

BUDGET REVIEW SUBCOMMITTEE ON JUSTICE AND JUDICIARY

Minutes of the 1st Meeting of the 2026 Interim

June 3, 2026

Call to Order and Roll Call

The first meeting of the Budget Review Subcommittee on Justice and Judiciary of the Interim Joint Committee on Appropriations and Revenue was held on June 3, 2026, at 9:00 AM ET/8:00 AM CT in Room 131 of the Capitol Annex. Senator Shelley Funke Frommeyer, Chair, called the meeting to order, and the secretary called the roll.

Present were:

Members: Senator Shelley Funke Frommeyer, Co-Chair; Representative Stephanie Dietz, Co-Chair; Senators Keturah J. Herron, and Robin L. Webb; and Representatives Daniel Elliott, Nima Kulkarni, and Scott Sharp.

Guests: Chris Calvert, Chief Financial Officer - NKU; Mary Paula Schuh, Sr. Director, Planning, Design, Construction - NKU; Scott Baker, Executive Director, DECA, Finance and Administration Cabinet; Natalie Brawner, Executive Director, Division of Real Properties, Finance and Administration Cabinet; Rebecca Norton, Budget Director, Justice and Public Safety Cabinet; Randy White, Commissioner, Department of Juvenile Justice; and, Mona Womack, Deputy Secretary, Justice and Public Safety Cabinet.

LRC Staff: Zachary Ireland, Perry Papka, and Spring Emerson.

Northern KY University Capital Project Update

Chris Calvert, Chief Financial Officer - NKU; Mary Paula Schuh, Sr. Director, Planning, Design, Construction - NKU; Scott Baker, Executive Director, DECA, Finance and Administration Cabinet; Natalie Brawner, Executive Director, Division of Real Properties, Finance and Administration Cabinet; and Rebecca Norton, Budget Director, Justice and Public Safety Cabinet, presented an update regarding the Northern KY University Civic Center Renovation project for the Medical Examiner and Crime Lab.

In response to Representative Kulkarni, Director Schuh said the building was in excellent structural condition, but it needed a new HVAC system, electrical wiring, a new roof, windows, etc. NKU is contributing \$3.7 million to the project. Mr. Calvert added that there were also specific requirements for the Medical Examiner and Crime Lab.

In response to Chair Funke Frommeyer, Director Norton said the complete timeline for the project will be provided at a later date. The proximity of NKU to the current Northern KY

Committee meeting materials may be accessed online at <https://apps.legislature.ky.gov/CommitteeDocuments/17>

Crime Lab was a major factor in the decision for location. If there were no Medical Examiner's office in Northern KY, in the event of a crime requiring that service the body would be transported by the Coroner to Louisville. Director Brawner added that the goal is to utilize state properties whenever possible. Even though the dollars were included in the 2022 budget, St. Elizabeth Healthcare Edgewood did not have the necessary space at that time. NKU was the best available solution, even though it has taken some time to work out the details.

In response to Co-Chair Dietz, Mr. Calvert said the annual lease includes some maintenance costs. Director Norton added that the maintenance included in the lease included snow removal, security systems, etc. and the cost of utilities and staffing would be paid by the Office of State Medical Examiner. The KSP currently has a crime lab in Northern KY which they have outgrown. More information will be provided at a later date.

In response to Chair Funke Frommeyer, Director Schuh said there had been many delays due to the complexity of needs for the property.

In response to Representative Sharp, Director Schuh said the location to which a decedent is transported is dependent upon which county it is being transported from, whether it be Kenton, Campbell, or Boone County, with Lexington, Louisville, and Frankfort being options. Director Norton added that the County Coroner would bear the cost of the transport.

In response to Chair Funke Frommeyer, Director Schuh said they believe they are on track with the financials, but will not know for certain until the project is bid. Mr. Calvert said inflation and cost of construction and equipment would also have an impact.

Dept. for Juvenile Justice High Acuity Services Update

Rebecca Norton, Budget Director, Justice and Public Safety Cabinet; Randy White, Commissioner, Department of Juvenile Justice; and, Mona Womack, Deputy Secretary, Justice and Public Safety Cabinet, presented an update on High Acuity Services.

In response to Representative Kulkarni, Director Norton said although there are Mental Health Care Providers (MHCPs) in the facility, there is no appropriation for them in the current budget. Commissioner White said there are MHCPs in each detention facility in addition to having a contracted psychiatrist through the University of KY on staff. Deputy Secretary Womack added that the staff in the detention centers are correctional officers, not emergency medical professionals.

In response to Co-Chair Dietz, Deputy Secretary Womack said the number of youths being sent out of state for treatment and the subsequent cost will be provided. The population numbers fluctuate due to the different judgments being made.

Senator Webb commented that even just one youth sent out of state is unacceptable.

Chair Funke Frommeyer said the presenters will be asked to testify in November.

Senator Herron requested information on the Jefferson County Detention Center be provided as well.

Adjournment

There being no further business before the subcommittee, the meeting was adjourned at 10:06 AM ET/9:06 AM CT.