

GOVERNMENT CONTRACT REVIEW COMMITTEE

Minutes

December 9, 2025

Call to Order and Roll Call

The Government Contract Review Committee met on Tuesday, December 9, 2025, at 9:00 AM, in Room 131 of the Capitol Annex. Senator Donald Douglas, Chair, called the meeting to order, and the secretary called the roll.

Present were:

Members: Senator Donald Douglas, Co-Chair; Representative Mark Hart, Co-Chair; Senator Stephen Meredith; and Representatives Bobby McCool, Jason Petrie, and Rachel Roarx.

Guests: Chris Lewis, Division Chief, Division of Consumer and Senior Protection, Office of the Attorney General (OAG); Steven Pulliam, Executive Director, Kentucky Legislative Ethics Commission (KLEC); Donnita Crittenden, Assistant Executive Director, KLEC; Dave Nicholas, Chairman, KLEC; Nicole Sergeant, General Counsel, Kentucky State University (KSU); Dr. Marcus Bernard, Director of Land Grant Programs, KSU; Eileen Butts, Interim Director of Purchasing, KSU; Magan Goins, Farm Manager, KSU; Dana Simmons, Interim Grants and Contracts Compliance Specialist, KSU; Eric Pelfrey, Director for Professional Services, Department of Highways, Kentucky Transportation Cabinet (KYTC); Sherri Chappell, Transportation Engineering Branch Manager, KYTC; Nathan Goens, Assistant General Counsel, Justice and Public Safety Cabinet (JPSC); Brian Lock, Executive Advisor, JPSC; Lori Denhart, Assistant Director, Division of Administrative Services, Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ), JPSC; Scott Baker, Executive Director, Office of Facility Development and Efficiency, Finance and Administration Cabinet; Barry Swanson, Chief Procurement Officer and Interim Vice President for Facilities Management, University of Kentucky (UK); Craig Collins, Senior Vice President/Chief Financial Officer, UK; Kevin Rexroat, Division Director, Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources (KDFWR); Kyla Satterly, Procurement Analyst, KDFWR; Dr. Patti Clark, Director, Division of Mental Health, Department for Behavioral Health, Developmental and Intellectual Disabilities (DBHDID), Cabinet for

Health and Family Services (CHFS); Sarah Johnson, Director, Division of Substance Use Disorder, DBHDID, CHFS; Caitlyn Hood, Assistant Director, Division of Substance Use Disorder, DBHDID, CHFS; Marnie Mountjoy, Director, Department for Aging and Independent Living, CHFS; Amy Metzger, Division Director, Department for Aging and Independent Living, CHFS; Roger McCann, Director, Division of Family Support, Department for Community Based Services (DCBS), CHFS; Mike Tuggle, Assistant Director, Division of Administration and Financial Management, Department for Public Health (DPH), CHFS; and Chase Barnes, Branch Manager, Division of Public Health Protection and Safety, DPH, CHFS.

LRC Staff: Jarrod Schmidt and Kim Smith.

A motion was made by Co-Chair Hart to approve minutes of the November 2025, meeting of the committee. Senator Meredith seconded the motion, which passed without objection.

A motion was made by Co-Chair Hart to consider as reviewed the Personal Service Contract List, with exception of those items selected for further review by members of the committee. Representative Roarx seconded the motion, which passed without objection.

A motion was made by Co-Chair Hart to consider as reviewed the Personal Service Contract Amendment List, with exception of those items selected for further review by members of the committee. Representative Roarx seconded the motion, which passed without objection.

A motion was made by Co-Chair Hart to consider as reviewed the Memoranda of Agreement List, with exception of those items selected for further review by members of the committee. Representative Roarx seconded the motion, which passed without objection.

A motion was made by Co-Chair Hart to consider as reviewed the Memoranda of Agreement Amendment List, with exception of those items selected for further review by members of the committee. Representative Roarx seconded the motion, which passed without objection.

A motion was made by Co-Chair Hart to consider as reviewed the Addition List. Representative Roarx seconded the motion, which passed without objection.

A motion was made by Co-Chair Hart to consider as reviewed the Correction List. Representative Roarx seconded the motion, which passed without objection.

**THE FOLLOWING PERSONAL SERVICE CONTRACTS WERE REVIEWED
WITHOUT OBJECTION:**

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE OF THE COURTS

Brandstetter Carroll, Inc., 2600000964.

DEPARTMENT OF HIGHWAYS

QK4, Inc., 2600000904; Palmer Engineering County, 2600000905; Aecom Technical Services, Inc., 2600000906; HDR Engineering, Inc., 2600000916; Bacon Farmer Workman Engineering & Testing, Inc., 2600000938; Haworth Meyer Boleyn, LLC, 2600000944; HMB Engineers, Inc., 2600000945; QK4, Inc., 2600000947; Aecom Technical Services, Inc., 2600000952; WSP USA, Inc., 2600000953.

EDUCATION AND LABOR CABINET

Kristin Jo Wiltrout, 2600000046.

FACILITIES & SUPPORT SERVICES

Kesler Simpson Architects, LLC, 2600000770.

KY COMMUNITY TECHNICAL COLLEGE SYSTEM

N3D Group, 26-008; Studio46 Media, 985.

MURRAY STATE UNIVERSITY

Hafer Associates, 029-26; Hafer Associates, 030-26.

TRANSPORTATION - OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

Baptist Health Deaconess Medical Group, Inc., 2400001600-1.

UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY

StoneX Financial, Inc., K26-127.

UNIVERSITY OF LOUISVILLE

Luckett & Farley Architects, 00001044.

**THE FOLLOWING PERSONAL SERVICE AMENDMENTS WERE REVIEWED
WITHOUT OBJECTION:**

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE OF THE COURTS

Brandstetter Carroll, Inc., 2500000268; McBrayer, PLLC, 2600000687.

DEPARTMENT FOR NATURAL RESOURCES

Stantec Consulting Services, Inc., 2300002660.

DEPARTMENT OF HIGHWAYS

HDR Engineering, Inc., 1400000344; Stantec Consulting Services, Inc., 1600001019; DLZ Kentucky, Inc., 1800000372; American Engineers, Inc., 2000000705; Lynn Blue Print and Supply Company, 2100000155; HMB Engineers, Inc., 2100003402; Palmer Engineering Company, 2300001420; QK4, Inc., 2300001421; HDR Engineering, Inc., 2300001422; WSP USA, Inc., 2300001424; Prime AE Group, Inc., 2300001509; Leslie M. Haney & Albert W. Gross Partners, 2300001513; Aecom Technical Services, Inc., 2300001715; Stantec Consulting Services, Inc., 2300001882; Michael Baker International, Inc., 2300003824; HDR Engineering, Inc., 2300003833; Michael Baker International, Inc., 2400000118; Aecom Technical Services, Inc., 2400001000; QK4, Inc., 2400001001; HMB Engineers, Inc., 2400001122; QK4, Inc., 2400001124; Palmer Engineering Company, 2400001743; WSP USA, Inc., C-01299441.

FACILITIES & SUPPORT SERVICES

Paladin, Inc., 1700002128; GRW Engineers, Inc., 1900003528; Patrick D. Murphy Company, Inc., 2200001132; Stengel Hill Architecture, Inc., 2300001117; Brown & Kubican, PSC, 2300002331; CMTA, Inc., 2300003834; Ross Tarrant Architects Inc., 2300003857; Clotfelter/Samokar PSC, 2400001018; LMH Architecture, PLLC, 2400001199; Kersey and Kersey, Inc., 2400001230; Schnabel Engineering, LLC, 2400004535; Marcum Engineering, LLC, 2500002214; Terracon Consultants, Inc., 2500002291; Terracon Consultants, Inc., 2500002299; Terracon Consultants, Inc., 2500002299; White Pollard Architects, PLLC, 2500002608; S&Me, Inc., 2600000540.

KENTUCKY FISH AND WILDLIFE RESOURCES

Stantec Consulting Services, Inc., 2500001448; Sustainable Streams, LLC, 2500001449; Quality Deer Management Association, 2500002498.

KENTUCKY STATE FAIR BOARD

Cherry Bekaert, LLP, 2400001507.

KY COMMUNITY TECHNICAL COLLEGE SYSTEM

Marcum Engineers, 24-010; Marcum Engineers, 24-019; Peck Flannery Gream & Warren, 24-1008; Language in Motion, LLC, 930.

KY PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

Browne Bortz & Coddington, Inc., 2400002406.

MURRAY STATE UNIVERSITY

Multi, 001-26.

NORTHERN KENTUCKY UNIVERSITY

Stacie Furst-Holloway, 2025-140.

TRANSPORTATION - OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

Baptist Health Deaconess Madisonville, Inc., 2400001600.

UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY

Walker Consultants, A221080; Quality Associates, Inc., K25-119; APAX Software, K25-204.

UNIVERSITY OF LOUISVILLE

Multi, 25-041; Multi, 25-041; S&ME Inc., 25-176.

WESTERN KENTUCKY UNIVERSITY

Embry, Merrit, Womack, Nance, PLLC, 242515.

**THE FOLLOWING MEMORANDA OF AGREEMENTS WERE REVIEWED
WITHOUT OBJECTION:**

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH, DEVELOPMENTAL & INTELLECTUAL
DISABILITIES

University of Kentucky Research Foundation, 2600000518; Voices of Hope -
Lexington, Inc., 2600000783.

COUNCIL ON POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION

University of Kentucky Research Foundation, 2600000846; University of the
Cumberlands, 2600000860.

DEPARTMENT FOR COMMUNITY BASED SERVICES

Northern Kentucky Area Development District, 2600000383; Ifoster, Inc.,
2600000417; Baptist Fellowship Center of Kentucky, 2600000856.

DEPARTMENT FOR ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

City of Morehead, 2600000581; Western Kentucky University, 2600000695;
Kentucky Rural Water Finance Corporation, 2600000696; Larue County Conservation
District, 2600000728.

DEPARTMENT FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT

City of Booneville, 2600000099; City of Paintsville, 2600000553; City of
Bowling Green, 2600000649; Kentucky Department of Military Affairs, 2600000671;
City of Prestonsburg, 2600000754; City of Madisonville, 2600000755; Lincoln County
Fiscal Court, 2600000756; City of Bowling Green, 2600000758; Perry County Fiscal
Court, 2600000768; Montgomery County, 2600000837; Murray-Calloway Industrial
Authority, 2600000847; Clay County Fiscal Court, 2600000867; City of Campton,
2600000890; City of Maysville, 2600000892; City of Hazard, 2600000895; Ballard
County Economic Industrial Development Authority, 2600000900; Webster County
Fiscal Court, 2600000902; Paradise Regional Industrial Development Authority,
2600000949; Clay County Fiscal Court, 2600000951; Hickman County Industrial
Development Authority, 2600000954; Union County Fiscal Court, 2600000960; Union
County Fiscal Court, 2600000961.

DEPARTMENT FOR NATURAL RESOURCES

University of Kentucky Research Foundation, 2600000730.

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Kentucky Horticulture Council, Inc., 2600000828; University of Kentucky Research Foundation, 2600000834; Southern Kentucky Floral Exchange, 2600000836; University of Kentucky Research Foundation, 2600000839; Hickory Grove Farm, LLC, 2600000865; Jones Brothers Farm, 2600000866.

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Fulton Independent Board of Education, 2600000327; McCreary County Board of Education, 2600000342; Kentucky Educational Development Corporation, 2600000965.

KENTUCKY STATE POLICE

Kentucky Transportation Cabinet - Vehicle Regulation, 2600000732; Louisville Jefferson County Metro Government, 2600000734.

OFFICE OF ENERGY POLICY

Electric Plant Board of the City of Hopkinsville, 2600000513; Owensboro Municipal Utilities, 2600000520.

OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL

Signature Healthcare Consulting Services, LLC, 2600000716; The Eden Alternative, Inc., 2600000808.

TRANSPORTATION - OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

University of Kentucky Research Foundation, 2600000857.

**THE FOLLOWING MEMORANDA OF AGREEMENT AMENDMENTS WERE
REVIEWED WITHOUT OBJECTION:**

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE OF THE COURTS

Seven Counties Services, Inc., 2300001279.

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH, DEVELOPMENTAL & INTELLECTUAL
DISABILITIES

Kenton County Fiscal Court, 2400001550; Department of Corrections, 2400001624; Shepherd's House, Inc., 2400001646; Western Kentucky Regional Mental Health & Retardation Advisory Board, 2400002300; Lifeskills, Inc., 2400002308; Kentucky River District Health Department, 2400002603; Kentucky Office of Adult

Education, 2400002680; Kentucky Administrative Office of the Courts, 2400002968; Fletcher Group, Inc., 2400003208; Louisville Recovery Community Connection, 2400003897; University of Kentucky Research Foundation, 2400003912; Voices of Hope - Lexington, Inc., 2400003913; Kentucky Hospital Research & Education Foundation, Inc., 2400004031.

DEPARTMENT FOR COMMUNITY BASED SERVICES

Zerox, 2400002333.

DEPARTMENT FOR ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

Shelby County Fiscal Court, 2500001146.

DEPARTMENT FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Lawrence County, 2200004607; Boyd County Fiscal Court, 2200004767; City of Hazard, 2300000452; Big Sandy Area Development District, 2300001114; City of Cave City, 2400000109; Calloway County Fiscal Court, 2400000503; City of Jenkins, 2400000689; City of Wilmore, 2400001027; Rowan County, 2400001156; Breathitt County Fiscal Court, 2400001502; City of Bowling Green, 2400002981; The Appalachian Wildlife Foundation, Inc., 2400004954; City of Berea, 2500000952.

DEPARTMENT FOR MEDICAID SERVICES

University of Louisville Research Foundation, 2400004773.

DEPARTMENT FOR PUBLIC HEALTH

University of Louisville Research Foundation, 2400001542; University of Kentucky Research Foundation, 2400001670; University of Louisville Research Foundation, 2400001827; University of Kentucky Research Foundation, 2400001831; University of Kentucky Research Foundation, 2500001488.

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Christian County Board of Education, 2500003090; Boone County Board of Education, 2600000598.

PUB PROTECTION - OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

The Hope Initiative, Inc., 2400002419.

**THE FOLLOWING PERSONAL SERVICE CONTRACTS WERE SELECTED
FOR FURTHER REVIEW:**

ATTORNEY GENERAL

Nachawati Law Group, PLLC, 2600000873; Cossich, Sumich, Parsiola & Taylor, LLC, 2600000874; Baron & Budd, A Professional Corporation, 2600000875; Motley Rice, LLC, 2600000876; Cohen Milstein Sellers & Toll, PLLC, 2600000877; Dicello Levitt, LLP, 2600000878; Milberg Coleman Bryson Phillips Grossman, LLC, 2600000879; Edelson PC, 2600000880; Joel Bieber, LLC, 2600000881; Salim-Beasley, LLC, 2600000882; Berger Montague PC, Inc., 2600000883; Bernstein Litowitz Berger & Grossmann, LLP, 2600000884; Grant & Eisenhofer PA, 2600000885; Brian Levin, P.A., 2600000886. Christopher Lewis, Division Chief, OAG, discussed the contracts with the committee.

In response to Senator Meredith, Mr. Lewis stated the number of contracts issued has increased due to more qualified applicants, not a reduction in available materials. Recent contracts submitted up to \$20 million are contingency based, meaning firms do not receive payment unless recoveries occur. Out of 60 applicants, 14 firms were awarded contracts in the latest cycle. The contingency fee structure equates to roughly 5% of recovered funds, which is lower than typical private sector rates. Oversight and due diligence will continue.

In response to Chair Douglas, Mr. Lewis stated contingency contracts cost the Commonwealth nothing unless a case results in a recovery; if no case is assigned, the contract simply expires. In settlement cases such as opioid litigation, funds are earmarked for specific uses, and attorney payments are limited by the settlement's fee fund. Law firms cover all upfront litigation costs and bear the financial risk if no recovery occurs.

In response to Senator Meredith, Mr. Lewis stated large national firms often apply because they have the resources for major cases and frequently partner with Kentucky firms. They encouraged more mid-sized Kentucky firms to apply, noting that several cases are well-suited for local participation.

A motion was made by Senator Meredith to consider the contracts as reviewed. Co-Chair Hart seconded the motion, which passed.

KENTUCKY LEGISLATIVE ETHICS COMMISSION

Casey Bailey and Maines, PLLC, 2025-03. Dave Nicholas, Chairman, KLEC; Donnita Crittenden, Assistant Executive Director, KLEC; and Steve Pulliam, Executive Director, KLEC, discussed the contract with the committee. In response to Co-Chair Hart, Mr. Pulliam stated the previous contract was disapproved and KLEC went back to seek the

proper competitive bid process. KLEC was advised to use a Request for Information (RFI). The RFI was posted for 3 weeks and received 1 applicant. The legal hourly rate was set at \$125 per hour.

In response to Co-Chair Hart, Mr. Pulliam stated their mission is training and enforcement of the ethics code. They do not want to take a prosecutorial role and their main duty is compliance. They handle phone calls and emails with legislators, lobbyists, and employers to ensure compliance.

In response to Co-Chair Hart, Mr. Nicholas stated he has been part of KLEC for 10 years and chair for 8. Their primary mission is to work with members of the General Assembly to help them know the ethics rules and laws. Legislators can call the office and they will prepare an advisory opinion about any situation. Legislators can count on that opinion to protect them. KLEC has no interest in punishing legislators.

In response to Co-Chair Hart, Mr. Nicholas stated KLEC is not a human resources agent. They offer information and protection to legislators, have a process they must follow, and will keep all cases and complaints confidential.

In response to Co-Chair Hart, Mr. Pulliam stated they enforce the legislative ethics code through a complaint process.

In response to Co-Chair Hart, Mr. Pulliam stated staff would not help someone draft a complaint against a sitting legislator. Instead, they advise them to fill out a form and to sign, notarize, and submit it.

In response to Senator Meredith, Mr. Nicholas apologized for any problems created. In the past, KLEC used an internal employee as investigative counsel. Three years ago, KLEC decided to bring in Mr. Jenkins as the investigative counsel with Casey Bailey and Maines, PLLC. Previous contracts went through without any competitive bidding due to Mr. Nicholas' stated ignorance. KLEC has tried to remedy the problem with this contract. They were advised by counsel to state the disapproved contract from July will remain in effect. Since they are a legislative body, the disapproved contract could not go before the Finance and Administration Cabinet for determination because that would be a violation of separation of powers. Mr. Nicholas stated this was an awkward situation and KLEC handled it poorly for which they apologize. KLEC has now done what was asked and the contract was put out for competitive bidding. They have the greatest respect for the committee and the legislature.

In response to Chair Douglas, Mr. Pulliam stated the contract is unique as there is no guaranteed work because it is for as-needed services. Law firms would have to forego working with any potential legislator, lobbyist, or employer of lobbyists because of conflicts of interest.

In response to Co-Chair Hart, Mr. Nicholas stated he has a lot of respect for Mr. Jenkins. He worked with Mr. Jenkins the last 15 years of his professional career, found him to be ethical, and to have done a magnificent job as investigative counsel.

A motion was made by Senator Meredith to consider the contract as reviewed. Representative Roarx seconded the motion, which passed with Co-Chair Hart voting no.

KENTUCKY STATE UNIVERSITY

Steven Skelton, 25-55. Eileen Butts, Interim Director of Purchasing, KSU; Dr. Marcus Bernard, Director of Land Grant Programs, KSU; Nicole Sergeant, General Counsel, KSU; Magan Goins, Farm Manager; KSU, and Dana Simmons, Interim Grants and Contracts Compliance Specialist, KSU, discussed the contract with the committee.

In response to Senator Meredith, Ms. Butts stated staff turnover has contributed to KSU submitting retroactive contracts. Her office is working with the general counsel to train and educate faculty and staff on proper procedures, as many were unaware of the committee's role or overlooked requirements. KSU expects these training efforts to resolve the issue going forward.

A motion was made by Senator Meredith to consider the contract as reviewed. Co-Chair Hart seconded the motion, which passed.

THE FOLLOWING PERSONAL SERVICE AMENDMENTS WERE SELECTED FOR FURTHER REVIEW:

DEPARTMENT OF HIGHWAYS

Palmer Engineering Company, 1200000457. Eric Pelfrey, Director for Professional Services, Department of Highways, KYTC, and Sherri Chappell, Transportation Engineering Branch Manager, KYTC, discussed the contract with the committee.

In response to Chair Douglas, Mr. Pelfrey stated the contract increase is due to the size and complexity of one of District 11's largest non-interstate projects. The project, which began Phase 2 final design, now requires a \$480,000 amendment, bringing the total contract to \$4.3 million, with an expected \$65 million construction cost. The project includes 126 property parcels and ongoing coordination with property owners has led to repeated right-of-way revisions, contributing to higher costs.

A motion was made by Co-Chair Hart to consider the contract as reviewed. Senator Meredith seconded the motion, which passed.

DEPARTMENT OF JUVENILE JUSTICE

Wellpath, LLC, 2400004442. Nathan Goens, Assistant General Counsel, JPSC; Brian Lock, Executive Advisor, JPSC; and Lori Denhart, Assistant Director, Division of Administrative Services, DJJ, JPSC, discussed the contract with the committee.

In response to Co-Chair Hart, Mr. Lock stated the agency is aware of the litigation connected to Wellpath's bankruptcy but clarified the contract was approved at the start of the biennium, prior to the filing. He noted the situation is being monitored and there have been no interruptions in services. He added once the current contract expires, it will be submitted for competitive bidding.

In response to Chair Douglas, Ms. Denhart stated the vendor provides on-site diagnostic services, such as X-rays, ultrasounds, and ECGs to juvenile facilities statewide. When a juvenile requires testing, facility medical staff first assess the youth, then contacts the vendor, who arrives within 3 hours to perform the service. Since July 1, 2024, all detention and development centers have had full-time, 24/7 medical coverage, eliminating delays in assessments and ensuring timely care.

A motion was made by Chair Douglas to consider the contract as reviewed. Senator Meredith seconded the motion, which passed.

FACILITIES & SUPPORT SERVICES

Alt32, PSC, 2500001241. Scott Baker, Executive Director, Office of Facility Development and Efficiency, Finance and Administration Cabinet, discussed the contract with the committee.

In response to Chair Douglas, Mr. Baker stated the contract is with a design engineering firm responsible for exterior design work on all Frankfort cabinet buildings, including sidewalks, ADA compliance upgrades, stairways, and necessary repairs. The original contract covered evaluation of the sites and the current modification adds Phases C and D. Phase C involves preparing final bid documents, while Phase D includes construction administration for 3 locations as they proceed through full construction. This follows the standard process of evaluating needs first, then moving into design and construction phases.

A motion was made by Senator Meredith to consider the contract as reviewed. Co-Chair Hart seconded the motion, which passed.

UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY

Deloitte Consulting, LLP, K25-110; Blue & Company, LLC, K25-148. Barry Swanson, Chief Procurement Officer and Interim Vice President for Facilities

Management, UK, and Craig Collins, Senior Vice President/Chief Financial Officer, UK, discussed the contracts with the committee.

In response to Senator Meredith, Mr. Collins stated the original contract supports the integration of 2 newly acquired hospitals in Ashland and Morehead by implementing a unified electronic medical record and ERP/general ledger system. As implementation progressed with 1 system set to go live in April and the other in July, UK identified broader opportunities for organizational transformation beyond the technical systems themselves. UK is moving toward shared and centralized services across multiple business functions, including information technology. The requested services from Deloitte will help guide this transformation. The goal is to strengthen UK's operational foundation, particularly cybersecurity, and to improve efficiency. He emphasized the intent to retain existing employees and use centralized processes to support growth without adding additional staff.

A motion was made by Co-Chair Hart to consider the contracts as reviewed. Representative Roarx seconded the motion, which passed.

**THE FOLLOWING PERSONAL SERVICE CONTRACT FOR \$10K AND
UNDER WERE SELECTED FOR FURTHER REVIEW:**

KENTUCKY FISH AND WILDLIFE RESOURCES

NOMI, Inc., 2600000809. Kevin Rexroat, Division Director, KDFWR, and Kyla Satterly, Procurement Analyst, KDFWR, discussed the contract with the committee.

Senator Meredith stated he does not support retroactive contracts and advised the agency he will not vote in favor of such approvals going forward. He emphasized the committee has made efforts to inform agencies that submitting retroactive contracts is unacceptable and he wants to see them eliminated.

A motion was made by Senator Meredith to consider the contract as reviewed. Co-Chair Hart seconded the motion, which passed.

KENTUCKY STATE UNIVERSITY

Steven Skelton, 24-39. Ms. Butts, Dr. Bernard, Ms. Sergeant, Ms. Goins, and Ms. Simmons discussed the contract with the committee.

A motion was made by Senator Meredith to consider the contract as reviewed. Co-Chair Hart seconded the motion, which passed.

**THE FOLLOWING MEMORANDA OF AGREEMENTS WERE SELECTED
FOR FURTHER REVIEW:**

**BEHAVIORAL HEALTH, DEVELOPMENTAL & INTELLECTUAL
DISABILITIES**

Reading & Math, Inc. d/b/a Ampact, 2600000803. Dr. Patti Clark, Director, Division of Mental Health, DBHDID, CHFS; Sarah Johnson, Director, Division of Substance Use Disorder, DBHDID, CHFS; and Caitlyn Hood, Assistant Director, Division of Substance Use Disorder, DBHDID, CHFS, discussed the contract with the committee.

In response Chair Douglas, Ms. Johnson stated the program supports expansion of the behavioral health workforce while assisting individuals in long-term recovery. The program allows individuals in recovery to receive additional training and provides services while participating in assignment-based work to help build workforce capacity. While the program is new to Kentucky and lacks state-specific data, it is based on models used in other states. Available data from those models show an average return on investment of approximately \$3.50 for every dollar invested, with variation depending on the type of services provided.

A motion was made by Representative Roarx to consider the contract as reviewed. Co-Chair Hart seconded the motion, which passed.

**THE FOLLOWING MEMORANDA OF AGREEMENT AMENDMENTS WERE
SELECTED FOR FURTHER REVIEW:**

**BEHAVIORAL HEALTH, DEVELOPMENTAL & INTELLECTUAL
DISABILITIES**

New Vista of the Bluegrass, Inc., 2400002332. Dr. Clark, Ms. Johnson, and Ms. Hood discussed the contract with the committee.

In response to Chair Douglas, Ms. Hood stated the contract supports multiple programs. These include a Regional Prevention Center located at New Vista; a Recovery Community Center that provides recovery support services and mutual aid meetings such as AA, MA, and SMART Recovery; and the Methadone Access Program, which is the largest component of the contract and is designed to expand access to methadone treatment across Kentucky. The contract includes a program supporting communication access for individuals who are deaf and hard of hearing.

A motion was made by Senator Meredith to consider the contract as reviewed. Co-Chair Hart seconded the motion, which passed.

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH, DEVELOPMENTAL & INTELLECTUAL DISABILITIES

Kentucky Pharmacy Education and Research Foundation, Inc., 2400003535; Unlawful Narcotics Investigations Treatment and Education, 2400004046; Project Ricochet, 2500002395. Dr. Clark, Ms. Johnson, and Ms. Hood discussed the contracts with the committee.

In response to Co-Chair Hart, Ms. Hood stated the increase in contract funding is primarily due to expanded statewide naloxone distribution through the Kentucky Pharmacist Association. Most funds are used to purchase naloxone, with limited staffing support for oversight and distribution. 148,000 naloxone kits were distributed in FY 2025 with significant reductions in overdose deaths noted in recent years, including a 30% decrease in the most recent year. Approximately 5,000 overdose reversals were reported statewide over the past year.

In response to Chair Douglas, Ms. Hood stated the agency tracks emergency department visits related to overdoses as a key data point. Alongside the decline in overdose deaths, there has been a decrease in the number of individuals requiring emergency services following an overdose.

In response to Senator Meredith, Ms. Clark stated the funding increase supports preventative training for community health workers focused on problem gambling, not a response to documented increases. While online wagering is rising, reliable data is not yet available. Funds were set aside by the legislature and awarded to community organizations, with most projects under contract and ramping up. Current funding is sufficient to build capacity, but future needs may require reassessment.

A motion was made by Senator Meredith to consider the contracts as reviewed. Co-Chair Hart seconded the motion, which passed.

CHFS - DEPARTMENT FOR AGING AND INDEPENDENT LIVING

Multi, 2400000060. Marnie Mountjoy, Director, Department for Aging and Independent Living, CHFS, and Amy Metzger, Division Director, Department for Aging and Independent Living, CHFS, discussed the contract with the committee.

In response to Representative McCool, Ms. Metzger stated it is her understanding the money taken was not from the providers, but were administrative dollars from Medicaid. However, she stated for the record she is not from Medicaid.

A motion was made by Representative Roarx to consider the contract as reviewed. Co-Chair Hart seconded the motion, which passed.

DEPARTMENT FOR COMMUNITY BASED SERVICES

Feeding Kentucky, Inc., 2600000049. Roger McCann, Director, Division of Family Support, DCBS, CHFS, discussed the contract with the committee.

In response to Senator Meredith, Mr. McCann stated there is an existing contract with Feeding Kentucky for SNAP outreach and is paid for with 50/50 USDA and organization matching funds. In October, when the federal government was shut down, the USDA notified states due to the lapse in funding they should suspend issuing SNAP benefits in November. The Governor declared an emergency and, through emergency services, they reached out to CHFS to administer \$5 million to food banks to help support communities. Since this contract was already in existence, they modified it to get the funds to the food banks quickly.

In response to Representative McCool, Mr. McCann stated the emergency declaration was on a Friday and they were able to transfer the funds Monday to Feeding Kentucky. Feeding Kentucky is an umbrella organization of 7 food banks covering different regions of Kentucky and all 120 counties. He has not heard of any issues with the process or distribution and receives reports on how the funds were distributed and how much food was purchased and provided.

A motion was made by Senator Meredith to consider the contract as reviewed. Representative Roarx seconded the motion, which passed.

DEPARTMENT FOR PUBLIC HEALTH

Kentucky Pharmacy Education and Research Foundation, Inc., 2400002639. Mike Tuggle, Assistant Director, Division of Administration and Financial Management, DPH, CHFS, and Chase Barnes, Branch Manager, Division of Public Health Protection and Safety, DPH, CHFS, discussed the contract with the committee.

In response to Co-Chair Hart, Mr. Barnes stated the contract is funded by a DPH Infrastructure Grant which is awarded by the CDC. The modification supports the next federal Fiscal Year, training, and workforce development. For the past 7 years, the Kentucky Harm Reduction Summit has been planned and hosted by the department, which partners with UK's Kentucky Injury and Prevention Research Center. The summit has grown from 400 in-person attendees to 650 and is hosted and planned in collaboration with a dozen agencies across the state.

A motion was made by Co-Chair Hart to consider the contract as reviewed. Senator Meredith seconded the motion, which passed.

EXEMPTION REQUESTS:

DEPARTMENT FOR MILITARY AFFAIRS

The Division of Emergency Management requested an exemption from Committee Policy Statement #99-4, which prohibits contracts and agreements from extending beyond the biennium for the Chemical Stockpile Emergency Preparedness Program (CSEPP) grant. A motion was made by Co-Chair Hart to grant the request to December 31, 2026. Representative Roarx seconded the motion, which passed without objection.

DEPARTMENT FOR MILITARY AFFAIRS

The Division of Emergency Management requested an exemption from Committee Policy Statement #99-4, which prohibits contracts and agreements from extending beyond the biennium for FEMA funded EMPG, CSEPP, MOAs, and grants for declared emergencies. A motion was made by Co-Chair Hart to grant the request to December 31, 2026. Representative Roarx seconded the motion, which passed without objection.

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

The Department of Agriculture requested an exemption from Committee Policy Statement #99-4, which prohibits contracts and agreements from extending beyond the biennium for the purpose of the Resilient Food Systems Infrastructure (RFSI) Program. A motion was made by Co-Chair Hart to grant the request to May 27, 2027. Representative Roarx seconded the motion, which passed without objection.

COUNCIL ON POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION

The Council on Postsecondary Education requested an exemption from Committee Policy Statement #99-4, which prohibits contracts and agreements from extending beyond the biennium for its Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs (GEAR UP) contracts. A motion was made by Co-Chair Hart to grant the request to September 30, 2032. Representative Roarx seconded the motion, which passed without objection.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 10:53 AM.