

LEGISLATIVE OVERSIGHT & INVESTIGATIONS COMMITTEE

Minutes

July 6, 2026

Call to Order and Roll Call

The fourth meeting of the Legislative Oversight and Investigations Committee was held on Monday, July 6, 2026, at 1 p.m. ET/12 p.m. CT in Room 131 of the Capitol Annex. Representative Scott Sharp, Chair, called the meeting to order, and the secretary called the roll.

Present were:

Members: Senator Greg Elkins, Co-Chair; Representative Scott Sharp, Co-Chair; Senators Danny Carroll, Gerald A. Neal, Matt Nunn, Aaron Reed, and Reginald L. Thomas; Representatives John Blanton, Lindsey Burke, Matt Lockett, Steve Riley, and Tom Smith.

Guests: Elisha Mahoney, executive staff advisor, Justice and Public Safety Cabinet; Steve Shannon, executive director, KARP, Inc.; Jason Schlafer, executive associate athletics director, University of Kentucky; Rob Edwards, executive vice president and government affairs officer, University of Kentucky; David Barker, information systems manager, Communications Branch, Kentucky State Police; and Brandon Marshall, Communications Branch, Kentucky State Police.

LRC Staff: Jacob Blevins, Austin Fraley, Christopher T. Hall, Taylor Johnston, Jonathan Rickett, Maegan Mohr, William Spears, Austin Sprinkles, Shane Stevens, Joel S. Thomas, Holly Tracy, and Olivia Walton.

Recognition of Legislative Oversight and Investigations Committee Graduate Fellow

Chair Sharp recognized Olivia Walton, student at the University of Kentucky Martin School of Public Policy and Administration, as the Legislative Oversight and Investigations Committee (LOIC) Graduate Fellow for the 2026-2027 term.

Approve Minutes from June 11, 2026

Upon motion by Representative Smith and second by Representative Lockett the minutes for the June 11, 2026, meeting were approved without objection.

Staff Report on *Kentucky Child Fatality And Near Fatality External Review Panel 2026 Update*

Committee analysts Jacob Blevins, Jonathan Rickett, and Holly Tracy presented the staff report *Kentucky Child Fatality And Near Fatality External Review Panel 2026 Update*. Committee staff are statutorily required to annually audit the Kentucky Child Fatality and Near Fatality External Review Panel's internal controls and procedures. They discussed the impact of HB 778 from the

2026 Regular Session, continued development of the panel's case management system, and results from a survey of panel members. The report had two recommendations and one matter for legislative consideration. Staff's full presentation and report are available on the LOIC webpage.

In response to Representative Smith, Mr. Blevins said it was difficult to determine causation when reviewing the efficacy of the committee. Mr. Blevins clarified the positive feedback from the survey was volunteered in an open-ended answer box and did not indicate that the remaining survey participants had negative feedback. The questions in the survey were intentionally broad to better understand which aspects of the panel's operation were helpful or an obstacle to panel members. Mr. Blevins said he believed there were 5 staff associated with the panel, but to check with the panel staff for accuracy.

In response to Chair Sharp, Mr. Blevins said the Commonwealth Office of Technology (COT) has been developing the case management system for the last 2.5 years.

Panel Staff Response to Report

Elisha Mahoney, executive staff advisor, Justice and Public Safety Cabinet and Steve Shannon, executive director, KARP, Inc. presented the panel's response to the LOIC staff report. Mr. Shannon acknowledged the heavy nature of the panel's work. He recognized the 2 LOIC recommendations, stating that the panel agreed with the recommendation to request access to TWIST as well as acknowledging the delayed development of standard procedures for the panel. They hope to have the new case management system finished before finalizing the procedures.

In response to Chair Sharp, Mr. Shannon said that the panel internally decided to forgo readymade case management systems in favor of a bespoke system from COT. Ms. Mahoney estimated that decision to have been made in April 2022. She believes the system will be implemented by September 1, 2026.

In response to Representative Blanton, Mr. Shannon attributed a growing number of child fatality cases to a combination of better reporting mechanisms and increasing unsafe factors, such as easier access to substances.

In response to Representative Nunn, Mr. Shannon said that he did not know if marijuana gummies came in childproof packaging. He cited the increasing ease of access and the gummy appearance as dangerous to children.

In response to Representative Burke, Ms. Mahoney said they would consult with their experts for the data showing fatalities associated with vitamin K deficiency.

Senator Carroll, a member of the panel, said he did not think the panel was used to its maximum potential. He encouraged legislators to speak with panel members when creating laws intended to safeguard children.

In response to Representative Smith, Mr. Shannon said that as a retroactive entity, the panel does not receive reports of potential child abuse. Department of Community Based Services processes reports from mandatory reporters like educators.

In response to Senator Neal, Mr. Shannon said that the 2 main issues he would suggest legislative action for would be safe firearm storage and safe pharmaceutical storage. Ms. Mahoney said the panel recommended that social workers educate families about these topics when they visit homes.

After a roll call vote, the staff report *Kentucky Child Fatality And Near Fatality External Review Panel 2026 Update* was adopted without objection.

University of Kentucky Name, Image, and Likeness

Jason Schlafer, executive associate athletics director, University of Kentucky (UK) and Rob Edwards, executive vice president and government affairs officer, UK, presented on the topic of Name, Image, and Likeness (NIL) to the committee. They provided an overview of how college athletics compensation has changed, the effects of the *House v. NCAA* settlement, and the effects of SB 3 from the 2026 Regular Session on NIL. Their presentation is available on the LOIC website.

In response to Representative Lockett, Mr. Edwards said that the proposed SCORE Act attempts to establish a marketplace that avoids pay-for-play activities and evens the playing field across the nation. Mr. Schlafer believes that the new 5-year eligibility of post-high school students will assist schools in retaining their talent. UK will continue to work with the commonwealth to help build the framework.

In response to Representative Blanton, Mr. Schlafer said there is no accurate ranking of how NIL dollars are spent across the National Collegiate Athletic Association, but UK's local media rights partnership inspired those of other universities in the nation. John Moores Inc. Sports (JMI Sports) manages media rights on behalf of UK. NIL dollars are used in the transfer portal cycle as a recruitment tool.

In response to Representative Riley, Mr. Edwards said that it is the public stance of the SEC and Big 10 that both are supportive of the assistance from the United States Congress and the Saving College Sports Act. There is concern that schools are struggling with TV profit sharing and conferences controlling athletics, but not all conferences are in agreement.

Senator Thomas expressed concern about free agency, the incorporation of a salary cap, and the institution of an age limit.

In response to Senator Carroll, Mr. Schlafer said the UK athletics department does not use student fees for athletics' operation or recruitment.

In response to Co-Chair Elkins, Mr. Schlafer said other schools use JMI Sports for their media rights holder and competitors to JMI Sports are adopting similar methods.

In response to Representative Smith, Representative Riley said that Kentucky High School Athletic Association does not allow compensation for high school students, but other states allow it.

In response to Representative Lockett, Mr. Schlafer said the "one and done" rule is a function of the rules at the professional level. Mr. Schlafer said UK is willing to change as it learns what is best for the program in response to a question about how UK disburses NIL money.

Kentucky State Police Update on SERVS

David Barker, information systems manager, Communications Branch, Kentucky State Police (KSP) and Brandon Marshall, Communications Branch, KSP presented an update of the State Emergency Radio Voice System (SERVS) to the committee. They provided information on phases of the project, the agencies using SERVS, and total expenditures on the system. Their presentation is available on the LOIC website.

In response to Representative Blanton, Mr. Marshall said that there is enough funding to complete the current phases of SERVS and only the closeout phase remains unfunded.

In response to Co-Chair Elkins, Mr. Barker said the closeout phase and the rest of SERVS will be stalled if the project does not receive funding by July 2027. Delaying the project could increase costs due to inflation. The contractor hired to acquire land has increased the speed of the process.

Chair Sharp requested KSP to conduct a thorough after-action review of the SERVS project once it is complete.

In response to Representative Smith, Mr. Marshall said the project was structured in phases because the funding was provided in phases. In retrospect, he believes opting for a single vendor to build out the system 10 years ago would have been more cost effective for the state.

Adjournment

Upon a motion from Representative Blanton and a second by Representative Lockett the meeting was adjourned at 2:33 p.m. ET/1:33 p.m. CT.