

# **INTERIM JOINT COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS AND REVENUE**

## **Budget Review Subcommittee on Human Resources**

### **Minutes of the 3rd Meeting of the 2019 Interim**

**September 10, 2019**

#### **Call to Order and Roll Call**

The 3rd meeting of the Budget Review Subcommittee on Human Resources of the Interim Joint Committee on Appropriations and Revenue was held on Tuesday, September 10, 2019, at 10:00 AM, in Room 129 of the Capitol Annex. Senator Matt Castlen, 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; Senators Morgan McGarvey and Stephen Meredith; Representatives Adam Bowling, Kimberly Poore Moser, Melinda Gibbons Prunty, Russell Webber, and Susan Westrom.

Guests: Shannon Gadd, Commissioner, Department for Aging and Independent Living (DAIL), Cabinet for Health and Family Services (CHFS); Janet Hall, Director, Division of Operations and Support, DAIL, CHFS; Tonia Wells, Director, Division of Guardianship, DAIL, CHFS; Brad Nunn, Vice President, Kentucky Pediatric Cancer Research Trust Fund; Dr. Eric Durbin, Director, Kentucky Cancer Registry; Dr. John D'Orazio, Chief of Pediatric Hematology and Oncology, University of Kentucky Health Care; Dr. Ashok Raj, Chief of Pediatric Hematology and Oncology, University of Louisville Novak Center for Children's Health; Ryan Womack, Pediatric Cancer Survivor; and Evan Jones, Pediatric Cancer Survivor.

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

#### **Update on Status of Guardianship Program Caseloads and Funding**

Commissioner Gadd presented an update on the Guardianship Program and its funding.

In response to questions from Representative Westrom, Commissioner Gadd stated that the 2018 RS HB 200 provided funding for ten additional social workers in the Department for Aging and Independent Living (DAIL). Commissioner Gadd noted that to achieve the recommended ratio of one social worker to twenty cases, DAIL would need around 240 additional social workers. Ms. Wells stated that of the ten additional social

workers that were hired, two of them have a bachelors or master's degree in social work. Commissioner Gadd noted that DAIL does not hire private contractors to work guardianship cases because DAIL doesn't have the financial resources to pay them.

In response to questions from Representative Gibbons Prunty, Ms. Hall stated that a reasonable ratio for fiduciary benefit caseloads would be one to one hundred.

In response to questions from Co-Chair Bentley, Commissioner Gadd said her two goals for DAIL are to improve the culture among workers and to increase partnerships with communities.

In response to questions from Representative Moser, Commissioner Gadd stated that guardianship case workers do much outside of the normal scope of a social worker.

In response to questions from Senator Meredith, Commissioner Gadd noted that general research supports the idea that increasing the number of social workers, therefore reducing caseloads, would lead to overall cost reductions for the state.

In response to questions from Chair Castlen, Commissioner Gadd said that DAIL has an open door policy, with no way to decline guardianship of an individual who has had his or her rights removed by the courts.

In response to a question from Representative Westrom, Ms. Wells stated that although DAIL utilizes realtors when an individual under guardianship has property to be sold, case workers are responsible for any preparatory work to be done on the property prior to sale.

### **Approval of Minutes**

Representative Gibbons Prunty made the motion to approve the minutes from the August 20, 2019 meeting, seconded by Representative Moser, and the minutes were approved without objection.

### **Funding for Pediatric Cancer Research**

Mr. Nunn, along with Dr. Durbin, Dr. D'Orazio, and Dr. Raj provided information on pediatric cancer rates in Kentucky, and the studies being done to improve treatment and outcomes for those suffering from pediatric cancer.

In response to questions from Co-Chair Bentley, Dr. D'Orazio noted that it takes several hours for mithramycin to be fully metabolized.

There being no further business before the subcommittee, the meeting was adjourned at 11:19 AM.