

INTERIM JOINT COMMITTEE ON HEALTH SERVICES

Minutes of the 3rd Meeting of the 2025 Interim

August 27, 2025

Call to Order and Roll Call

The third meeting of the Interim Joint Committee on Health Services was held on August 27, 2025, at 9:00 AM in Room 149 of the Capitol Annex. Senator Stephen Meredith, Chair, called the meeting to order, and the secretary called the roll.

Present were:

Members: Representative Kimberly Poore Moser, Co-Chair; Senator Stephen Meredith, Co-Chair; Senators Karen Berg, Danny Carroll, Donald Douglas, Keturah J. Herron, Robby Mills, Michael J. Nemes, Steve Rawlings, Craig Richardson, and Lindsey Tichenor; and Representatives Steve Bratcher, Josh Bray, Lindsey Burke, Adrielle Camuel, Ryan Dotson, Robert Duvall, Ken Fleming, Kim Holloway, Mary Lou Marzian, Amy Neighbors, Marianne Proctor, Rebecca Raymer, Steve Riley, Scott Sharp, and Lisa Willner.

Guests: Allison Adams, President and Chief Executive Officer, Foundation for a Healthy Kentucky; Dr. Mark Martin, Superintendent, Meade County Public Schools; Karen Cottrell, District Health Coordinator, Meade County Public Schools; Dr. Ben Mudd, PharmD, Member, Kentucky Pharmacists Association (KPHA); Courtney Koogler, PharmD, BCPS, BCACP, Member, KPHA; Dr. Jean Loftus, MD, Ambassador, Americans for Ibogaine; Jessica Allen, Volunteer, Americans for Ibogaine; and Senator Shelley Funke Frommeyer.

LRC Staff: DeeAnn Wenk, Chris Joffrion, Cameron Franey, and DJ Burns.

Approval of Minutes

A motion to approve the minutes of the July 30, 2025, meeting was made by Senator Douglas, seconded by Representative Sharp, and approved by a voice vote.

Getting to Know the Foundation for a Healthy Kentucky

Allison Adams, President and Chief Executive Officer, Foundation for a Healthy Kentucky, discussed the history of the Foundation for a Health Kentucky, the organization's mission and goals, and recommendations on how the General Assembly and the foundation can work together to improve health in Kentucky.

In response to Chair Meredith, Ms. Adams stated the foundation has an endowment of 45 million dollars.

In response to Representative Duvall, Ms. Adams stated the leading death and disability health indicator in Kentucky is smoking and second-hand smoke. She stated rallying communities around this indicator will help raise the number of Kentuckians who quit smoking.

In response to Representative Fleming, Ms. Adams stated many associations in the Commonwealth partner with communities to help identify the leading health indicators in that community. She stated recognizing shared accountability in health care costs between the state and local government is one way to shift the thought process in combating leading health risks.

In response to Representative Willner, Ms. Adams stated the foundation's focus is on Kentucky, but other states and communities are using accountability models to treat the causes before an individual develops illnesses. Ms. Adams stated she would follow up with those models.

Healthy Kids Clinic

Dr. Mark Martin, Superintendent, Meade County Public Schools, discussed the Meade County Public School districts' partnership with Cumberland Family Medical Center to provide medical services to students and school personnel at the Healthy Kids Clinics within the schools. He discussed the services offered at the clinics and improvements in attendance and other metrics since the clinics opened. Karen Cottrell, District Health Coordinator, Meade County Public Schools, discussed the timeline of the clinics and why Cumberland Family Medical Center was chosen as a partner.

In response to Chair Meredith, Dr. Martin stated the biggest return from the clinics is the services offered to students and staff that allow them to be healthier.

In response to Representative Marzian, Ms. Cottrell stated Medicaid and private insurance are billed for services but co-pays and extra services are not billed. Dr. Martin stated dental services have just started and are periodic during the school year.

In response to Co-Chair Moser, Ms. Cottrell stated staff have participated in walking and weight loss challenges, and she is open to initiating more preventative programs for students and staff. Dr. Martin stated internet safety and mental health talks are given to students.

In response to Senator Tichenor, Ms. Cottrell stated at the beginning of every school year, parental consent forms are sent out and must be returned before a student can be seen at the clinics. A parent is informed by the nurse before any treatment is given. Dr. Martin stated classroom disruption is not an issue.

Pharmacy Payment Parity - Report on 2025 Regular Session Senate Joint Resolution 26

Representative Neighbors discussed 2025 RS HB 3 and SJR 26. Dr. Ben Mudd, PharmD, Member, KPHA, discussed the need for pharmacists to be reimbursed for clinical services rendered to Medicaid patients. Courtney Koogler, PharmD, BCPS, BCACP, Member, KPHA, discussed the services rendered by pharmacists that currently are not billable under Medicaid. Senator Richardson shared that states that have passed legislation mandating Medicaid reimbursement for these services have seen benefits.

In response to Senator Berg, Ms. Koogler stated pharmacists document services rendered and enter those into a patient's medical record for use by other health care professionals. Dr. Mudd stated around 30 to 40 International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Edition (ICD-10) will need to be updated in order to allow pharmacists to bill to Medicaid.

In response to Senator Funke Frommeyer, Dr. Mudd stated pharmacists can counsel patients on nutrition and diabetes management for preventative care but there is no incentive if those services cannot be billed.

Ibogaine - A Potential Treatment for Opioid Dependency

Senator Douglas discussed substance use disorder and ibogaine as a potential treatment for opioid dependency. Dr. Jean Loftus, MD, Ambassador, Americans for Ibogaine, discussed neurological conditions ibogaine can treat, how ibogaine works within the brain, and a comparative study between traditional treatments and ibogaine. Jessica Allen, Volunteer, Americans for Ibogaine, gave personal testimony on seeking ibogaine treatment in Mexico for substance abuse disorder.

In response to Chair Meredith, Senator Douglas stated his proposed legislation would allow for research into ibogaine legalization for medical treatment.

In response to Representative Camuel, Dr. Loftus stated no double blind or peer reviewed studies have been completed for ibogaine, although anecdotal reports from patients who have used ibogaine are available. Senator Douglas stated two studies have been completed by Stanford University and the National Institute of Health (NIH) with positive results.

In response to Senator Nemes, Ms. Allen stated ibogaine puts the patient in a dream like state and this caused her to see moments of her life in a new light, giving her a better understanding of the pain and damage her addiction was causing. She stated before trying ibogaine, she had tried multiple treatment and rehabilitation centers in the U.S. with no success.

Consideration of Referred Administrative Regulations

The following referred administrative regulations were placed on the agenda for consideration:

201 KAR 002:416 Proposed

201 KAR 023:012 Proposed

201 KAR 023:025 Proposed

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:00 AM.