

Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention Board
Regular Meeting Minutes
September 22, 2025

I. Welcome and Introductions

The Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention Board meeting was called to order at 1:07 p.m. on September 22, 2025, in Conference Room “A” of the Office of the Attorney General, East office.

Present

Russell Coleman, Kentucky Attorney General (left at 2:36 p.m.)
Mary Carpenter, Cabinet for Health and Family Services
Mona Womack, Justice and Public Safety Cabinet
Jill Seyfred, Prevent Child Abuse Kentucky
Andrea Bruns, Kentucky CASA Network, Inc.

Present Virtually

Lynn Baker, Education and Labor Cabinet
Shannon Moody, PhD, Kentucky Youth Advocates
Michelle Sanborn, Children’s Alliance
Steve Shannon, Kentucky Association of Regional Programs (left at 1:50 p.m.)
Caroline Ruschell, Children’s Advocacy Centers of Kentucky (left at 2:46 p.m.)
Ebony Thompson, Kentucky Administrative Office of the Courts (left at 2:45 p.m.)
Dr. Christina Howard, Kentucky Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics (left at 2:45 p.m.)

Guests in Attendance

Stacy Woodrum, Office of the Attorney General
Denise Durbin, Office of the Attorney General
Serah Wiedenhoefer, Office of the Attorney General

II. Review of July 21, 2025, Regular Meeting Minutes for Action by the Board

Ms. Seyfred made a motion to adopt the minutes as presented, which was seconded by Ms. Sanborn. The motion to adopt was unanimously approved. Mr. Shannon was not present for the vote.

III. Financial update, July and August 2025

The Board received financial documentation reflecting the revenues, expenditures, and balances for July and August 2025. Ms. Woodrum provided an overview of the three accounts associated with the Child Victims’ Trust Fund, including carry over balances from Fiscal Year 2025 and transactions occurring during the first two months of Fiscal Year 2026.

IV. Consideration of Expenses for Action by the Board

- a. Kentucky Employees Charitable Campaign (KECC) Lead Coordinator Rally Breakfast**

The Child Victims' Trust Fund receives funding through the Kentucky Employees Charitable Campaign. Meetings are held to support the state employees leading the fundraising efforts, and each charitable organization is asked to provide breakfast during one of the meetings. Ms. Wiedenhoefer made a motion to provide up to \$150 to cover the costs of this breakfast. Ms. Womack seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved. Mr. Shannon was not present for the vote.

b. Children's Trust Fund Alliance Annual Membership Meeting

The Children's Trust Fund Alliance will be holding its annual membership meeting in November. This year's meeting will be exploring how trust funds across the country are sparking innovation, driving impact, and shining a light on prevention strategies that strengthening families and communities. The meeting will be virtual, and the entire Board can attend for \$350.

The Board discussed the benefits of hearing from other states' trust funds on issues such as financial stability. After several members expressed interest in attending, Ms. Bruns made a motion to pay the \$350 registration fee to allow as many members to attend as are able. Ms. Carpenter seconded. The motion was unanimously approved. Mr. Shannon was not present for the vote.

V. Report on Grant Funded Projects

The Board approved four conference sponsorship proposals for Fiscal Year 2026. Two events were held in September.

a. Kids Are Worth It! Conference, September 15 and 16, 2025

The conference was a huge success, providing child abuse prevention training to 680 professionals, foster parents, and community members. Funding from the Child Victims' Trust fund supported three sessions: "Child Fatality and Near Fatality External Review Panel Findings and Recommendations"; "Up and Away: Keeping Children Safe from Ingestions and Promoting Safe Medication Storage"; and "Promoting Safe Firearm Storage as a Way to Prevent Unintentional Child Fatalities and Near Fatalities."

b. Bellewood & Brooklawn FY2026 Community Awareness Event Series, Annual Breakfast Fundraiser, September 18, 2025

This was the first of five events that will be held throughout the fiscal year. The event was held in Louisville and featured presentations from state and local dignitaries and Miss Kentucky addressing the importance of supporting children in foster care.

The remaining grant funded projects are scheduled for Fiscal Year 2026:

- Bellewood & Brooklawn FY2026 Community Awareness Event Series:
 - Harvest for Hope, November 6, 2025
 - Ferguson Light Up Brooklawn, December 2, 2025
 - Annual Breakfast Fundraiser, April 9, 2026
 - Hope Classic Gold Scramble, June 22, 2026

- Lake Cumberland Community Action Agency’s Community Collaboration for Children, 16th Annual Child Abuse Prevention Conference, March 3, 2026, in Columbia, KY
- Northeast KY Community Action Agency, 14th Annual Child Abuse Prevention Conference, April 16 and 17, 2026, in Morehead

VI. Review and Discussion of Board’s Self-Assessment Results

Ms. Seyfred provided an overview of the responses, focusing on comments offered. She identified some areas for improvement, such as providing more structure to ensure the Board is fulfilling its mission and allowing opportunities for all Board members to participate in meeting discussions. Board members were encouraged to offer suggestions for policies that should be developed.

VII. Review and Discussion of Gaps Analysis Survey Results

An ad hoc committee was formed to review the gaps analysis survey results and consider ways to align the Board’s grant funding with the child abuse prevention needs identified in the survey responses. That committee met in August and formulated recommendations for the prioritization of grant funding.

To set the stage for the committee’s findings, Doctor Moody provided the Board with an overview of the survey responses and identified areas of highest interest to the survey respondents. Ms. Bruns then reviewed the committee’s recommendations. Following a robust discussion of ways to maximize the impact of grant funding and a review of statutory provisions addressing the types of child abuse prevention programming eligible for funding, the ad hoc committee made a motion to (1) prioritize funding proposals addressing capacity building of concrete supports, (2) prioritize funding proposals for areas with higher incident rates per population of child abuse and neglect, (3) prioritize funding proposals for primary and secondary prevention efforts, and (4) allocate 80% of available funding for prevention grants and 20% for conference sponsorship grants. The motion was unanimously approved. Mr. Shannon was not present for the vote.

VIII. Reports of Standing Committees

a. Annual Report Committee

Ms. Ruschell presented an overview of the Committee’s draft annual report for fiscal year 2025. The draft will be circulated to the Board for feedback. The Committee will circulate a revised draft prior to the Board’s meeting on November 10, 2025.

b. Governance Committee

In addition to addressing the Board’s self-assessment results, the Committee is working on a committee policy.

c. Grants Management Committee

The Committee will be meeting in October to continue its work on the prevention grant application.

IX. Unfinished Business

The legal opinion addressing disbursements from the Child Victims’ Trust Fund is not yet finalized. The hope is to have it completed before the November 10, 2025, Board meeting.

The annual audit of the specialty license plates sales is due on September 29, 2025.

X. Partner Updates and Announcements

The Administrative Offices of the Courts is hosting a five-part virtual training for professionals serving children and families in the courts. The first Relationships Matter session was held on August 20. The remaining sessions are scheduled for September 24, October 22, November 19, and December 17, 2025.

XI. Meeting Reminder – November 10, 2025, at 1:00 p.m.

X. Adjournment

Ms. Wiedenhoefer made a motion to adjourn. Ms. Carpenter seconded this motion. The meeting was adjourned at 2:47 p.m.

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