

INTERIM JOINT COMMITTEE ON FAMILIES AND CHILDREN

Minutes of the 3rd Meeting of the 2023 Interim

August 24, 2023

Call to Order and Roll Call

The third meeting of the Interim Joint Committee on Families and Children was held on August 24, 2023, at 2:00 PM at the Kentucky State Fair in Freedom Hall, Room 2, Louisville, KY.

Representative Samara Heavrin, Chair, called the meeting to order, and the secretary called the roll.

Present were:

Members: Senator Danny Carroll, Co-Chair; Representative Samara Heavrin, Co-Chair; Senator Greg Elkins, Senator Stephen Meredith, Senator Lindsey Tichenor, Senator Robin L. Webb, Senator Max Wise, Representative Shane Baker, Representative Mike Clines, Representative Jennifer Decker, Representative Daniel Elliott, Representative Ken Fleming, Representative Jim Gooch Jr., Representative Josie Raymond, Representative Steve Riley, Representative Rachel Roarx, Representative Lisa Willner, Representative Nick Wilson.

Guests: Shelby Williams Somervell, Vice President, Government Affairs & Communications, Greater Louisville Inc.; Mary Lloyd Moore, Executive Director, Suzanna Vitale Clinical Education Complex at Western Kentucky University; David Wheeler, Executive Director, LifeWorks at Western Kentucky University; Norma Hatfield, President, Kinship Families Coalition of Kentucky; Shannon Moody, Chief Policy and Strategy Officer, Kentucky Youth Advocates; Rick Wurth, Chief Executive Officer, Children's Home of Northern Kentucky Behavioral Health; Julie Raia, Chief Strategy Officer, Children's Home of Northern Kentucky Behavioral Health; Michelle Sanborn, President, Children's Alliance; Bart Baldwin, President, Bart Baldwin Consulting; and Joyce Woods, Consumer.

LRC Staff: Ben Payne, Samir Nasir, and DJ Burns.

Approval of Minutes

A motion to approve the July 25, 2023, minutes was made by Representative Wilson, seconded by Representative Elliott, and approved by a voice vote.

Welcome to Louisville Remarks

Shelby Williams Somervell, Vice President, Government Affairs and Communications, Greater Louisville Inc., welcomed all members to Louisville and to the Kentucky State Fair.

Presentation on the Operations of Lifeworks at Western Kentucky University

Mary Lloyd Moore, Executive Director, Suzanna Vitale Clinical Education Complex at Western Kentucky University (WKU), discussed the LifeWorks at WKU programs and

services offered to participants including pre-vocational services, supported employment opportunities, Transition Academy, and LifeWorks Bridge. She discussed the cost associated with these programs and the benefit the state sees on this investment. David Wheeler, Executive Director, LifeWorks at WKU, discussed the employment opportunities participants have received through LifeWorks and showed a video which followed one participant at their place of employment.

In response to questions and comments from Representative Heavrin, Ms. Moore stated that she would welcome all committee members to tour the LifeWorks facilities at WKU.

Easterseals West Kentucky Medical Rehabilitation

Senator Carroll introduced a group of participants of the Easterseals West Kentucky adult day training program.

Discussion of Kinship Care in Kentucky

Shannon Moody, Chief Policy and Strategy Officer, Kentucky Youth Advocates, discussed the different types of kinship care in Kentucky and the progress KY Youth Advocates has made since 2014 to assist those types. Norma Hatfield, President, Kinship Families Coalition of Kentucky, discussed the current needs of kinship care families including financial support and KTAP access as well as how to continue supporting these caregivers.

In response to questions and comments from Representative Elliott, Ms. Moody stated that it would take a waiver from the federal government to allow the state to obtain child support instead of the relative caregiver.

In response to questions and comments from Representative Heavrin, Ms. Hatfield stated that many relative caregivers do not understand the benefits of becoming a foster family through the Department of Community Based Services.

Presentation on the Operations of Children's Home of Northern Kentucky

Rick Wurth, Chief Executive Officer, Children's Home of Northern Kentucky Behavioral Health (CHNK), discussed background information on CHNK, their mission, and their campaign to raise funds for growth. Julie Raia, Chief Strategy Officer, CHNK, discussed CHNK's approach to expanding access to mental health services for KY's youth and why CHNK is the right choice for funding from the state.

In response to questions and comments from Representative Fleming, Mr. Wurth stated that he would investigate HB 200 from the 2023 regular session in regards to the funding opportunities laid out in that bill.

In regards to questions and comments from Senator Meredith, Mr. Wurth stated that their plan is to have private funding secured within the next three years to cover 50 percent of the \$38 million needed to receive a 50 percent match.

Discussion of Psychiatric Residential Treatment Facilities in Kentucky and Behavioral Health Reimbursement Rates

Michelle Sanborn, President, Children's Alliance, discussed data and trends in children's residential care in Kentucky, areas of success and improvement, areas of concern, and what legislators can do to help. Bart Baldwin, President, Bart Baldwin Consulting, discussed legislative fixes including increasing the psychiatric residential treatment facilities (PRTF) Medicaid rate and reducing the number of Medicaid managed care organizations to three. Joyce Woods, Consumer, discussed how a PRTF has helped her daughter personally both in school and at home.

In response to questions and comments from Representative Wilson, Ms. Sanborn stated that the family preservation services are where they see success after a family has been referred by the Department of Community Based Services. She stated Children's Alliance has a contract with DCBS for family reunification services in each region.

In response to questions and comments from Representative Fleming, Mr. Baldwin stated that the \$30 million estimate came from 2022 paid claims from Medicaid and an increase of 25 percent. Ms. Sanborn stated that currently there is one PRTF II in Benton. She stated that PRTF I facilities are designed to be home like settings in the community with no more than 10 beds. Mr. Baldwin stated that due to rising costs associated with PRTF II's and the rate of reimbursement from Medicaid not increasing it has made it difficult to attract new facilities to operate within Kentucky.

In response to questions and comments from Representative Heavrin, Ms. Sanborn stated that funding the full continuum of care will assist in having facilities available for children in the state. She stated that the PRTF rates are in regulations and she would send that information to the committee. Mr. Baldwin stated that having a developed and appropriately funded program will help in fixing the current situation.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:50 PM.