**JJOC Minutes**

**February 9, 2023**

Dr. Carrie E. Ballinger

Mr. Brian Bowland

Mr. Todd Hazel

Dr. Jim Flynn

**Members Present:** Senator Whitney Westerfield, Co-Chair; Representative Daniel Elliott, Co-Chair; Mona Womack, Chief of Staff, Justice Cabinet for Secretary Kerry Harvey; Vicki Reed, Commissioner for Department of Juvenile Justice; Laurie Dudgeon Givens, Director, Administrative Office of the Courts; Lesa Dennis, Deputy Commissioner for Marta Maria Miranda-Straub, Commissioner of Community Based Services; Damon Preston, Director, Department of Public Advocacy; Paula Garner, CEO Maryhurst, Behavioral Health Service Provider; Sheriff John Ware, Hardin County; Steve Gold, Henderson County Attorney; Tyra Walker, at large representative for Public Schools.

M**embers via Zoom**: Judge John Lindsey Adams; Christina Weeter for Dr. Glass, Department of Education.

1. **Welcome/Call to Order**

Representative Elliott began by welcoming everyone to the meeting and noted that Senator Westerfield was running late. Representative Elliott introduced himself as the new Co-Chair of the Oversight Council.

Chairman Elliott entertained a motion to approve the meeting minutes from the Nov. 2022 meeting. Minutes had been previously emailed to all the board members. Laurie Dudgeon Givens made a motion to accept the minutes, and Damon Preston seconded the motion. The minutes were approved.

Rep. Elliott introduced Dr. Jim Flynn, Executive Director of the Kentucky Association of School Superintendents. Dr. Flynn introduced Dr. Carrie Ballinger, Superintendent of Rockcastle Schools; Todd Hazel, Warren County Schools; and Mr. Brian Bowland, past president of Kentucky DPPs.

Dr. Ballinger stated that the unmet needs of our most vulnerable children really constitute the biggest threat to our children today, and the schools need more support. Dr. Ballinger stated that we need to find some solutions for high-acuity youth.

Todd Hazel was next to speak to the committee. He stated that he is the director of student services for Warren County Schools, the fourth largest district in Kentucky, with 18,000 students and 3,000 employees, and his role is to make sure that mental health services are available for students and staff.

Mr. Bowland, Director of Pupil Personnel for McCracken County School District, was next to speak. He shared five areas of concern and recommended changes to prevent detention and increase successful diversion. The areas he identified were diversion timelines, diversion plan development, FAIR Team authority, FAIR Team meetings and access to diversion plans.

Rep. Elliott thanked the committee before yielding to Chairman Westerfield.

Senator Westerfield recognized Rep. Elliott for his service on the JJOC. Sen. Westerfield thanked the panel for appearing before JJOC. He noted that he had met with them several months ago and appreciated their comments and suggestions. He believed everything they suggested would help schools and was very reasonable.

In response to a question from Rep. Elliott, Dr. Ballinger said she believed that we need to look at the qualifications for detention.

Damon Preston stated that he was concerned with the interplay between school officials, school policy and detention.

In response to a question from Damon Preston, Dr. Ballinger stated that Rockcastle County has a model program for their virtual classes, which includes providing services.

In response to a question from Damon Preston, Mr. Bowland stated that due to the complicated nature of juvenile cases, we need to reach out to other agencies to get into that house and start fixing some of those issues before we can get to the truancy piece.

Laurie Givens thanked everyone for their testimony and said that she agreed with everything Mr. Bowland said with regard to AOC and their programs. Ms. Givens said that AOC would be going through division by division to locate who is and who isn’t showing up to the FAIR Team meetings.

Paula Garner, Maryhurst CEO commended the witnesses for trying to be so many things to a child. Ms. Garner stated that private providers face issues with funding and staffing.

Tyra Walker stated that parents must be held accountable for juveniles’ actions.

Steve Gold thanked for panel for speaking and stated that the legislature needs to create some real services.

Sheriff Ward thanked everyone on the panel and stated that they are seeing the same issues in Hardin County.

There being no other questions, Sen. Westerfield adjourned the meeting.

If you have any topics for JJOC, please send those issues to Sen. Westerfield.