

Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention Board
Regular Meeting Minutes
January 26, 2026
Video Teleconference

I. Welcome and Introductions

The Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention Board meeting was called to order at 1:02 p.m., on January 26, 2026, via Zoom video teleconference by Board Chair, Serah Wiedenhoefer. All members and guests appeared virtually.

Present

Lynn Baker, Education and Labor Cabinet
Mary Carpenter, Cabinet for Health and Family Services
Mona Womack, Justice and Public Safety Cabinet
Bradly Stotts, Kentucky State Police
Shannon Moody, PhD, Kentucky Youth Advocates (joined at 1:16 p.m.)
Jill Seyfred, Prevent Child Abuse Kentucky (joined at 1:10 p.m.)
Andrea Bruns, Kentucky CASA Network, Inc.
Steve Shannon, Kentucky Association of Regional Programs (joined at 1:09 p.m.)
Ebony Thompson, Kentucky Administrative Office of the Courts (joined at 1:30 p.m.)
Dr. Christina Howard, Kentucky Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics
Serah Wiedenhoefer, Office of the Attorney General

Guests in Attendance

Laura Kretzer, Children’s Advocacy Centers of Kentucky
Amanda Guerra, Southcentral Kentucky Kids on the Block
Christopher Thacker, General Counsel, Office of the Attorney General
Jetta Collett, Office of the Attorney General

II. Review and Discussion of Legal Opinion Addressing Child Victims’ Trust Fund Statute, KRS 41.400

Prior to the meeting, the Board received the legal opinion interpreting KRS 41.400 regarding the disbursement of money from the Child Victims’ Trust Fund (OAG 25-14, issued November 20, 2025). Christopher Thacker, General Counsel for the Office of the Attorney General, reviewed the legal opinion and answered questions from the Board.

III. Financial Review

The Board received financial documentation reflecting revenues, expenditures, and balances for the Child Victims’ Trust Fund during November and December 2025. Ms. Collett provided an overview of this information.

IV. Grant Funding for Fiscal Year 2027 (July 1, 2026 – June 30, 2027)

The Grants Management Committee prepared written recommendations for the fiscal year 2027 grant cycle and revised applications for conference funding and prevention proposals that were circulated to the Board prior to the meeting. Ms. Bruns gave an overview of the steps taken by the

Grant Management Committee to arrive at the recommendations and applications and commended the Committee for its work.

a. Discussion of Funding Allocation and Board Action

The Grants Management Committee proposed a total allocation of \$60,000 for grant funding, with \$50,000 for prevention projects and \$10,000 for conference sponsorships. These are maximum spending amounts that do not require a minimum level of grant funding. Ms. Bruns and Doctor Howard explained the rationale for the recommendation, which was based on revenues and expenditures from fiscal year 2025 and the restrictions set out in the legal opinion. Following discussion by the Board, Ms. Bruns made a motion to accept the Committee's funding recommendation. Mr. Shannon seconded this motion. Ms. Seyfred abstained from voting. The motion was approved by the other members.

b. Review of Proposed Prevention Grant Application and Board Action

The Committee proposed a few minor changes to the applications, but the substance was the same as prior versions presented to the Board. Ms. Bruns made a motion to approve the proposed conference sponsorship and prevention applications for fiscal year 2027. Ms. Womack seconded this motion. Ms. Seyfred abstained from voting. The motion was approved by the other members.

V. Reports from the Standing Committees

a. Annual Report Committee

The Committee will need to decide on a new chair once Ms. Ruschell's successor is determined. Doctor Moody asked Board members to consider joining the Committee.

b. Governance Committee

The Committee has identified policies to address as part of a policy and procedure manual for the Board. These include job descriptions for board members, conflict of interest, and fiscal policies. The Committee will be tackling one policy at a time, using the Board's self-assessment to guide those efforts.

c. Grants Management Committee

The Committee will be meeting after the grant application process closes to review submitted applications and arrive at recommendations for the Board.

VI. Approval of November 10, 2025, Regular Meeting Minutes

Mr. Shannon made a motion to adopt the minutes as presented. Captain Stotts seconded this motion. Doctor Howard abstained from voting because she was not present for the meeting but did not have any questions about the minutes. The motion was approved by the other members.

VII. Unfinished Business

Ms. Seyfred raised the Board's involvement with the Children's Trust Fund Alliance. The Board discussed opportunities available through the Alliance, including recent membership meetings attended by some members. The Board will continue to evaluate and assess its position relative to the Alliance.

VIII. Partner Updates and Announcements

Prevent Child Abuse Kentucky is looking for a new location for the annual pinwheel planting. That information will be announced when available.

Children's Advocacy week is March 2 through March 6, 2026. Kentucky Youth Advocates will be holding a kickoff on March 2 and a townhall and youth rally on March 4, 2026. These events will be held at the Capital, in the education room.

X. Adjournment

Ms. Wiedenhofer made a motion to adjourn. Mr. Shannon seconded. The motion was unanimously approved. The meeting was adjourned at 2:31 p.m.

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