

# INTERIM JOINT COMMITTEE ON FAMILIES AND CHILDREN

## Minutes of the 2nd Meeting of the 2023 Interim

July 25, 2023

### Call to Order and Roll Call

The 2nd meeting of the Interim Joint Committee on Families and Children was held on Tuesday, July 25, 2023, at 1:00 PM, in Room 149 of the Capitol Annex. Senator Danny Carroll, 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; Senators Julie Raque Adams, Greg Elkins, Denise Harper Angel, Amanda Mays Bledsoe, Stephen Meredith, Lindsey Tichenor, Robin L. Webb, Whitney Westerfield, and Max Wise; Representatives Shane Baker, Kim Banta, Jennifer Decker, Stephanie Dietz, Daniel Elliott, Ken Fleming, Jim Gooch Jr., Marianne Proctor, Josie Raymond, Steve Riley, Lisa Willner, and Nick Wilson.

Guests: Andrea Day, Division of Child Care Director; Laura Begin, Assistant to the Commissioner, Department for Community Based Services, Cabinet for Health & Family Services; Twila Burdette, Director; Danielle Marler, Assistant Director, Rockcastle Hospital Child Development Center; Kimberly Bowling, Owner & Director, Bright Beginnings Child Care; Todd Trapp, Director, Division of Family Support, Department for Community Based Services, Cabinet for Health & Family Services; Adam Mather, Executive Director; and Kara Daniel, Deputy Executive Director, Office of Inspector General, Cabinet for Health & Family Services.

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

### Approval of Minutes

A motion to approve the June 21, 2023, minutes was made by Senator Meredith, seconded by Representative Heavrin, and approved by a voice vote.

### Discussion of Federal and State Child Care Funding in the Commonwealth

Andrea Day, director, Division of Child Care, Cabinet for Health & Family Services (CHFS), discussed federal child care funding received through American Rescue Plan Act funds and the distribution of those funds throughout the commonwealth including sustainability payments. She discussed Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP) participation, child care employee income exclusion through CCAP, and the transitional CCAP program.

In response to questions and comments from Senator Carroll, Ms. Day stated that she believes CHFS is prepared to submit proposals to the General Assembly to help grow the number of child care slots available within the state. She stated the cabinet has noticed the perception of child care needs to be changed within the state from child care is expensive to it is a necessity for the development of children.

In response to questions and comments from Senator Mays Bledsoe, Ms. Day stated that the sustainability payments end in September 2023 and discretionary funds do not end until September 2024.

In response to questions and comments from Representative Heavrin, Ms. Day stated that CHFS is still considering funding the sustainability payments through the current budget year. She stated that one of the requirements of the startup grant was owners had to participate in a class to help strengthen business practices.

In response to questions and comments from Representative Willner, Ms. Day stated that as soon as a decision has been made regarding funding the sustainability payments providers will be notified.

In response to questions and comments from Representative Raymond, Ms. Day stated that the decision regarding the sustainability payments is at the cabinet level and she is not included in those conversations.

In response to questions and comments from Senator Raque Adams, Ms. Day stated that she does not have any legislative proposal at this time, but CHFS has been paying background check fees and other administrative fees to help providers.

In response to questions and comments from Senator Meredith, Ms. Day stated that 60 percent of the counties in the state are considered child care deserts. That statistic is based on the number of children verses the number of available slots within a county. She stated for a child care employee to qualify for the income exclusion CCAP program the employee must have verifiable employment with a regulated child care provider and meet the minimum 20 hours per week of work hours. She stated that the transitional CCAP program will end in September 2024 and CHFS is looking into other funding options.

### **Child Care Provider and Educator Perspectives on Access to and Utilization of Federal and State Child Care Funding**

Twilla Burdette, director, Rockcastle Hospital Child Development Center, discussed how the center has used the funding provided through the sustainability payments, participation in the CCAP program, and employees taking advantage of the scholarship program to obtain their child development associate degree. Danielle Marler, assistant director, Rockcastle Hospital Child Development Center, discussed her personal

participation in the child care employee income exclusion part of CCAP and how the program has benefited her family.

In response to questions and comments from Senator Carroll, Ms. Burdette stated that she has met with the CFO of the hospital and when the sustainability funds end, the center will not be able to continue with some programs offered from those payments, but will be able to continue the \$13 an hour minimum for employees of the center.

In response to questions and comments from Senator Meredith, Ms. Burdette stated that the hospital opened the center 14 years ago and she has been the director since it opened. She stated the center is goalled towards employee retention by providing stable child care while the parents are working.

Kimberly Bowling, owner and director, Bright Beginnings Child Care, discussed how her center has used the grants and sustainability payments to benefit their employees and centers. She discussed taking advantage of using therapists to come to the center for speech and occupational therapy for children.

In response to questions and comments from Senator Carroll, Ms. Bowling stated that both centers are in Prestonsburg. She and her co-owner have not had conversations to develop a plan if these sustainability payments end.

### **Status Report Update on the 2023 DCBS Community Services Block Grant**

Todd Trapp, director, Division of Family Support, Department for Community Based Services, Cabinet for Health & Family Services, discussed a status report update on the 2023 DCBS Community Services Block Grant. He discussed the programs that are funded through the block grant and the partnerships CHFS has with outside agencies to provide those programs to the public.

### **Public Hearing on the DCBS Community Services Block Grant Preliminary Plan for FYs 24 and 25**

Todd Trapp, director, Division of Family Support, Department for Community Based Services, Cabinet for Health & Family Services, discussed the preliminary plan for FFY 24 and 25 of the DCBS Community Services Block Grant. A motion to approve the preliminary plan was made by Senator Webb, seconded by Representative Heavrin, and approved by a voice vote.

### **Consideration of Referred Administrative Regulations**

The following referred administrative regulations were on the agenda for consideration.

#### **902 KAR 020:480 Proposed - Assisted living communities.**

The administrative regulation 902 KAR 020:480 was placed on the agenda with an agency amendment. Adam Mather, executive director; Kara Daniel, deputy executive

director, Office of Inspector General, Cabinet for Health & Family Services, explained the agency amendment. A motion to accept the agency amendment was made by Senator Meredith, seconded by Representative Heavrin, and approved by a voice vote. The agency amendment was accepted by the committee.

**922 KAR 001:100 Proposed** - Public agency adoptions.

**922 KAR 001:330 Proposed** - Child protective services.

The administrative regulations above have been reviewed by the committee.

### **Adjournment**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:31 PM.