INTERIM JOINT COMMITTEE ON FAMILIES AND CHILDREN

Minutes of the Sixth Meeting of the 2024 Interim

November 18, 2024

Call to Order and Roll Call
The sixth meeting of the Interim Joint Committee on Families and Children was held on November 18, 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 Greg Elkins and Lindsey Tichenor; Representatives Shane Baker, Mike Clines, Jennifer Decker, Stephanie Dietz, Daniel Elliott, Jim Gooch Jr., Felicia Rabourn, Josie Raymond, Steve Riley, Rachel Roarx, Sarah Stalker, and Nick Wilson.

Guests: Dr. Amanda Body, Director, Division of Prevention and Community Well Being, Cabinet for Health and Family Services; Dr. Jennifer Thornhill, Assistant Director, Division of Prevention and Community Well Being, Cabinet for Health and Family Services; Dana Fryman, Branch Manager, Division of Prevention and Community Well Being, Cabinet for Health and Family Services; David Sanders, Executive Vice President, Casey Family Programs; and Amy Luttrell, President & Chief Executive Officer, Goodwill Industries of Kentucky.

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

Approval of Minutes
A motion to approve the October 23, 2024, minutes was made by Representative Elliott, seconded by Representative Clines, and approved by a voice vote.

Prevention Services Discussion
Dr. Amanda Body, Director, Division of Prevention and Community Well Being, Cabinet for Health and Family Services (CHFS), discussed the division, including its creation in 2022 by legislation, expansion due to implementation of the Family First Prevention Services Act, and its primary prevention services that serve the general population by providing access to resources and encouraging healthy behaviors to decrease future involvement in the child-welfare system. Dana Fryman, Branch Manager, Division of Prevention and Community Well Being, CHFS, discussed secondary prevention services,

which focus on populations with a high risk of future child-welfare involvement. Dr. Jennifer Thornhill, Assistant Director, Division of Prevention and Community Well Being, CHFS, discussed tertiary prevention services, which focus on families where maltreatment has already occurred and seek to prevent its recurrence.

In response to Representative Roarx, Dr. Thornhill stated staffing for prevention services programs varies from program to program. Some programs have added clinical interventions which require clinical licensed providers. Dr. Body said staffing issues are tracked for each program and solutions are discussed based on regional needs. Ms. Fryman stated the division is waiting on a data sharing agreement to launch the Safe Care Community Connector program.

In response to Representative Stalker, Dr. Thornhill said family resource centers make recommendations to the provider for Parent Engagement Meetings, and the age range of 5 to 11 years old was implemented for prevention of educational neglect. Dr. Body stated other programs are available for a wider age range of children for education prevention services. Attendance is the primary reason for referral.

David Sanders, Executive Vice President, Casey Family Programs, discussed statistics on children and families in Kentucky, areas that need improvement, and areas where Kentucky is doing well.

Benefits Cliff Discussion

Amy Luttrell, President & Chief Executive Officer, Goodwill Industries of Kentucky, discussed the benefits cliff and systemic disincentives that affect Kentucky employers and families. She discussed child care challenges and highlighted the high expense and short supply issues.

Consideration of Referred Administrative Regulations

The following referred administrative regulations were on the agenda for consideration, and were reviewed by the committee.

922 KAR 001:350 Proposed. Requirements for public child welfare agency foster parents, adoptive parents, and respite care providers.

922 KAR 002:160 Proposed. Child Care Assistance Program.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:30 PM.