

BUDGET REVIEW SUBCOMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND FAMILY SERVICES

Minutes of the 3rd Meeting of the 2025 Interim

August 20, 2025

Call to Order and Roll Call

The 3rd meeting of the Budget Review Subcommittee on Health and Family Services was held on August 20, 2025, at 10:30 AM in Room 129 of the Capitol Annex. Senator Craig Richardson, Chair, called the meeting to order, and the secretary called the roll.

Present were:

Members: Senator Craig Richardson Co-Chair; Representative Wade Williams Co-Chair; Senators Stephen Meredith, Karen Berg, and Lindsey Tichenor; Representatives Samara Heavrin, Ken Fleming, DJ Johnson, Rebecca Raymer, Lisa Willner, and Nick Wilson.

Guests: Dr. Matt Holder, MD, MBA, Chief Executive Officer, Lee Specialty Clinic; Dr. Henry Hood, DMD, Chief Clinical Officer, Lee Specialty Clinic; Nate Graham, Chief Executive Officer, Ronald McDonald House Charities of the Bluegrass; Chelsi McDonald, Chief Philanthropy Officer, Ronald McDonald House Charities of the Bluegrass; Melissa Moore Lewis, Former Ronald McDonald House Guest Family, Lewis & Lewis Attorneys at Law; Maddie Lewis, Former Ronald McDonald House Guest Family.

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

Approval of Minutes

Senator Berg made the motion to approve the minutes from the July 15, 2025 meeting of the subcommittee. Representative Johnson seconded the motion and the minutes were approved without objection.

Overview and Status Update on Funding for the Lee Specialty Clinic

Dr. Matt Holder, MD, MBA, Chief Executive Officer, Lee Specialty Clinic; and Dr. Henry Hood, DMD, Chief Clinical Officer, Lee Specialty Clinic provided an overview of the Lee Specialty Clinic's operations and funding needs.

In response to questions from Senator Berg, Dr. Holder noted that the Lee Specialty Clinic typically rates very high in patient satisfaction. Dr. Holder said that the clinic began as an adult only facility, but lowered the age to thirteen in order to provide assistance to families dealing with autistic juvenile aggression. Dr. Hood stated that many times aggressive behaviors are the result of undiagnosed physical ailments.

In response to questions from Representative Johnson, Dr. Holder said that the additional clinic facility would require roughly five million dollars in start up funds and another five million dollars per year to operate. Dr. Holder noted that a location had not yet been selected.

In response to a question from Representative Fleming, Dr. Holder noted that three quarters of the clinic's overall budget is personnel, while the remaining quarter is operations and management fees.

Ronald McDonald House Capital Project

Nate Graham, Chief Executive Officer, Ronald McDonald House Charities of the Bluegrass; Chelsi McDonald, Chief Philanthropy Officer, Ronald McDonald House Charities of the Bluegrass; Melissa Moore Lewis, Former Ronald McDonald House Guest Family, Lewis & Lewis Attorneys at Law; and Maddie Lewis, Former Ronald McDonald House Guest Family provided an overview of the work done by the Ronald McDonald House Charities.

In response to a question from Senator Meredith, Ms. McDonald noted that the Ronald McDonald House Charities use the University of Kentucky Dental School statistics to determine juvenile tooth decay rates.

Adjournment

There being no further business before the subcommittee, the meeting was adjourned at 11:35 AM.