

CHILD SUPPORT ADVISORY COUNCIL  
REGULAR MEETING, JANUARY 9, 2026  
10:00 A.M. EST  
Office of the Attorney General  
Department of Child Support Services  
730 Schenkel Lane, 1<sup>st</sup> floor Conference Room  
Frankfort KY 40601

**I. ATTENDANCE:**

Council Members Present: Amy Burke (Chief, Department of Child Support Services); Jennie Haymond (Madison County Attorney); Jason Darnall (Marshall County Attorney); Stacy Tapke (Kenton County Attorney); Jeremy Logsdon (Grayson County Attorney); Angela Evans (Fayette County Attorney); Mike O’Connell (Jefferson County Attorney); Cade Foster (McCracken County Attorney); Corey Thomas (Spencer County Attorney); and Joe White (Clay County Attorney).

Other in person Attendees: Joe Leavell (Jefferson County Attorney’s Office); Todd Yates (Jefferson County Attorney’s Office); Lauren Ingram (Jefferson County Attorney); Robyn Shier (Department of Child Support Services); and Stacy Byrns Taulbee (Department of Child Support Services).

**II. WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS:** Amy Burke started the meeting welcoming council members and other attendees to the meeting.

**III. ADOPTION OF REGULAR MEETING MINUTES FROM December 5, 2025:** A motion was made by Jason Darnall to adopt the meeting minutes from December 5, 2025. Jennie Haymond seconded the motion. The motion was passed unanimously, and the Regular Meeting Minutes from December 5, 2025, were adopted.

**IV. ESTABLISHMENT OF MEETING DATE DURING THE COUNTY ATTORNEY WINTER MEETINGS AND FUTURE MEETING DATES:** There was discussion of the day and time that would work for the council meeting during the County Attorney Winter Conference. Marc Robbins (present via TEAMS) offered insight into already scheduled meetings and programs. A motion was made by Stacy Tapke to hold the February meeting on Wednesday, February 18, 2026, at 10:00 a.m. EST (as an in person meeting only, no virtual attendance) at the Lexington Hilton Downtown. Motion was seconded by Corey Thomas. The motion passed unanimously.

With respect to future meetings, the March meeting of the council will be on March 6, 2026, at 10:00 a.m. EST, at 730 Schenkel Lane, Frankfort, Kentucky, 1<sup>st</sup> floor conference room. The council will delay holding meetings in regional locations until the summer months, this will allow for better weather to travel and for further consideration of where the council would like to hold meeting(s) in other parts of the state.

#### **V. ONBOARDING OF COUNTY ATTORNEY EMPLOYEES—FOR ACCESS TO STATE**

**SYSTEMS (FTI):** Amy Burke discussed that DCSS had been noticing issues with some County Attorney offices not submitting background check documents in a timely manner and there being delays in processing clearance requests. DCSS is aware that getting access can be a cumbersome process and is currently complicated by our dependence upon CHFS' Office of Human Resource Management (OHRM) to complete the FBI background checks for us. DCSS needs an FBI number in order to conduct such background checks for employment purposes. In order to obtain an FBI number, a statute is needed authorizing the background checks. Legislation is being proposed this session to achieve that.

A draft of the process has been prepared, so that the steps are in one place without having to refer to multiple sections of Policy and Procedure. It was noted that the current draft requires the background check to be completed before an individual could start working for child support. There was concern over the length of time that it may take to complete the background check and that potential employees may find other work if they have to wait a significant amount of time for a background check before they can start. It was recommended that the requirement that the background check be completed before the start date be removed and that the current process continue which requires the background check documents (the completed CS-219 form and a copy of a valid driver's license) be submitted before the new employee be allowed to begin work. The draft will be revised to reflect the change.

#### **VI. ESTABLISHMENT OF BUDGET FORMULA FOR COUNTY ATTORNEY CONTRACTS:**

The Gatton School at the University of Kentucky previously did a study and provided several budgeting options. However, there has never been a concrete formula adopted or finalized. The child support program has relied upon historical funding options. Amy Burke had previously provided a memorandum summarizing concerns of the current methodology.

Dr. Clark from the Gatton School was present at the meeting via TEAMS and spoke to the type of analysis/study that they could provide. If there was a more immediate need for a formula recommendation, they could use one of the previously proposed models and update data to come up with a solution. However, if the council wanted a more in depth analysis, more time would be needed to go out and speak to various offices to understand the differences in urban and rural counties and then figure out how to put that into a formula.

Joe Leavell pointed out that Jefferson County is an anomaly in that they provide their own computers. They don't rely upon COT as the rest of the counties in the state do. They also employ their own investigators to serve their paperwork rather than go through the Jefferson County Sheriff's Office. Joe White commented that small rural counties may be losing population but still need wages for workers that can keep up with the cost of living even if caseload size is decreasing. Jason Darnall stated that he is not in favor of the incentive model as sometimes performance is impacted by circumstances that may be out of the control of the contracting official, such as a plant shutdown in a small county.

The consensus was that an in depth study may be what is needed, as there may not be a short term fix for anything other than pay parity. The council would come up with recommendations and the Gatton School's role would be to help the council sort through them and understand the implications of the approach that the council may want to take.

Questions were asked of Dr. Clark:

Can Gatton factor in practices of other states? Time would be an issue if looking at other states. It would also increase the cost to look at other states.

Can salary comparisons be done? The Gatton School does not do a lot of that. They can look at other state jobs to compare. However, the value of comparing jobs is questionable, as the jobs may not have the same duties. The best indicator is the struggle to maintain or attract employees. If you know where employees are going, either to other state jobs or employers, you can do something with that.

Mike O'Connell commented that the community perspective usually focuses on collections and does not often look at other aspects of what the child support program provides. Other intangible benefits that benefit society are difficult to measure, whereas collections can be easily measured.

Stacy Tapke made a motion for the council to recommend a long term study. Joe White seconded the motion. Jason Darnall clarified that the council would not be looking at performance based funding. It was discussed that the scope of work would be developed based on what the council wants the Gatton School to do. Stacy Tapke amended her previous motion to a motion for the council to develop a scope of work for a long-term study. Joe White seconded the motion. The motion was passed unanimously with no opposition.

**VII. DISCUSSION ON FORMATION OF WORKGROUPS:** This agenda item will be passed to the next meeting due to time constraints. With respect to the County Attorney contracts for 2026, a workgroup will be started, but no major overhaul of the contract. The council will come up with names for the work group and provide those to OAG.

**VIII. ISSUES AND UPDATES:** Reminder that the Mandatory Training on the OCSE 157 report is as follows:

Group I: January 13<sup>th</sup> & January 15<sup>th</sup> 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. EST

Group II: January 26<sup>th</sup> & January 28<sup>th</sup> 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. EST

**IX. NEXT MEETING UPDATE:** Already discussed. Next meeting is Wednesday, February 18, 2026, at 10:00 a.m. EST, at the Lexington Hilton Downtown.

**X. ADJOURN:** Jeremy Logsdon made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Jason Darnall seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously, and the meeting was adjourned.