

CHAPTER 162**(SJR 184)**

A JOINT RESOLUTION encouraging the Cabinet for Health and Family Services to establish the Kentucky Youth Development Coordinating Council.

WHEREAS, the youth of Kentucky represent the future and youth services are critical to the quality of life and development of our young citizens; and

WHEREAS, the Kentucky Youth Policy Assessment identified at least 101 statewide programs and services that specifically serve young people in the Commonwealth; and

WHEREAS, the current level of coordination of youth services can be improved by creating a common vision for the neediest young people of Kentucky and by supporting collaboration of youth services in an effort to increase the quality, efficiency, and effectiveness of services, opportunities, and supports for young people; and

WHEREAS, the accountability of youth services can be improved by aligning state services around a common set of outcomes based on research findings of effective youth development approaches; and

WHEREAS, the opportunities for community, youth, family, and parent involvement in youth services can be improved by increasing the abilities of communities to use resources to involve young people in positive roles; and

WHEREAS, the General Assembly declares that the purpose of this Joint Resolution is to establish a structure for coordinated strategic planning around a common vision and set of outcomes for youth programs and services that recognizes the primary responsibility of parents for their own children;

NOW, THEREFORE,

Be it resolved by the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Kentucky:

Section 1. The Cabinet for Health and Family Services is hereby encouraged to establish the Kentucky Youth Development Coordinating Council, and if the council is so established, it shall be established as follows:

- (1) The Council shall consist of the following twenty (20) members:
 - (a) One (1) ex officio member from the House of Representatives who shall be appointed by and serve at the pleasure of the Speaker of the House;
 - (b) One (1) ex officio member from the Senate who shall be appointed by and serve at the pleasure of the President of the Senate;
 - (c) The commissioner of the Department for Community Based Services or his or her designee;
 - (d) The commissioner of the Department for Public Health or his or her designee;
 - (e) The commissioner of the Department for Human Support Services or his or her designee;
 - (f) The commissioner of the Department for Mental Health and Mental Retardation Services or his or her designee;
 - (g) The director of the Commission on Community Volunteerism and Service or his or her designee;
 - (h) The director of Family Resource and Youth Service Centers or his or her designee;
 - (i) The Secretary of State or his or her designee;
 - (j) The secretary of the Education, Arts, and Humanities Cabinet or his or her designee;
 - (k) The secretary of the Cabinet for Workforce Development or his or her designee;
 - (l) The secretary of the Environmental and Public Protection Cabinet or his or her designee;
 - (m) The secretary of the Finance and Administration Cabinet or his or her designee;
 - (n) The secretary of the Justice Cabinet or his or her designee;
 - (o) The general manager of the Department of Juvenile Services, Administrative Office of the Courts, or his or her designee;
 - (p) The executive director of the Office of Drug Control Policy or his or her designee;

(q) The extension associate of the Kentucky Youth Development Partnership, University of Kentucky Cooperative Extension Service, 4-H Youth Development Program; and

(r) Three (3) youth representatives to be appointed by the Kentucky Youth Development Partnership, University of Kentucky Cooperative Extension Service, 4-H Development Program.

(2) The council shall be attached to the Cabinet for Health and Family Services and the chair of the council shall be the commissioner of the Department for Community Based Services. The council shall elect the vice chair from the council members. The administrative functions of the council shall be performed by the extension associate of the Kentucky Youth Development Partnership, University of Kentucky Cooperative Extension Service, 4-H Development Program.

(3) The council shall meet at least one (1) time every three (3) months. Special meetings may be held as needed upon the call of the chair.

(4) The council may establish subcommittees, including but not limited to the following:

(a) The Youth Partnership Subcommittee, consisting of members who represent state youth serving agencies, nonprofit organizations, parents, faith- or community-based organizations, higher educational institutions, business leaders, and individuals who are at least fourteen (14) and less than twenty-one (21) years of age; and

(b) The Youth Advisory Subcommittee, consisting of individuals who are at least fourteen (14) and less than twenty-one (21) years of age.

(5) Members shall be reimbursed for actual expenses incurred in the performance of council duties in accordance with KRS 45.101 and administrative regulations promulgated thereunder.

(6) The duties of the council shall be to:

(a) Develop a statewide strategic plan for the implementation of goals and objectives that are focused on a common vision for youth between the ages of eight (8) and twenty-one (21) years and aligned in accordance with existing state agency youth service outcomes and indicators under the following categories:

1. Caring relationships with adults, parents, and peers, with an emphasis on strengthening families;
2. Safe places and structured activities;
3. Healthy start and future;
4. Marketable skills through effective education and learning activities;
5. Opportunities to serve and help others; and
6. Promotion and encouragement of individual responsibility;

(b) Develop a plan to coordinate youth service and program delivery that improves communication among agencies administering programs that are designed to serve youth, especially disadvantaged youth;

(c) Assess the quantity and outcomes of state programs offering services, support, and opportunities to youth;

(d) Assess existing funding resources, networks, and returns on investments for the support of youth development and community level youth services and make recommendations to the appropriate entities for the allocation and leveraging of resources in accordance with the goals and objectives of the statewide strategic plan;

(e) Assess existing agency professional development certifications and opportunities for adults who work with youth;

(f) Assess current capacities of state agencies and communities to integrate positive youth development through training, standards, technical assistance, and resource materials;

(g) Identify barriers to youth service collaboration at the state and local levels and propose solutions;

(h) Identify target populations of youth who are disproportionately at risk, and gaps in services to these populations;

(i) Encourage state agencies and nonprofit organizations to collaborate on model programs and demonstration projects that promote youth and parental involvement, strengthen families, and focus on target populations of youth;

(j) Identify state agency regional support infrastructures and make recommendations for supporting the implantation and integration of positive youth development;

(k) Collaborate with public and private partnerships to support statewide networks connecting quality and sustainable state and local youth development efforts, such as mentoring partnerships and after-school and extended-learning opportunities, and to leverage private, state, and federal resources to support these efforts;

(l) Review any information provided to the council by companies or state agencies related to youth employment opportunities;

(m) Submit a report no later than September 1 of each year to the Governor and the General Assembly that includes the following:

1. A summary of council actions taken and results obtained to facilitate youth development program collaboration and coordination;

2. A summary of additional resources leveraged and returns on investment by the council for state and local positive youth development; and

3. A summary of the quality of service provision, technical assistance provided, and recommendations for improvement at the state and local levels;

(n) Identify best practices and positive youth development standards based on research-based evidence that supports principles in youth services, and provide technical assistance and training to communities and agencies to implement them; and

(o) Identify opportunities and infrastructures at the state and local levels for young people to have meaningful roles in decision-making processes and make recommendations for including young people in these mechanisms.

(7) Appropriate agencies of the executive, judicial, and legislative branches of state government shall cooperate with the council in carrying out its duties, and shall provide information and advice upon request, to the extent possible with available funds.

(8) Upon request of the council, any cabinet, department, or agency in the executive branch may detail staff to support the operations of the council or subcommittees of the council.

(9) The council shall recognize and support excellence in community youth development program collaboration.

Approved April 5, 2006.