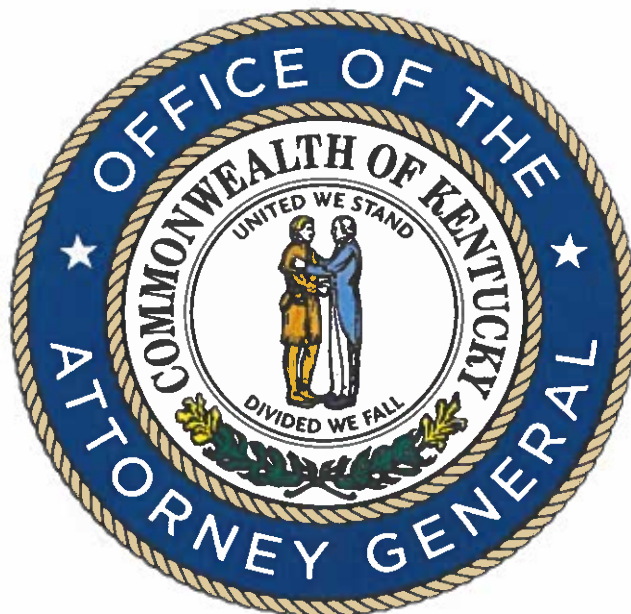

KENTUCKY CHILD ABUSE & NEGLECT
PREVENTION BOARD

ANNUAL REPORT
2023



REPORT OF THE CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT PREVENTION BOARD PURSUANT TO KRS 15.925

The Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention (CANP) Board was formed in 2022. Pursuant to [KRS 15.905](#), the CANP Board is an autonomous agency within the Office of the Attorney General. [KRS 15.920](#) sets forth the duties of the Board:

- Meet not less than quarterly;
- Develop a state plan for the distribution of funds from the trust fund;
- Provide for the coordination and exchange of information on the establishment and maintenance of prevention programs;
- Develop and publicize criteria for the receipt of trust fund money by eligible community resource organizations and eligible prevention programs;
- Review, approve, and monitor the expenditure of trust fund money by community resource organizations and prevention programs;
- Provide statewide educational and public informational seminars for the purpose of developing appropriate public awareness regarding the prevention of child sexual abuse and exploitation and child abuse and neglect; encourage professional persons and groups to recognize and deal with prevention of child sexual abuse and exploitation and child abuse and neglect; encourage and coordinate the development of community resource organizations; make information about the prevention of child sexual abuse and exploitation and child abuse and neglect available to the public and organizations and agencies which deal with problems of child sexual abuse and exploitation and child abuse and neglect; and encourage the development of community prevention programs; and
- Establish a procedure for an annual, internal evaluation of the functions, responsibilities, and performance of the CANP Board.

The Board met seven times in 2023, with meetings held both in-person and virtually. The meeting dates were February 20, March 20, July 17, August 16, September 28, November 20, and November 27. [KRS 15.925](#) directs that “The state board shall by December 1 of each year report to the Governor and the General Assembly recommending changes in state programs, statutes, policies, budgets, and standards that will reduce the problem of child sexual abuse and exploitation and child abuse and neglect, improve coordination among government and private agencies that provide prevention services and improve the condition of children and parents or guardians who are in need of prevention program services.” The Board voted on the Annual Report in November for submission to the Governor and the General Assembly.

[KRS 15.935\(1\)](#) authorizes the CANP Board to disburse available money from the Child Victims’ Trust Fund (CVTF), upon legislative appropriations, for the purposes, listed in order of preference, stated in [KRS 15.935\(1\)\(a\)](#) through (g). The Board utilizes five (5) committees to advance specific goals. They are:

- Marketing and Development Committee;
- Grants Management Committee;

- Strategic Planning Committee;
- Operations Committee; and
- Policy Committee.

In Fiscal Year 22-23, the Board endorsed and financially supported several programs that are working across the Commonwealth. These programs reduce child sexual abuse and exploitation as well as child abuse and neglect; improve the coordination among the various agencies, governmental and private, that provide prevention services; and improve the condition of children and parents or guardians who need prevention program services. Continued support and funding for these programs and others like it are essential for the Board to reduce the incidence and impact of child sexual abuse and exploitation and child abuse and neglect in the Commonwealth.

The following reflects the important and essential work being conducted by the CANP Board regarding medical grant awards:

On August 23, 2022, the Board approved medical reimbursement grant awards to child advocacy centers to assist with costs associated with providing child sexual assault medical evaluations to Kentucky's children. In total, the Board approved \$85,500 funding from the Child Victims' Trust Fund. The specific allocations per child advocacy center were as follows:

- Barren River Child Advocacy Center – \$10,000 for 100 exams;
- Buffalo Trace Child Advocacy Center – \$2,000 for 20 exams;
- Child Advocacy Center of the Bluegrass – \$19,000 for 190 exams;
- Child Advocacy Center of Green River – \$3,500 for 35 exams;
- Cumberland Valley Child Advocacy Center – \$4,500 for 45 exams;
- Families and Children's Place – \$8,000 for 80 exams;
- Gateway Child Advocacy Center – \$3,000 for 30 exams;
- Hope's Place Child Advocacy Center – \$2,500 for 25 exams;
- Judi's Place – \$12,000 for 120 exams;
- Kentucky River Child Advocacy Center – \$3,500 for 35 exams;
- Lake Cumberland Child Advocacy Center – \$8,000 for 80 exams;
- Lotus – \$3,000 for 30 exams;
- Northern Kentucky Child Advocacy Center – \$3,000 for 30 exams;
- Pennyryle Child Advocacy Center – \$2,000 for 20 exams; and
- Silverleaf – \$1,500 for 15 exams.

Contracts were prepared by the Kentucky Attorney General's Office and approved by the Government Contract Review Committee. The contract period was from November 1, 2022, to June 30, 2023.

With the passage of Senate Bill 8 in the 2022 Regular Session, changes were made to Medicaid reimbursements for child sexual assault medical evaluations. These changes required Medicaid reimbursements to the child advocacy centers at the true and actual cost of the child

sexual assault medical evaluations. As a result, fewer reimbursement requests were received under the Child Victims’ Trust Fund grant awards.

In total, the Board reimbursed child advocacy centers across the state \$25,400 for 254 exams. This was approximately 30% of the grant funding available. The following reimbursements were made to the child advocacy centers during the 2022-2023 fiscal year:

- Barren River Child Advocacy Center -- \$200 for 2 exams, 2% of the contract award was utilized.
- Buffalo Trace Child Advocacy Center -- \$400 for 4 exams, 20% of the contract award was utilized.
- Child Advocacy Center of the Bluegrass -- \$10,800 for 108 exams, 57% of the contract award was utilized.
- Child Advocacy Center of Green River -- \$3,500 for 35 exams, 100% of the contract award was utilized.
- Cumberland Valley Child Advocacy Center -- \$1,300 for 13 exams, 29% of the contract award was utilized.
- Families and Children’s Place -- \$1,300 for 13 exams, 16% of the contract award was utilized.
- Hope’s Place -- \$200 for 2 exams, 8% of the contract award was utilized.
- Judi’s Place -- \$4,800 for 48 exams, 40% of the contract award was utilized.
- Kentucky River Child Advocacy Center -- \$1,000 for 10 exams, 29% of the contract award was utilized.
- Lake Cumberland Child Advocacy Center - \$700 for 7 exams, 9% of the contract award was utilized.
- Lotus -- \$700 for 7 exams, 23% of the contract award was utilized; and
- Silverleaf - \$500 for 5 exams, 33% of the contract award was utilized.

The impact of Senate Bill 8’s mandate requiring Medicaid reimbursement for the true and actual costs of child sexual assault medical evaluations is demonstrated in the chart below. This change allowed Child Victims’ Trust Fund monies to be allocated towards other priorities and worthwhile endeavors consistent with the statute.

Child Advocacy Center	# of child sexual assault medical evaluations reimbursed from CVTF funding for 2022-2023	# of child sexual assault medical evaluations reimbursed from CVTF funding for 2021-2022	# of child sexual assault medical evaluations reimbursed from CVTF funding for 2020-2021
Barren River Child Advocacy Center	2	69	61
Buffalo Trace Child Advocacy Center	4	10	3

Child Advocacy Center of the Bluegrass	108	176	160
Child Advocacy Center of Green River	35	33	39
Cumberland Valley Child Advocacy Center	13	26	40
Families and Children's Place	13	33	72
Gateway Child Advocacy Center	0	22	6
Hope's Place Child Advocacy Center	2	20	20
Judi's Place	48	57	51
Kentucky River Child Advocacy Center	10	25	13
Lake Cumberland Child Advocacy Center	7	54	64
Lotus	7	25	20
Northern Kentucky Child Advocacy Center	0	3	0
Pennyrile Child Advocacy Center	0	15	13
Silverleaf	5	11	18
Total Number of child sexual assault medical evaluations reimbursed during the fiscal year from Child Victims' Trust Fund grant	254	579	580

Please note that the above numbers reflect reimbursements made to the child advocacy centers utilizing Child Victims' Trust Fund grant awards approved by the Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention Board. The actual number of child sexual assault medical evaluations performed by Kentucky's child advocacy centers exceeds the requests for reimbursements made in the current and previous fiscal years.

The following reflects the important and essential work being conducted by the CANP Board regarding child maltreatment education programs:

On August 23, 2022, the Board approved four (4) prevention grant awards to fund child maltreatment education programs. Contracts were prepared by the Kentucky Attorney General's Office and approved by the Government Contract Review Committee. The contract period was from November 1, 2022, to June 30, 2023. The specific grant award recipients and funding allocations were as follows:

- Child Watch Counseling and Advocacy Center, Inc. – \$26,493;
- Exploited Children's Help Organization (ECHO) – \$34,500;
- South Central Kentucky Kids on the Block – \$37,079.97; and
- Prevent Child Abuse Kentucky – \$25,739.

A fifth prevention grant award was awarded to Family Nurturing Center on November 21, 2022. The contract period was from January 1, 2023, to June 30, 2023. The amount of the award was \$10,000.

In total, the Board approved \$133,811.98 funding from the Child Victims' Trust Fund. With the support of this funding, the five organizations offered distinct programming designed to prevent child sexual abuse and exploitation, child abuse and neglect, or both. Each organization's programming and the impact of that work is discussed below.

Child Watch Counseling and Advocacy Center delivered The Totally Awesome Super Important You program to provide child abuse prevention information to Western Kentucky children, their caregivers, and professionals working within the school system. Programming was presented at 15 schools and the Kentucky Sheriffs' Boys and Girls Ranch, equipping 4,903 children with tools to prevent their victimization. At seven (7) additional schools, 8,353 students received folders and activity books containing information for recognizing and reporting child abuse. Educational materials were also distributed to the students' parents/caregivers and to 661 staff members of the seven (7) schools. Program materials were distributed during a variety of community awareness and outreach events throughout the Western Kentucky region. As a result of The Totally Awesome Super Important You program, six (6) students disclosed abuse and four (4) caregivers requested mental health therapy services to address their children's trauma from abuse.

Exploited Children's Help Organization (ECHO) presented the Transforming Our Communities program to teach Louisville Metro area children and adults how to prevent, recognize, and appropriately respond to abuse, bullying, and digital dangers. Through programming provided in school settings, 4,369 children were taught safety rules and the signs of abuse. Adult trainings and presentations on recognizing, reacting, reporting, and preventing child abuse were attended by 336 adults. Child abuse prevention materials were distributed during community outreach events that served 6,291 community members throughout the Louisville Metro area. The Transforming Our Communities program prompted the disclosure of abuse from 233 children and several educational institutions requested assistance in addressing instances of students texting nude photos.

Family Nurturing Center piloted the Monique Burr Foundation’s Teen Safety Matters curriculum in Northern Kentucky communities. This comprehensive, evidence-informed prevention education program addresses emotional, physical, and digital safety and teaches students in grades 6 through 12 how to prevent, recognize, and respond appropriately to child abuse, exploitation, trafficking, relationship abuse, and bullying. Beginning January 1, 2023, staff completed training to become authorized facilitators of the program and contacts were made with middle schools and community partner agencies to schedule programming. Four (4) programs were presented in Northern Kentucky and a total of 25 teens attended the programming. Based on pre- and post-program surveys, 97% of these participants increased or maintained their knowledge after attending the Teen Safety Matters program.

South Central Kentucky Kids on the Block presented puppet performances throughout the state addressing child abuse, cyberbullying, and fire safety. The programming increases children’s awareness of the realities of child abuse, cyberbullying, and fire safety by teaching the signs, the ways to protect, and the people children should talk with regarding these issues. Every program includes a specific empowerment exercise teaching children to use their voice. In total, 61 programs were completed throughout the state, serving 9,621 children in grades kindergarten through sixth. Twenty-seven children disclosed abuse because of the programming.

Prevent Child Abuse Kentucky provided several statewide services addressing the primary prevention of child sexual abuse. First, two (2) Training of the Trainer programs were created to allow for service providers to train multi-discipline audiences and peers. In total, four (4) Training of the Trainer events were held and 76 people were trained to provide the “Are They Good For Your Kids?” curriculum to professionals and community members throughout the state. Second, an online child sexual abuse information center was created using the “Are They Good For Your Kids?” interactive webpage. The landing page for the online information center received 1,935 views during a two-month period and viewers averaged three (3) minutes on the site indicating a 60% viewer increase from the previous year. Third, a Child Sexual Abuse Prevention Guide was developed, and 551 copies were distributed. Finally, action cards were developed, with 1,400 distributed.

RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE BOARD

The primary source of revenue for the Trust Fund – license plate donations – has decreased every year since FY 2012 when license plate revenue totaled \$103,241.04. Pursuant to the records received from the Transportation Cabinet, the Child Victims License Plate revenues totaled \$34,753 through June 28, 2023. The Kentucky Transportation Cabinet collected \$27,784 in registration fees which are statutorily dedicated to the Road Fund. The remaining funds were forwarded to the Trust Fund. The decline in license plate revenue is likely due to the popularity and expanded variety of choices for specialty plates available to the public.

The CANP Board has identified an opportunity to increase the revenue received from the specialty plate. The Child Victims’ Trust Fund Specialty License plate authorized in KRS 186.162

provides less funding for renewals than most specialty license plates. The CANP Board recommends that KRS 186.162(2)(v)(2) be amended to increase the renewal fee to \$28 with \$10 of that to support the Child Victims' Trust Fund. The subject of this recommendation was discussed during the Interim Joint Committee on Transportation on October 17, 2023, where representatives from the Kentucky Horse Council testified. The representative from the Kentucky Horse Council raised the issue that there were discrepancies in statute as to the funding awarded to the trust fund or organization upon renewal. The Kentucky Horse Council and the Child Victims' Trust Fund were two of the six organizations discussed during the testimony. To maximize the full potential of the specialty license plate funding for the Trust Fund, the CANP Board recommends that this be amended consistent with the remainder of KRS 186.162. Material submitted to the Interim Joint Committee on Transportation identified that this would increase annual revenue by approximately \$12,765 for the Child Victims' Trust Fund.

The CANP Board recommends that they incorporate feedback from Kentucky parents and caregivers into their decision making for developing appropriate public awareness regarding the prevention of child sexual abuse and exploitation and child abuse and neglect. Parent partnerships is a critical element to strengthening families and reflected in other states' trust funds. The CANP Board will be evaluating in 2024 various strategies to include more lived experiences and feedback from parents and caregivers.

BOARD MEMBERSHIP

Consistent with KRS 15.910, the Board is comprised of the following members and their designees if applicable:

- Chairman of the Board, Attorney General, Daniel Cameron, Designee: Heather Wagers
- Education & Workforce Development Cabinet, Secretary Jamie Link
- Cabinet for Health & Family Services, Secretary Eric Friedlander, Designee: Mary Carpenter
- Justice and Public Safety Cabinet, Secretary Kerry Harvey, Designee: Mona Womack
- Kentucky State Police, Phillip J. Burnett, Commissioner, Designee: Captain Bradly Stotts
- Kentucky Youth Advocates, Terry Brooks, Executive Director, Designee: Shannon Moody
- Prevent Child Abuse Kentucky, Jill Seyfred, Executive Director
- Kentucky Court Appointed Special Advocates Network, Inc., Andrea Bruns, State Director
- Children's Advocacy Centers of Kentucky, Caroline Ruschell, Executive Director
- Children's Alliance, Michelle Sanborn, President
- Kentucky Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics, Mary P. York, Executive Director, Designee: Dr. Christina Howard
- Kentucky Association of Regional Programs, Steve Shannon, Executive Director
- Administrative Office of the Courts, Katie Comstock, Director, Designee: Eboni Thompson

- Member of the House of Representatives appointed by the Speaker of the House, David Meade
- Member of the Senate appointed by the President of the Senate, Julie Raque Adams