

INTERIM JOINT COMMITTEE ON HEALTH SERVICES

Minutes of the 2nd Meeting of the 2025 Interim

July 30, 2025

Call to Order and Roll Call

The second meeting of the Interim Joint Committee on Health Services was held on July 30, 2025, at 9:00 AM in Room 149 of the Capitol Annex. Representative Kimberly Poore Moser, Chair, called the meeting to order, and the secretary called the roll.

Present were:

Members: Representative Kimberly Poore Moser, Co-Chair; Senators Julie Raque Adams, Karen Berg, Danny Carroll, Donald Douglas, Keturah Herron, Robby Mills, Michael J. Nemes, Craig Richardson, and Lindsey Tichenor; and Representatives Steve Bratcher, Josh Bray, Lindsey Burke, Emily Callaway, Adrielle Camuel, Ryan Dotson, Robert Duvall, Ken Fleming, Deanna Gordon, Kim Holloway, Mary Lou Marzian, Amy Neighbors, Marianne Proctor, Rebecca Raymer, Scott Sharp, and Lisa Willner.

Guests: Steven Stack, Secretary, Cabinet for Health and Family Services (CHFS); John Langefeld, Commissioner, Department for Public Health (DPH), CHFS; Heather Bush, PhD, Dean, UK College of Public Health; Eric B. Durbin, DrPH, MS, Associate Professor, Division of Biomedical Informatics, UK College of Medicine, Director, Cancer Research Informatics Shared Resource Facility, UK Markey Cancer Center; Emily Beauregard, Executive Director, KY Voices for Health; Allison Adams, President and Chief Executive Officer, Foundation For A Healthy Kentucky; Patti Clark, Division Director, Department for Behavioral Health, Developmental and Intellectual Disabilities (DBHDID), CHFS; Melissa Runyon, Program Administrator, DBHDID, CHFS; Jill Bryant, OD, MPH, Executive Director, National Board of Examiners in Optometry; Michael W. Ohlson, OD, President, National Board of Examiners in Optometry; Christi LeMay, Executive Director, Kentucky Board of Optometric Examiners; and Joe Ellis, OD, President, Kentucky Board of Optometric Examiners.

LRC Staff: Chris Joffrion, Cameron Franey, and DJ Burns.

Approval of Minutes

A motion to approve the minutes of the June 18, 2025, meeting was made by Senator Douglas, seconded by Representative Bratcher, and approved by a voice vote.

Introductions and Discussion on Priorities

Dr. Steven Stack, Secretary, CHFS, discussed his professional background and priorities in his new role as secretary. Dr. John Langefeld, Commissioner, DPH, CHFS, discussed his professional background and priorities in his new role as commissioner.

Health Data Discussion

A. Kentucky Health Information Exchange (KHIE)

Dr. Stack gave a broad overview of the Kentucky Health Information Exchange (KHIE), and Dr. Langefeld discussed the benefits associated with the data collected and shared through KHIE.

In response to Senator Tichenor, Dr. Stack stated informed consent has always been the process for covid vaccines. He stated a clinician is available to answer questions and provide information concerning these vaccines before the patient makes the decision to receive it or not.

In response to Senator Herron, Dr. Langefeld stated the Kentucky Injury Prevention and Research Center (KIPRC) is a great resource for health data and stakeholders are looking to use the data from KIPRC and other sources more efficiently moving forward. Dr. Stack stated he believes gun violence is a public health emergency and the data collected in reports by KIPRC can be used by other organizations to help combat gun violence, but CHFS has no plans to research it at this time.

In response to Senator Berg, Dr. Langefeld stated it is not easy to identify true causes of health trends due to gaps in data. He stated when using health data to make policy decisions it is important to look at the evidence. Dr. Stack stated the cancer and trauma registry are both in Kentucky statute and overseen by different partners and councils.

In response to Representative Fleming, Dr. Stack stated CHFS relies on universities to access the data and conduct research. He stated the Department for Community Based Services gave a presentation on the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) showing evidence of the link between food insecurities and the rise of domestic violence. He stated CHFS uses the data collected for campaigns like Our Healthy Kentucky Home to invest in Kentuckians' overall health.

In response to Senator Nemes, Dr. Langefeld stated agencies should collaborate more with their respective agencies. Dr. Stack stated working partnerships with other departments was a goal he plans to continue as secretary.

In response to Senator Douglas, Dr. Langefeld stated without access to all data collected for an individual you cannot see the entire picture of what may have contributed to a health outcome.

In response to Representative Sharp, Dr. Stack stated KHIE is a vessel for health data researchers with access to use for gun violence research.

B. Public Health Data

Heather Bush, PhD, Dean, UK College of Public Health, discussed public health data platforms including KIPRC, Research and Data Organization Repository (RADOR), and new contracts for Medicaid and the Department for Behavioral Health, DBHDID, for the development of a data warehouse to integrate multiple disparate data sets. Eric B. Durbin, DrPH, MS, Associate Professor, Division of Biomedical Informatics, UK College of Medicine, Director, Cancer Research Informatics Shared Resource Facility, UK Markey Cancer Center, discussed the Kentucky Cancer Registry including funding, current data sharing, and plans to expand data sharing in the future.

In response to Chair Moser, Ms. Bush stated one challenge to sharing the data between different systems and organizations is making sure data usage agreements are in place, which can delay data being shared. She stated pulling data into a centralized source would reduce the barriers. Mr. Durbin stated earlier access to real time data is needed, currently it takes approximately two years to complete population-based data in Kentucky, which is the national average.

In response to Senator Mills, Mr. Durbin stated the Kentucky Cancer Registry's NCI Surveillance Epidemiology and End Results (SEER) funding cut was immediate.

In response to Senator Berg, Mr. Durbin stated the incidence rate of cancer in Kentucky is backed up by the mortality rate.

C. Other Health Data Platforms

Allison Adams, President and Chief Executive Officer, Foundation for A Healthy Kentucky, discussed the mission and background of the foundation. Emily Beauregard, Executive Director, KY Voices for Health, discussed connecting fragmented health data and using that data to inform policy.

In response to Representative Camuel, Ms. Beauregard stated many providers limit their number of Medicaid patients and a provider could be counted as accepting Medicaid when they are not taking new patients.

In response to Representative Willner, Ms. Beauregard stated when making health policy it is essential to make the healthy choice the easy choice. Ms. Adams stated looking at each legislative committee's jurisdiction and how it may influence population health would be a good start when considering health policies.

Discussion of Optometry Regulation

Christi LeMay, Executive Director, Kentucky Board of Optometric Examiners; and Joe Ellis, OD, President, Kentucky Board of Optometric Examiners, spoke in favor of the proposed amendment to 201 KAR 005:010. Jill Bryant, OD, MPH, Executive Director, National Board of Examiners in Optometry; and Michael W. Ohlson, OD, President, National Board of Examiners in Optometry, spoke in opposition of the proposed amendment.

Questions and comments were made by Chair Moser, Representative Callaway, Senator Berg, Representative Willner, Representative Duvall, and Senator Herron. Senator Douglas made a motion, seconded by Representative Raymer, to defer this administrative regulation. After a roll call vote of 10 yes votes, 5 no votes, and 1 pass vote, the motion failed.

Consideration of Referred Administrative Regulations

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

201 KAR 002:416 Emergency
201 KAR 005:010 Proposed
201 KAR 020:215 Proposed
202 KAR 007:410 Proposed
907 KAR 001:595 Proposed
907 KAR 001:835 Emergency
907 KAR 003:210 Emergency
907 KAR 012:020 Proposed
907 KAR 020:005 Proposed
907 KAR 010:840 Emergency
201 KAR 020:240 Proposed
201 KAR 020:600 Proposed
201 KAR 020:620 Proposed
201 KAR 023:012 Emergency
201 KAR 026:320 Proposed
907 KAR 001:039 Proposed
907 KAR 001:835 Proposed
907 KAR 003:100 Proposed
907 KAR 003:210 Proposed
907 KAR 007:015 Proposed
907 KAR 010:840 Proposed
907 KAR 016:005 Proposed

907 KAR 016:010 Proposed
907 KAR 016:015 Proposed
907 KAR 016:020 Proposed
907 KAR 016:025 Proposed

Hearing on Unified Community Mental Health and Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment Block Grant Application for FFY 2026 - 2027 Funds

Patti Clark, Division Director, DBHDID, CHFS, and Melissa Runyon, Program Administrator, DBHDID, CHFS, gave a presentation on the 2026-2027 Unified Community Mental Health and Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment Block Grant Application.

A motion was made to approve the application by Senator Nemes, seconded by Representative Duvall, and approved after a voice vote.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:40 AM.