



## **Social Services and Public Safety Committee**

January 28, 2025

### **Summary and Motions**

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Chair Jennifer Reynolds called the meeting to order at 1:07 p.m.

Committee Members Vice Mayor Dan Wu, Chuck Ellinger II, Tyler Morton, Shayla Lynch, Denise Gray, Joseph Hale, Amy Beasley, Whitney Elliott Baxter, and Hilary Boone were in attendance. Council Member Dave Sevigny was present as a non-voting member.

#### **I. APPROVAL OF NOVEMBER 12, 2024 COMMITTEE MEETING SUMMARY**

Motion by Baxter to approve the November 12, 2024 Committee Summary. Seconded by Lynch. Motion passed without dissent.

#### **II. COMMUNITY PARAMEDICINE PROGRAM UPDATE**

Jason Wells, Chief of Lexington Fire Department, provided a background on the Community Paramedicine Program and introduced Lieutenant Alex Jann, who recently took over as head of the Paramedicine team. Community paramedicine is an innovative healthcare model that expands the role of emergency medical services (EMS) to provide non-emergency care and address unmet needs within the community. This program has three teams: a quick response team, a mobile integrated health, and a crisis response team. The teams include paramedics, social workers, police, and peer support. He introduced Maria Slone and Patrick Graham from the paramedicine team. Graham spoke about the program's timeframe from 2017 to the present. The paramedicine program partners with the Lexington Police Department and the University of Kentucky and is person-centered to help people overcome hurdles. Maria Slone is one of the first social workers hired through the Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) grant. With the help of subsequent BJA grants, they have increased the staffing of social workers and peer support specialists. She reviewed the number of cases the paramedicine team serviced in 2024 and the breakdown of those cases. Jann spoke about new additions and said they have three additional paramedics who will join multiple teams, and they hope to start a crisis response team soon. He closed by explaining suboxone administration, which helps with overdose withdrawals.

When asked about suboxone administration, Jann explained a paramedic would start treatment on the scene and get the patient to the appropriate place. Wells added that they are starting at the ground level with this new program. For now, they are monitoring the radio to listen to the need. Jann explained the difference between mobile integrated health and quick response teams. He said mobile integrated health involves more social work, where the quick response team follows up on overdoses, Narcan administration, poisoning, etc. When asked what this would look like in the future, Jann would like to increase staff and provide 24-hour response. Wells said they are people-focused and data-informed, and they want to grow smart to be sustainable. No action was taken on this committee item.

#### **III. FAMILY SERVICES UPDATE**

Shelia Horton-Holt, Director of Family Services, provided the mission statement of Family Services: to partner with and empower families with young children to achieve greater stability and resilience. The Family Care Center recently celebrated 35 years of providing a comprehensive approach to meeting the

needs of teen mothers for education, career preparation, parenting support, health care, and childcare. They partner with Fayette County Public Schools (FCPS), the University of Kentucky, LFUCG, and others to provide comprehensive education, healthcare, childcare, and employment-focused services to young mothers and their children. The Family Care Center uses a strength-based approach to assist parents in their efforts to achieve and maintain self-sufficiency. She mentioned four core programs: Early Childcare Program, Health Access Nurturing Developing Services (HANDS), Family Service Coordination (FSC) program, and Parent Education Program.

The Early Childcare program provides a healthy, safe, developmentally appropriate, and inclusive environment for children aged 6 weeks to 5 years old. Notable outcomes from this program include the success of children aged five who are "kindergarten-ready" and children who have achieved optimal development. The FSC program provides professional case management services to families with young children. Notable outcomes from this program include several families who exited from the program and achieved 75% or greater on at least two self-sufficiency goals. The HANDS program supports families throughout pregnancy and the first two years of a baby's life. Screening for depression and domestic violence occurs in 100% of families, and screening through the Kentucky Early Intervention System (KEIS) in 100% of children. The Parent Education program partners with Fayette County Public Schools to help pregnant and parenting youth reach their educational and parenting goals. 95% of clients successfully achieved their academic goals, 97% achieved their parenting goals, and 77% achieved or revised their mental health goals. The future goals for Family Services include early childcare playground renovation, an annual grandparent's event, creating a resource room for staff, and hosting community resource fairs. No action was taken on this committee item.

#### **IV. PARTNERS FOR YOUTH UPDATE**

Shanreka Shackelford, Executive Director of Partners for Youth (PFY), explained the mission of PFY is to promote positive youth development and prevent juvenile delinquency through collaboration and capacity building. She reviewed the PFY staffing, including the Executive Director, Administrative Clerk, Community Engagement Coordinator, and Youth Program Coordinator. She spoke about community partners who assist with the Summer Youth Job Training Program (SYJTP), skills sessions, and the I DO initiative. Future Goals include celebrating 30 years of community programming with a city-wide celebration, expanding SYJTP, increasing the number of scholarships, and actively applying for grants.

Shantae Bruce, Community Engagement Coordinator, spoke about SYJTP and described its purpose, focus, and extension. Recruitment for this program starts in October, when they will conduct school visits, engage through social media, and issue press releases. Educational components of the SYJTP include skills sessions, youth worker orientation, and parent orientation. Students are encouraged to share their top career interests at a Career Fair hosted in March. Youth workers receive assistance completing new hire paperwork required for employment at a New Hire Paperwork Clinic offered for 4 days in the Spring. Worksite placement for youth workers occurs based on preference and availability. Bruce closed with a review of SYJTP statistics.

When asked about industries represented and how career pathways are determined, Bruce said they are taught about this upfront to understand their interests. Speaking about the deadline for recruitment, if it begins in October, Bruce said they will continue to recruit until they reach 300 students. She added that the skilled sessions are the priority placement. When asked about the SYJTP recruiting process, Shackelford said they try to keep them engaged as many youths are involved in another program. When asked if the Council could do anything, Shackelford suggested the Council could help promote the program. Speaking about recruiting and how to get more employers involved, Shackelford said they are actively searching for new

partners. Council could continue to get the word out to potential employers to help with this program and let businesses know we focus on all youth. No action was taken on this committee item.

#### **V. ANNUAL REVIEW OF COMMITTEE ITEMS**

Motion by Reynolds to remove *Expand the Adult Mental Health Court with an Aftercare Program* from the list of committee referrals. Seconded by Baxter. Motion passed without dissent.

Motion by Reynolds to remove *Review of Golf Cart Policies* from the list of committee referrals. Seconded by Baxter. Motion passed without dissent.

Motion by Reynolds to remove *Improvement of Fire Department Recruitment* from the list of committee referrals. Seconded by Baxter. Motion passed without dissent.

Motion by Lynch to remove *Emergency Financial Assistance Program* from the list of committee referrals. Seconded by Hale. Motion passed without dissent.

The meeting adjourned at 2:29 p.m.