

CHILD SUPPORT ADVISORY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING, OCTOBER 3, 2025

10:00 A.M. EDT

Department of Child Support Services Conference Room
730 Schenkel Lane
Frankfort KY 40601

I. ATTENDEES:

Council Members: 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); Corey Thomas (Spencer County Attorney); Angela Evans (Fayette County Attorney); Mike O'Connell (Jefferson County Attorney); Joe Ross (Logan County Attorney); Cade Foster (McCracken County Attorney); and Joe White (Clay County Attorney) *virtual attendance via TEAMS*.

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

II. WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS: Amy Burke started the meeting welcoming County Attorneys and thanking them for their patience during the transition.

III. ADOPTION OF REGULAR MEETING SCHEDULE (2025 – 2026): Amy Burke proposed regular meetings on the first Thursday of the month. Dates were discussed among the Council and the following were agreed upon:

Friday, November 7, 2025, 10:00 a.m. EST

Friday, December 5, 2025, 10:00 a.m. EST

Friday, January 9, 2026, 10:00 a.m. EST

Meetings on the above listed dates to be held at the Office of the Attorney General, Capital Complex East, Conference Room A, 1024 Capital Center Drive, Suite 200, Frankfort KY 40601.

The date, time and location of the February 2026 meeting is to be determined but is to be held during the Kentucky County Attorneys Association winter meeting, preferably on the same day as the Prosecutors Advisory Council meeting.

The Council discussed whether to allow virtual attendance at the meetings and agreed upon allowing virtual attendance at this time.

IV. PRESENTATION OF 2026 – 2027 BIENNIAL BUDGET REQUEST FOR DCSS: Amy Burke provided information on the budget request for child support.

-Case Specialist Pay Parity: Information from the Monthly Invoicing Portal (MIP) was used to determine average salaries of county attorney caseworkers. County attorney caseworkers are generally paid lower wages than state caseworkers and wages vary widely from county to county. Target salaries were proposed in the budget for Caseworker I (1-5 years experience) \$41,000.00, Caseworker II (5-10 years experience) \$45,500.00 and Caseworker III (10 or more years experience) \$52,500.00. Approximately \$6.3 million was requested for each fiscal year in the biennium to be allocated to counties where caseworker salaries are below these levels.

-Enterprise Technology Costs: When the child support program was handled by the Cabinet for Health and Family Services (CHFS), their Office of Applied Technology (OATS) managed many of the child support applications including those on the Kentucky Online Gateway (KOG). To continue that management, support and access DCSS will have to pay for these services. Additional funds were requested to cover that cost.

-Carry forward expenses: Expenses from SFY 2025 that were unpaid by CHFS were transferred to DCSS (approximately \$3.5 million). These expenses had to be paid by DCSS from current year funds. An additional budget request was made to make up for the deficit created by the expenditures for the previous fiscal year.

-Federal Fund Replacement: CHFS generally relied upon approximately \$7 million in incentive funds to supplement county attorney contract amounts. The Federal Office of Child Support Services had changed a previous policy and determined the use of incentive funds in this manner was supplanting funds rather than supplementing funds which is not allowed. An additional budget request was not made when the use of incentive funds was no longer allowed. Therefore, DCSS has requested additional funds to make up for the loss of use of incentive funds for this purpose.

Amy Burke explained that agencies have been advised to be prepared to make two to three percent (2%-3%) cuts to budgets due to lower state revenues. Therefore, it is not certain how much additional funding will be granted. The goal is to spend wisely with a focus on improving customer service and performance and overall improve our cost benefit ratio.

V. ISSUES FOR DISCUSSION:

KAVIS Automated Driver's License Suspension: Amy Burke advised that the Department of Transportation has two (2) windows of opportunity to implement automated driver's license suspension—now (by the end of October) or June 2026. The Cabinet for Health and Family Services had initiated the development of the automated driver's license suspension project approximately five (5) years ago, the project having been delayed due to the Department of Transportation implementing a new system. The Department of Child Support Services inherited the project. Input from county attorneys is needed in order to make a decision on whether to implement automated driver's license suspension and when to implement. Robyn Shier provided a brief explanation of the driver's license suspension process. The Council discussed the pros and cons of implementation of the automated process. The consensus was that automation has the potential to increase collections, but there is no discretion for caseworkers when special circumstances may exist. It was agreed to delay implementation at this time, and to continue the manual process.

VI. GOALS/OBJECTIVES FOR 2026 DISCUSSION: The Council was asked to consider what goals and objectives that they would like to set for the year prior to the next meeting in November. Possible goals/objectives are:

- Budget Formula for County Contracts (another study by the Gatton School)
- Revision of the Policy & Procedure Manual (set up committees of caseworkers and attorneys to address)
- Revision of Training Guidelines and Methods
- Establishing Conflict Attorneys
- Child Support Conference
- Security for all Child Support Offices

VII. Meeting was adjourned.