

Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention Board
Regular Meeting Minutes
May 19, 2025

I. Welcome and Introductions

The Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention Board meeting was called to order at 1:04 p.m., on May 19, 2025, in Conference Room “A” of the Office of the Attorney General, East office, by Board Chair, Serah Wiedenhoefer. The Board welcomed Lynn Baker, who was recently appointed as designee for Jaime Link, Secretary of the Education and Labor Cabinet. The following members and guests were present for the meeting:

Present

Mary Carpenter, Cabinet for Health and Family Services
Captain Bradley Stotts, Kentucky State Police
Jill Seyfred, Prevent Child Abuse Kentucky
Andrea Bruns, Kentucky CASA Network, Inc.
Serah Wiedenhoefer, Office of the Attorney General

Present Virtually

Lynn Baker, Education and Labor Cabinet
Mona Womack, Justice and Public Safety Cabinet (left at 2:04 p.m.)
Shannon Moody, PhD, Kentucky Youth Advocates (joined at 1:15 p.m.)
Michelle Sanborn, Children’s Alliance
Caroline Ruschell, Children’s Advocacy Centers of Kentucky (joined at 1:15 p.m.,
left at 2:46 p.m.)
Eboni Thompson, Kentucky Administrative Office of the Courts (left at 1:45 p.m.)
Dr. Melissa Currie, Kentucky Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics
David Meade, House of Representatives, Speaker Pro Tempore (joined at 1:46 p.m.,
left at 2:45 p.m.)

Guests in Attendance In-Person

CJ Raymer, Office of the Attorney General

Guests in Attendance Virtually

Denise Durbin, Office of the Attorney General

II. Conference Funding Proposals for Action by the Board

The conference funding proposals were circulated to the Board prior to the meeting. During the meeting, each proposal was considered separately following an overview of the funding proposal and a recommendation from the Grants Management Committee.

a. Uspiritus, Inc. d/b/a Bellewood & Brooklawn

The proposal requests funding in the amount of five thousand dollars (\$5,000.00) for five community awareness events. The events serve a dual purpose of educating the public about child abuse prevention and fund raising for program sustainability. The proposal includes signage promoting safe firearm storage and resource tables.

Ms. Bruns, chair of the Grants Management Committee, stated the Committee's support for the community awareness components of the proposal, particularly those addressing firearm safety. However, the Committee did not think it appropriate to award grant funding for the organization's fundraising efforts. The Committee recommended partial funding for printing and distributing prevention materials (\$1,250.00), purchasing promotional items that include prevention messaging (\$1,000.00), and the resource table setup and educational handouts (\$500.00).

Ms. Bruns made a motion to approve grant funding in the amount of two thousand seven hundred fifty dollars (\$2,750.00). Doctor Currie seconded the motion. Ms. Sanborn, Ms. Carpenter, and Ms. Seyfred abstained from voting. The motion was unanimously passed by the voting members.

b. Community Growth Legacy Foundation

The proposal requests funding in the amount of four thousand nine hundred seventy-five dollars (\$4,975.00) for two community outreach events in Paducah. The events will offer activities for community engagement and provide opportunities for people to connect with resources.

Ms. Bruns, chair of the Grants Management Committee, stated that the Committee thought the proposal was good and liked the inclusion of resources addressing safe firearm storage practices. But the Committee had questions regarding the structure of the organization, which had not yet been designated as a nonprofit. Due to this uncertainty, the Committee recommended denying the application at this time and encouraging future applications.

Ms. Bruns made a motion to deny the funding proposal due to the organization's lack of nonprofit status. Doctor Currie seconded the motion. Ms. Seyfred abstained from voting. The motion to deny the funding proposal was unanimously passed by the voting members.

c. Lake Cumberland Community Action Agency's Community Collaboration for Children Program

The proposal requests funding in the amount of four thousand six hundred dollars (\$4,600.00) for an annual child abuse prevention conference. The conference is an all-day event providing education and training on a variety of child abuse prevention topics.

Ms. Bruns, chair of the Grants Management Committee, stated the Committee's recommendation to fund a portion of the proposal. She noted that the conference will be held in March 2026 and details regarding the keynote speaker and presenters had not been decided. Given the uncertainty regarding the qualifications of the speaker and presenters and the content of their presentations, the Committee was not comfortable awarding funding for these expenses. The Committee supported funding for meals provided during the full day conference (\$1,100.00) and application fees for continuing

education credits (\$500.00). The Committee also suggested encouraging the inclusion of safe firearm storage practices in the conference curriculum.

Ms. Bruns made a motion to approve grant funding in the amount of one thousand six hundred dollars (\$1,600.00) and encourage firearm safety as part of the curriculum. Doctor Currie seconded the motion. Ms. Baker and Ms. Seyfred abstained from voting. The motion was unanimously passed by the voting members.

d. Northeast KY Community Action Agency

The proposal requests funding in the amount of two thousand five hundred dollars (\$2,500.00) for an annual child abuse prevention conference. The conference is a two-day event held at Morehead Conference Center. The purpose of the event is to provide education that will help professionals promote positive outcomes for children and families through the delivery of competent, sensitive, and timely services.

Ms. Bruns, chair of the Grants Management Committee, noted that the funding request is limited to the cost of the venue. While many of the conference details had yet to be decided, the Committee liked the regional diversity of the attendees and supported the idea of funding child abuse prevention efforts in the Morehead area. The Committee was also impressed with the agenda and speakers used in the annual conference held earlier this year. The Committee recommended full funding of the proposal. The Committee also suggested encouraging the inclusion of safe firearm storage practices in the conference curriculum.

Ms. Bruns made a motion to approve grant funding in the amount of two thousand five hundred dollars (\$2,500.00) and encourage firearm safety as part of the curriculum. Doctor Currie seconded the motion. Ms. Baker and Ms. Seyfred abstained from voting. The motion was unanimously passed by the voting members.

e. Prevent Child Abuse Kentucky

The proposal requests funding in the amount of five thousand dollars (\$5,000.00) for the 29th annual Kids Are Worth It! Conference. This is a two-day event that will be held in Lexington. The purpose of the event is to provide the continuing education, networking, and educational needs of diverse professionals who contribute to the safety and well-being of Kentucky's children. The requested funding will support three workshop sessions focused on firearm safety, substance ingestion prevention among infants and children, and child fatality and near fatality prevention (\$3,372.00); brochure and newsletter printing (\$1,000.00); parking expenses for presenters (\$120.00); an exhibit table for the Child Victims' Trust Fund (\$58.00); and meal expenses (\$450.00).

Ms. Bruns, chair of the Grants Management Committee, expressed the Committee's support of the conference and recommendation to fully fund the proposal.

Ms. Bruns made a motion to approve grant funding in the amount of five thousand dollars (\$5,000.00). Doctor Currie seconded the motion. Ms. Seyfred abstained from voting. The motion was unanimously passed by the voting members.

III. Response to Constituent Request/Correspondence for Action by the Board

The Board discussed whether it should respond to a letter regarding the expungement of a criminal case involving a minor victim. After several members shared their thoughts and concerns, Doctor Currie made a motion to provide a response. Ms. Sanborn seconded the motion. The motion to respond was unanimously passed.

The Board then considered how it should respond. Ms. Seyfred and Ms. Sanborn presented separate proposals that the Board discussed. Doctor Currie made a motion to adopt Ms. Seyfred's proposed response as written. Captain Stotts seconded the motion. Ms. Thompson was not present for the vote. The motion was unanimously passed.

IV. Financial Update

The Board received financial documentation reflecting the revenues, expenditures, and balances for March and April 2025. Ms. Wiedenhoefer provided an overview of this information.

V. Review of March 17, 2025, Regular Meeting Minutes for Action by the Board

References to Shannon Moody were corrected to "Doctor Moody", reflecting her PhD. Captain Stotts made a motion to approve the minutes from the March 17, 2025, meeting with these corrections. Doctor Currie seconded the motion. Ms. Thompson was not present for the vote. The motion to approve the corrected minutes was unanimously passed.

VI. Reports from Committees

a. Annual Report Committee

The Committee is currently focused on the gaps analysis survey. Doctor Moody provided the Board with an overview of the responses received. Respondents were generally very concerned about the prevalence of child abuse and thought primary prevention efforts would be most beneficial. Transportation was identified as a barrier to community engagement. There was a high level of interest in learning more about prevention and protective factors. Many respondents would use additional funding for primary prevention activities.

The Board discussed increasing the number of survey responses and offered suggestions for targeted circulation of the survey. Doctor Currie made a motion to reopen the survey for Board members to distribute to their networks with personal requests to complete the survey. Ms. Seyfred seconded the motion. Ms. Thompson and Ms. Womack were not present for the vote. The motion was unanimously passed.

Doctor Moody drafted a message for Board members' use when sending the gaps analysis survey. The message was placed in the chat during the meeting and will be sent via email after the meeting.

b. Governance Committee

Ms. Seyfred informed the Board that the Committee has not met since the last Board meeting. The Committee will be focusing on the development of an operations and policy manual for the Board.

c. Grants Management Committee

The Board was asked for its input on the process for providing notice of the approved conference funding proposals. The Board discussed the pending legal opinion regarding the amount of funding available under the Child Victims' Trust Fund statute. Although precise numbers cannot be determined until the Board receives this direction, Ms. Bruns believed there would be sufficient revenue in the Child Victims' Trust Fund to support the funding requests approved earlier in the meeting.

Dr. Currie made a motion to send written notification to the grant recipients advising that their proposal was conditionally approved pending a decision on the amount of available funding and specifying grant requirements. Ms. Carpenter seconded the motion. Ms. Seyfred abstained from voting. Ms. Thompson and Ms. Womack were not present for the vote. The motion was unanimously passed by the voting members.

Ms. Wiedenhoefer will call the grant applicants and provide verbal notice of the Board's decisions on the conference funding proposals. She will also advise the grant recipients of the conditional approvals and the written notification that will be sent.

VII. Unfinished Business

The Office of the Attorney General was unable to complete the legal opinion regarding the limitations on disbursements from the Child Victims' Trust Fund contained in KRS 41.400. The hope is to have the opinion completed by the end of June.

VIII. Partner Updates and Announcements

CASA developed a judicial best practice guide for community partners and the courts. The guide will be accessible through CASA's website.

Prevent Child Abuse Kentucky has a new website with many new features, including information on the Kids Are Worth It! Conference in September. Ms. Seyfred encouraged Board members to check it out and explore the resources available.

IX. Meeting Reminder – July 21, 2025, at 1:00 p.m.

X. Adjournment

Doctor Currie made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Seyfred seconded the motion. Ms. Thompson and Ms. Womack were not present for the vote. The motion was unanimously passed. The meeting was adjourned at 2:49 p.m.

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