

PUBLIC ASSISTANCE REFORM TASK FORCE

Minutes of the 5th Meeting of the 2019 Interim

November 18, 2019

Call to Order and Roll Call

The 5th meeting of the Public Assistance Reform Task Force was held on Monday, November 18, 2019, at 3:00 PM, in Room 129 of the Capitol Annex. Senator Stan Humphries, Chair, called the meeting to order, and the secretary called the roll.

Present were:

Members: Senator Stan Humphries, Co-Chair; Representative David Meade, Co-Chair; Senators Whitney Westerfield and Max Wise; Representatives Nima Kulkarni and Russell Webber; Elizabeth Caywood, , and Bill Wagner.

Guests: Julianne Vantland, Drew Vantland, and Erin Kidder.

LRC Staff: Chris Joffrion, Sean Meloney, and Christy Young.

Approval of Minutes

A motion to approve the minutes from the October 30, 2019 meeting was made by Senator Wise, seconded by Bill Wagner, and approved by voice vote.

Discussion and Approval of the Task Force Findings and Recommendations

Elizabeth Caywood made a motion to amend finding number one by replacing references to Kentucky Transitional Assistance Programs (K-TAP) with Transitional Assistance Nutrition Fund (TANF). The motion was seconded by Bill Wagner and approved by a voice vote.

Ms. Caywood made a motion to amend finding number one by adding: “These percentages do not include funding for supportive services” at the end of the second paragraph of finding number one. The motion was seconded by Bill Wagner and approved by voice vote.

Ms. Caywood commented in relation to recommendation number one that federal Title IV-E funds for foster care are going down each year which will mean that the state will have to start investing more money in child welfare services

Senator Westerfield made a motion to amend recommendation number four by inserting, “, update, or identify” after the word “develop” in the first sentence of recommendation number four; to delete the word “assessment” in the first sentence of recommendation number four; and to insert “where appropriate refer applicants for assessment” at the end of the last sentence of recommendation number four. The motion was seconded by Elizabeth Caywood and approved by voice vote.

Senator Wise made a motion to accept the draft memorandum as amended. The motion was seconded by Senator Westerfield. After a roll call vote of 8 yes votes, 0 no votes, and 0 pass votes, the amended memorandum was approved by the task force.

Public Comments

Julianne Vantland, a SNAP recipient, stated that she feared that the work requirements would place an undue stress on her family as she is a stay at home mother whose spouse is a full-time doctoral degree student. Ms. Vantland stated that she would not be able to raise her children, meet the work requirements, but she cannot afford to lose her benefits.

Closing Remarks

Senator Humphries stated that there is more to learn on this topic, and he appreciates the open minded approach of the Task Force this interim. Senator Humphries stated that to find a solution for the issue at hand is not a simple, easy process, but the recommendations will reflect that this Task Force tried to avoid collateral damage by not making hasty recommendations.

Representative Meade stated that the recommendations show that our work on this topic is far from over and echoing the statements from Senator Humphries, the more education and data we can have on this issue, the better we can address the problems, with the least amount of unintended consequences. Representative Meade stated that the goal of this Task Force is to help those return to work who are making a choice not to work despite being able-bodied. In the process, we do not wish to adversely affect those to whom that does not apply. Representative Meade stated that the task force will continue to address this subject in a loving, kind, and caring manner as we seek solutions.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:00 PM.