

INTERIM JOINT COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS AND REVENUE

Budget Review Subcommittee on Human Resources

Minutes of the 1st Meeting of the 2019 Interim

June 4, 2019

Call to Order and Roll Call

The 1st meeting of the Budget Review Subcommittee on Human Resources of the Interim Joint Committee on Appropriations and Revenue was held on Tuesday, June 4, 2019, at 10:00 AM, in Room 129 of the Capitol Annex. Representative Danny Bentley, Chair, called the meeting to order, and the secretary called the roll.

Present were:

Members: Senator Matt Castlen, Co-Chair; Representative Danny Bentley, Co-Chair; Senator Stephen Meredith; Representatives Adam Bowling, Kimberly Poore Moser, Melinda Gibbons Prunty, Russell Webber, and Susan Westrom.

Guests: Eric Clark, Commissioner, Department for Community Based Services (DCBS), Cabinet for Health and Family Services (CHFS); Elizabeth Caywood, Deputy Commissioner, DCBS, CHFS; Misty Sammons, Director, Division of Administration and Financial Management, DCBS, CHFS; Melissa Goins, Director, Family Resource and Youth Service Centers (FRYSC), CHFS; and MaryAnn Jennings, Assistant Director, FRYSC, CHFS.

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

Overview of Funding for Child Welfare Services

Commissioner Clark, Deputy Commissioner Caywood, and Ms. Sammons provided an update on the budget for the Department for Community Based Services (DCBS).

In response to a question from Senator Castlen, Commissioner Clark stated that seventy percent of children in foster care are there due either directly or indirectly to substance use disorder. Commissioner Clark said that Kentucky has the highest rates of child abuse in the nation.

In response to questions from Senator Meredith, Commissioner Clark noted that none of the DCBS' budget increase for fiscal year 2019 is carryover from fiscal year 2018. Commissioner Clark noted that DCBS does not have hard data around social worker turnover, but that preliminary data indicates more social workers are leaving DCBS than

are being hired. Deputy Commissioner Caywood noted that a decrease of children in foster care is likely attributed to the expansion of the Family Preservation Program, which puts services in homes to prevent the removal of children. Deputy Commissioner Caywood stated that it will take great effort and a tremendous amount of time to implement a cultural change among social workers.

In response to questions from Representative Moser, Commissioner Clark stated that there are fewer foster children placed out of state than in the past, but that DCBS is paying more for those children's care. Commissioner Clark noted that there are five Sobriety Treatment and Recovery Team (START) sites across the commonwealth.

In response to questions from Representative Prunty, Deputy Commissioner Caywood stated that kinship care givers have to have gone through the same processes as traditional foster families in order to qualify for financial assistance from the state. Deputy Commissioner Caywood confirmed that kinship care givers can opt out of state assistance.

In response to a question from Representative Westrom, Commissioner Clark noted that there are roughly 1,800 social workers employed by DCBS.

Overview of Family Resource and Youth Service Centers Funding

Ms. Goins and Ms. Jennings provided an update on the budget for the Family Resource and Youth Service Centers (FRYSC).

In response to a question from Senator Meredith, Ms. Goins said that she did not have return on investment and outcome data with her but that she would get it to the members of the subcommittee.

In response to questions from Representative Prunty, Ms. Goins noted that FRYSC has worked with the Governor's Office of Early Childhood to implement Born Learning Academies across the state to help parents prepare their children for kindergarten. Ms. Goins noted that FRYSC works to balance meeting the needs of children with equipping parents and families to move themselves above their living situation.

In response to questions from Representative Moser, Ms. Goins stated that if at least twenty percent of the students in a school are eligible for free lunch, then that school qualifies to apply for FRYSC. Ms. Goins confirmed that FRYSC resources are available to any student, not just those who qualify for free or reduced lunch.

There being no further business before the subcommittee, the meeting was adjourned at 12:06 PM.