

INTERIM JOINT COMMITTEE ON FAMILIES AND CHILDREN

Minutes of the 4th Meeting of the 2024 Interim

September 25, 2024

Call to Order and Roll Call

The fourth meeting of the Interim Joint Committee on Families and Children was held on September 25, 2024, 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 Julie Raque Adams, Cassie Chambers Armstrong, Greg Elkins, Amanda Mays Bledsoe, Lindsey Tichenor, and Max Wise; Representatives Shane Baker, Mike Clines, Jennifer Decker, Stephanie Dietz, Daniel Elliott, Ken Fleming, Jim Gooch Jr., Josie Raymond, Rachel Roarx, Sarah Stalker, Lisa Willner, and Nick Wilson.

Guests: Dr. John D'Orazio, Vice President, Kentucky Pediatric Cancer Research Trust Fund; Spencer Moorman, Board Member & Advocacy Chair, Kentucky Pediatric Cancer Research Trust Fund; Heather Hagan Jones, Board Member & Awareness Chair, Kentucky Pediatric Cancer Research Trust Fund; Nate Graham, Chief Executive Officer, Ronald McDonald House Charities of the Bluegrass; Chelsi McDonald, Chief Philanthropy Officer, Ronald McDonald House Charities of the Bluegrass; Charlie Rowland, Board Member and Past Chair, Ronald McDonald House Charities of the Bluegrass; Shannon Moody, Chief Officer of Policy & Strategy, Kentucky Youth Advocates; Dr. Darlene M. Davis Goodwine, Psychologist & Youth Mental Health Parent Advocate, Parents Zone; and Barry G. Allen, President & Treasurer, The Gheens Foundation, Inc.

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

Approval of Minutes

A motion to approve the August 28, 2024, minutes was made by Representative Dietz, seconded by Representative Decker, and approved by a voice vote.

Kentucky Pediatric Cancer Research Trust Fund Discussion

Heather Hagan Jones, Board Member & Awareness Chair, Kentucky Pediatric Cancer Research Trust Fund (KPCRTF), provided an overview of the KPCRTF, including its establishment in 2015 and appropriations given by the General Assembly. Spencer

Moorman, Board Member & Advocacy Chair, KPCRTF, discussed U.S. statistics for pediatric cancer, new treatments available due to research, and next steps. Dr. John D'Orazio, Vice President, KPCRTF, discussed KPCRTF projects and highlighted four projects at UK and UL.

Ronald McDonald House Charities of the Bluegrass Discussion

Charlie Rowland, Board Member and Past Charmain, Ronald McDonald House Charities (RMHC) of the Bluegrass, discussed the purpose, mission, and vision of RMHC of the Bluegrass. Nate Graham, Chief Executive Officer, RMHC of the Bluegrass, discussed what RMHC of the Bluegrass provides for families, who it serves, and the need for growth. Chelsi McDonald, Chief Philanthropy Officer, RMHC of the Bluegrass, discussed how the services help families.

In response to questions and comments from Senator Mays Bledsoe, Mr. Graham stated that an 85-bed facility on the campus of UK is the primary growth goal in Lexington. Expansion of services in Louisville and Eastern Kentucky are programmatic growth goals. He stated UK Healthcare, KY Children's Hospital, and RMHC of the Bluegrass are in discussions for an onsite 6-acre site for expanding RMHC of the Bluegrass' footprint in and around Lexington.

In response to questions and comments from Representative Roarx, Mr. Graham said the funding for hotel stays is provided by donors, including corporate partners and private foundations.

In response to questions and comments from Senator Wise, Mr. Graham stated that Ronald McDonald Care Mobile dentistry provides preventative care and if follow up treatment is needed, patients are referred to dental clinics that partner with RMHC of the Bluegrass. A program is in development to help provide transportation for these follow up appointments.

Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE's) Discussion

Shannon Moody, Chief Officer of Policy & Strategy, Kentucky Youth Advocates, discussed adverse childhood experiences (ACEs), including national and local statistics, impacts these events can have on a child in the future, and recommendations to help prevent ACEs. Dr. Darlene M. Davis Goodwine, Psychologist & Youth Mental Health Parent Advocate, Parents Zone, discussed a fictional situation with a child, the adverse experiences, and how those affected the child and parent. Barry G. Allen, President & Treasurer, The Gheens Foundation, Inc., discussed policies to prevent ACEs and their efforts through the awarding of grant funding to organizations.

In response to questions and comments from Representative Fleming, Ms. Moody stated that expanding mental health service providers around the state where services are not currently accessible and providing incentives for supervisors for newly licensed clinicians are a couple of ways to fix the ACE effects. Dr. Davis Goodwine stated that offering incentives is needed to help with the shortage of providers. Mr. Allen stated that grant foundations are moving toward mission-oriented funding to allow grants to be used to fund whatever is needed.

In response to questions and comments from Representative Dietz, Dr. Davis Goodwine stated that educating and putting policy and practice into the hands of judges will assist in lived experiences for the child and parent being considered when judgements are made. Ms. Moody stated that quality legal representation for children in family court is important.

In response to questions and comments from Senator Chambers Armstrong, Dr. Davis Goodwine stated that at Parents Zone, she provides an evidence-based practice class for parents to learn parenting skills. Ms. Moody stated that the Health Access Nurturing Development Services Program offered through the Cabinet for Health and Family Services is a good tool for parents.

In response to questions and comments from Representative Raymond, Ms. Moody stated that trauma informed policy making looks at policies and how they will affect ACEs.

Consideration of Referred Administrative Regulations

The following referred administrative regulations were on the agenda for consideration.

922 KAR 002:090 – Emergency- Child-care center licensure.

The administrative regulation above has been reviewed by the committee.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:45 PM.