and Volunteer Services, Cabinet for Health and Family Services; and Joe Bringardner, Division Director, Serve Kentucky, Department for Family Resource Centers and Volunteer Services, Cabinet for Health and Family Services.

LRC Staff: Samir Nasir, Eric Rodenberg, and Mariah Derringer-Lackey.

Approval of the September 21, 2022, meeting minutes

With a motion from Representative Bentley, second from Senator Alvarado, the minutes from the September 21, 2022, meeting were adopted.

Kentucky's Department for Behavioral Health, Developmental and Intellectual Disabilities

Wendy Morris, Commissioner, Department for Behavioral Health, Developmental and Intellectual Disabilities (DBHDID), Cabinet for Health and Family Services (CHFS); Stephanie Craycraft, Deputy Commissioner, DBHDID, CHFS; and Eric Friedlander, Secretary, CHFS provided a presentation and testimony on the department. Information was given regarding the vision and mission, responsibility and authority, collaborations,

maps with the locations of hospitals and specialty clinics, organizational structure, budget and fund sources, list of competitive grants given to the department, and key priorities of the department. Within the department, there is the Division of Mental Health, Division of Substance Abuse Disorder, Division of Developmental and Intellectual Disabilities, and the Office of Autism. Each division was discussed with an overview of the responsibilities.

In response to questions from Senator Meredith, Commissioner Morris clarified the definition of behavioral health and how it is collective of both mental health and substance use disorders. The department addresses the behaviors of both. In regards to measures of success, Commissioner Morris mentioned things such as overdoses, recovery, sustainability, and employment. She discussed how some people with mental illness, self-medicate, so it is hard to distinguish between the two.

In response to comments from Senator Meredith, Commissioner Morris discussed the collaboration with the Department for Public Health.

In response to questions from Senator Alvarado, Commissioner Morris believed that DBHDID had the biggest role with substance abuse, not only in prevention and harm reduction, but in treatment. Currently, block grants and the opioid abatement funds go to the department. Deputy Commissioner Craycraft explained the partnership with the Office of Drug Control Policy. Secretary Friedlander provided a history when everything was under the Department for Public Health, and the behavioral health side of the department was not receiving the attention it needed.

In response to questions from Senator Alvarado, Commissioner Morris explained how the department is involved with the waivers. The department does oversight of the providers, conducts in-home visits, and provides technical assistance. Discussion included the partnership with the Department for Medicaid. She clarified the department administers the programs on behalf of Medicaid. Medicaid is the payor and the department provides clinical oversight. In regards to regulations, DBHDID follows regulations set forth by Medicaid.

Secretary Friedlander provided some history regarding community mental health centers. Before someone could receive treatment for substance use, they had to receive a mental health diagnosis. Commissioner Morris provided an example of some hospitals having floors for people with co-occurring diagnoses.

In response to questions from Representative Bentley regarding the new autism center in Prestonsburg, Commissioner Morris clarified that the Office of Autism is attached administratively with the department.

In response to questions from Representative Bentley regarding 2022 Regular Session HB 349, Secretary Friedlander explained the history behind the community mental

health centers and his thoughts on HB 349. He believes if the center would like to provide services outside the region, the center should be licensed as a behavioral health services organization.

In response to comments from Senator Meredith, Secretary Friedlander confirmed authority was given to the cabinet to create the regions and the regions follow the area development districts. Deputy Commissioner Craycraft provided information about the statute (KRS 210). Secretary Friedlander confirmed it would be helpful if the regulation would specifically state the counties in the regions.

In response to questions from Representative Moser, Secretary Friedlander spoke about community mental health boards. Commissioner Morris explained that groups came together and said they wanted to create a board, and then the board was approved by the secretary. Secretary Friedlander confirmed that the state has jurisdiction to make changes but it is usually a collaborative effort and dictated changes may be met with unwillingness.

In response to questions from Representative Moser, Commissioner Morris confirmed that the assisted outpatient treatment grants were to implement Tim's Law. The first year of the grant, the department returned funds and since then it has been looking to expand the regions to serve more people. Secretary Friedlander discussed Jefferson County and some concerns with lack of funding to cover expenses related to Tim's Law. The department is working with Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) to get some expenses covered that might be outside of the grant. Deputy Commissioner Craycraft confirmed the department is in the third year of a four year grant.

In response to Representative Bentley, Commissioner Morris clarified the counties are listed but it does not list what county belongs with each region.

In response to questions from Representative Meade, Secretary Friedlander confirmed that psychiatric hospitals were denying care to foster children. He went on to say children with developmental and intellectual disabilities and behavioral health issues are the hardest to place. The Department of Juvenile Justice has the same issues. Secretary Friedlander spoke about how the department is working to develop a short- and long-term solution for this issue. Commissioner Morris added that the state doesn't operate inpatient beds for children; beds are for adults 18 and older.

Kentucky's Department for Public Health

Dr. Steven Stack, Commissioner, Department for Public Health (DPH), Cabinet for Health and Family Services (CHFS); and Eric Friedlander, Secretary, CHFS, provided a presentation and discussion on the department's vision and mission, expenditures, personnel statistics, organizational structure, and collaborations. Within the department, there is the Commissioner's Office, Division of Maternal and Child health, Division of Women's Health, Division of Prevention and Quality Improvement, Division of Public

Health Protection and Safety, Division of Epidemiology and Health Planning, Division of Laboratory Services, and Division of Administration and Financial Management. An overview of each division was given.

In response to a question from Senator Meredith, Dr. Stack explained how DPH works with the Department for Medicaid Services (DMS); and used the Health Access Nurturing Development Services (HANDS) program as a way to show the partnership.

Senator Meredith and Dr. Stack discussed managed care organizations and how they could possibly be reorganized within the Department for Public Health.

In response to Senator Berg, Dr. Stack did not have an answer for the gun violence in Kentucky. He believed there needed to be a safe space where people will have the hard discussions on what needs to happen. Dr. Stack did not know of any federal dollars with incentives for creating common sense gun legislation.

In response to questions from Representative Moser, Dr. Stack discussed how no one has figured out how to turn the tide on substance abuse because it is a multifactorial problem.

In response to questions from Senator Meredith, Dr. Stack testified about harm reduction initiatives. Harm reduction initiatives help prevent blood borne infections such as HIV, hepatitis, and bacterial endocarditis. Dr. Stack said harm reduction initiatives were not to promote drug use, but to help prevent other calamities from happening in addition to substance use.

In response to Senator Meredith, Dr. Stack talked about the new division of prevention and quality improvement. He did not believe that the MCOs were meeting a network adequacy standard of 90 percent or more.

Senator Meredith and Dr. Stack had a dialogue about the process of making broad policy decisions that affect the whole population.

Kentucky's Department for Family Resource Centers and Volunteer Services

Melissa Goins, Division Director, Department for Family Resource Centers and Volunteer Services (DFRCVS), Cabinet for Health and Family Services; Joe Bringardner, Executive Director, Serve Kentucky, DFRCVS, CHFS; and Eric Friedlander, Secretary, CHFS; provided a presentation and testimony regarding the Department for Family Resource Centers and Volunteer Services.

Ms. Goins discussed the Family Resource and Youth Services Centers (FRYSC). Covered within the discussion was the budget, statistics, program development, and data collection of FRYSC.

Mr. Bringardner presented on the Serve Kentucky division of DFRCVS. The presentation contained an overview of Serve Kentucky, statistics, and goals of Serve Kentucky. A map showing the coverage area of Serve Kentucky was provided.

In response to Representative Meade, Ms. Goins believed the FRYSC division would do great work wherever placed. With part of the mission being about overcoming nonacademic and non-cognitive learning barriers, the expertise, services, and support for that reside in the Cabinet for Health and Family Services.

Senator Meredith made comments about looking at where the best fit for the programs are since there is an educational and workforce development connection to the department.

Secretary Friedlander explained how some speakers on the agenda (Commissioner Morris, Joe Bringardner, and Melissa Goins) were hired under the Governor Steve Beshear administration, served under Governor Bevin, and are still here.

Senator Meredith made comments relating to the task force and announced the next meeting on November 2, 2022. With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 5:08 p.m.