

BUDGET REVIEW SUBCOMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND FAMILY SERVICES

Minutes of the 5th Meeting of the 2025 Interim

October 15, 2025

Call to Order and Roll Call

The 5th meeting of the Budget Review Subcommittee on Health and Family Services was held on October 15, 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, and Karen Berg; and Representatives Kimberly Poore Moser, Ken Fleming, Rebecca Raymer, and Lisa Willner.

Guests: Representative Amy Neighbors; Taylor Williams, PharmD, Director of Government Affairs, Kentucky Pharmacists Association; Senator Stephen Meredith; Dr. Whitney Jones, Founder, Colon Cancer Prevention Project, Immediate Past Chair, Kentucky Colon Cancer Screening and Prevention Advisory Committee; Melissa Karrer, Executive Director, Kentucky CancerLink; Rick Wurth, Chief Executive Officer, Children's Home of Northern Kentucky (CHNK); Julie Raia, Chief Strategy Officer, CHNK; Sal Santoro, Board of Trustees Member, CHNK; Marc Wilson, Consultant, Top Shelf Lobby; Crystal Leugers, Chief Programming Officer, CHNK; Representative Kimberly Poore Moser; and Dr. Timothy Mullett, MD, MBA, FACS, Chairman, Kentucky Lung Cancer Screening Advisory Committee, University of Kentucky Markey Cancer Center.

LRC Staff: Miriam Fordham, and Benjamin Thompson.

Approval of Minutes

Senator Berg made the motion to approve the minutes from the September 17, 2025 meeting of the subcommittee. Representative Williams seconded the motion and the minutes were approved without objection.

Medicaid Reimbursement Rates for Pharmacy Services

Representative Amy Neighbors; and Taylor Williams, PharmD, Director of Government Affairs, Kentucky Pharmacists Association spoke on the need to adjust Medicaid reimbursement rates for pharmacy services.

Overview and Status Update on Funding for the Kentucky Colon Cancer Screening Program

Committee meeting materials may be accessed online at <https://apps.legislature.ky.gov/CommitteeDocuments/372>

Representative Amy Neighbors; Senator Stephen Meredith; Dr. Whitney Jones, Founder, Colon Cancer Prevention Project, Immediate Past Chair, Kentucky Colon Cancer Screening and Prevention Advisory Committee; and Melissa Karrer, Executive Director, Kentucky CancerLink provided a presentation regarding the benefits and cost savings of the Kentucky colon cancer screening program.

In response to a question from Senator Berg, Dr. Jones noted that the colon cancer screening program benefits those who are uninsured or have a high deductible insurance plan.

In response to a question from Chair Richardson, Dr. Jones confirmed that the program is requesting an additional \$750 thousand per year.

Status Update on Funding for the Children's Home of Northern Kentucky

Rick Wurth, Chief Executive Officer, CHNK; Julie Raia, Chief Strategy Officer, CHNK; Sal Santoro, Board of Trustees Member, CHNK; Crystal Leugers, Chief Programming Officer, CHNK; and Marc Wilson, Consultant, Top Shelf Lobby provided information about the services that the Children's Home of Northern Kentucky provides.

Overview and Status Update on Funding for the Kentucky Lung Cancer Screening Program

Representative Kimberly Poore Moser; and Dr. Timothy Mullett, MD, MBA, FACS, Chairman, Kentucky Lung Cancer Screening Advisory Committee, University of Kentucky Markey Cancer Center spoke on the benefits and cost savings of the Kentucky lung cancer screening program.

In response to a question from Chair Richardson, Representative Moser noted that an additional funding request would be for general funds rather than tobacco settlement funds.

Adjournment

There being no further business before the subcommittee, the meeting was adjourned at 11:48 AM.