

# **INTERIM JOINT COMMITTEE ON FAMILIES AND CHILDREN**

## **Minutes of the 1st Meeting of the 2023 Interim**

**June 21, 2023**

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

The 1st meeting of the Interim Joint Committee on Families and Children was held on Wednesday, June 21, 2023, at 1:00 PM, in Room 149 of the Capitol Annex. Representative Samara Heavrin, Chair, called the meeting to order, and the secretary called the roll.

Present were:

Members: Senator Danny Carroll, Co-Chair; Representative Samara Heavrin, Co-Chair; Senators Greg Elkins, Denise Harper Angel, Amanda Mays Bledsoe, Stephen Meredith, and Lindsey Tichenor; Representatives Shane Baker, Kim Banta, Mike Clines, Jennifer Decker, Stephanie Dietz, Daniel Elliott, Ken Fleming, Jim Gooch Jr., Marianne Proctor, Josie Raymond, Steve Riley, Rachel Roarx, Lisa Willner, and Nick Wilson.

Guests: Laura W. Kaloi, Partner, Stride Policy Solutions; Debbie Link, Executive Director, Child Care Council of KY, Inc.; Becky Stacy, Executive Director, Appalachian Early Childhood Network; Sandra Woodall, Executive Director/Founder, Early Childhood Learning Education Assessment Resource Network; Margaret Commodore, Owner, Kiddie Castle; John Alexander, President/CEO, Owensboro YMCA; Paula Anderson, President/CEO, YMCA of Central KY; Laura Lewter, Executive Director, YMCA School Age Child Care, YMCA of Greater Louisville; Stephanie Akers, Director, Educational Unit for Child Services, Morehead State University; Dr. Bridget Murray, Professor/IECE Program Director, Henderson Community College; Courtney Buchanan, CDA Instructor, Morehead State University; and Gary Fields, Superintendent, Bowling Green Independent Schools.

LRC Staff: Ben Payne Lead Staff, Logan Bush, Samir Nasir, and DJ Burns.

### **Consideration of Referred Administrative Regulations**

The following administrative regulations were placed on the agenda for consideration:

#### **910 KAR 001:180 Proposed – Homecare program for the elderly**

The listed administrative regulations were reviewed by the committee.

### **The Federal Early Childhood Policy Landscape**

Laura W. Kaloi, Partner, Stride Policy Solutions, discussed federal policy initiatives pertaining to child care in KY including federal stimulus packages, the programs funded, and the CHIPS Act.

### **Family Child Care Network of Kentucky – Stabilizing & Growing Family Child Care Homes Across the Commonwealth**

Debbie Link, Executive Director, Child Care Council of KY, Inc., discussed what the Family Child Care Network of KY is and how it provides support to family child care providers throughout the state. She discussed what a registered family child care home is and the benefits they provide. Becky Stacy, Executive Director, Appalachian Early Childhood Network, discussed family child care home realities. Margaret Commodore, Owner, Kiddie Castle, discussed opening a family child care home and provided testimony from parents of the children in her care. Sandra Woodall, Executive Director/Founder, Early Childhood Learning Education Assessment Resource Network, discussed start up grants awarded to family child care providers and gave policy recommendations for future legislation.

In response to questions and comments from Representative Raymond, Ms. Woodall stated urban areas do have a need for more family child care facilities especially in the Hispanic communities. She is working to support those areas in opening more family child care facilities. Ms. Link stated that special needs children benefit from the opportunity to be provided child care in these family child care facilities across the entire state.

In response to questions and comments from Senator Carroll, Ms. Commodore stated that the cost of materials for lesson plans is one obstacle she faces in her facility. She stated that 21 of the children in her facility are state funded and another four children are self-pay or co-pay. She struggles to collect the self-pay and co-pay payments due to the financial circumstances of those families.

In response to questions and comments from Representative Fleming, Ms. Stacy stated that her network received a grant from the Family Child Care Network of KY that was used to fund the \$5,000 startup grant for providers, trainings for providers, travel to visit rural areas, and business training for providers to help their businesses succeed. Ms. Link stated that the Family Child Care Network has helped cover the losses providers have experienced.

### **YMCA Child Care Realities & Considerations**

John Alexander, President/CEO, Owensboro YMCA, discussed the total number of children statewide in YMCA childcare programs and hurdles the YMCA is facing when it comes to these programs and facilities. Laura Lewter, Executive Director, YMCA School Age Child Care, YMCA of Greater Louisville, discussed reviewing licensing requirements to differentiate between early childhood centers and out-of-school programs. Paula

Anderson, President/CEO, YMCA of Central KY, discussed ARPA funding provided to child care facilities and the impact of that funding ending by the end of 2023.

In response to questions and comments from Representative Heavrin, Ms. Anderson stated that when they have the opportunity, they do an exit interview but most employees leave without returning.

In response to questions and comments from Representative Raymond, Ms. Lewter stated that she agreed with all the policy initiatives Representative Raymond described.

In response to questions and comments from Representative Fleming, Ms. Anderson stated that the YMCA center in Lexington is a corporate sponsorship with Lexmark. Mr. Alexander stated that the YMCA is a 501c corporation, they are always fundraising to help with the costs.

### **Early Childhood Educator Pathways & Educational Supports**

Stephanie Akers, Director, Educational Unit for Child Services, Morehead State University, discussed the KY early childhood development scholarship, the benefits it provides to students at Morehead State University, and the requirements to receive the scholarship. Dr. Bridget Murray, Professor/IECE Program Director, Henderson Community College, discussed the KY early childhood scholarship at Henderson Community College.

### **Little Purples Academy: Creating Student Pathways while Retaining Staff**

Gary Fields, Superintendent, Bowling Green Independent Schools, discussed the development of the Little Purples Academy in the Bowling Green Independent school district. He discussed the need for the academy within the community and the benefits it will provide to staff and students.

In response to questions and comments from Representative Riley, Superintendent Fields stated that the academy will be located on the main campus and that by taking advantage of using preschool materials they will be able to keep much of the cost down, ensuring this is a benefit to staff and help with staff retention.

In response to questions and comments from Senator Carroll, Superintendent Fields stated that students will be able to participate in an apprentice program during their senior year and to be compensated for their time. He stated the full-time staff will be community education employees and that with the training students receive through the program they will be prepared to seek employment from child care facilities within the community.

### **Adjournment**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:50 PM.