Maryland General Assembly
Joint Committee on Children, Youth, and Families
2012 Interim
Membership Roster

Delegate Jolene Ivey, Presiding Chair
Senator Nancy J. King, Co-chair

Senators

Joanne C. Benson
Joan Carter Conway
Bill Ferguson
Jennie M. Forehand
Robert J. Garagiola
Nancy Jacobs
Karen S. Montgomery
Edward R. Reilly
(one vacancy)

Delegates

Gail H. Bates
Kathleen M. Dumais
Adelaide C. Eckardt
Tawanna P. Gaines
Ana Sol Gutiérrez
Nathaniel T. Oaks
Nancy R. Stocksdale
Melvin L. Stukes
Veronica L. Turner

Committee Staff

Kaitlyn Shulman
Yvette W. Smallwood
The Honorable Thomas V. Mike Miller, Jr., Co-chair
The Honorable Michael E. Busch, Co-chair
Members of the Legislative Policy Committee

Ladies and Gentlemen:

The Joint Committee on Children, Youth, and Families respectfully submits the following summary of its 2012 interim activities.

The joint committee met five times during the interim to consider children and youth issues, including presentations on after school programs, charter schools, nutrition issues, local management boards, and alternative education programs. The joint committee also had an update on the Race to the Top – Early Learning Challenge Grant. The meetings were held as follows:

- July 18 – Hearing: Update on the Race to the Top – Early Learning Challenge Grant and Presentation on After School Programs;
- September 19 – Hearing: Introduction of New State Superintendent of Schools and Update on Charter Schools;
- October 17 – Hearing: Presentation on Nutrition Issues;
- November 7 – Hearing: Update on Local Management Boards; and
- December 5 – Hearing: Alternative Education Programs.
On July 18, 2012, the Maryland State Department of Education updated the joint committee on the Race to the Top – Early Learning Challenge Grant that was awarded to the State. The agency presentation was followed by a presentation on after school programs.

On September 19, 2012, the Maryland State Department of Education presented a discussion of the charter school concept. The presentation was followed by an update on charter schools in Maryland from various charter school organizations. The presentations were preceded by an introduction of Dr. Lillian M. Lowery, new State Superintendent of Schools.

On October 17, 2012, the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, the Maryland State Department of Education, the National Eating Disorders Association, and St. Agnes Hospital updated the joint committee on their work with children and families relating to nutrition issues, including breast milk banks for premature babies, childhood obesity, and eating disorders.

On November 7, 2012, various local service organizations updated the joint committee on the services provided by local management boards to children and families throughout the State. The presentation was followed by a presentation from the Governor's Office for Children on the role of the Children’s Cabinet in the funding of local management boards.

Finally, on December 5, 2012, the Children’s Cabinet agencies, specifically the Maryland State Department of Education, the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, the Department of Human Resources, and the Department of Juvenile Services, briefed the joint committee on alternative education programs. The presentations included information on alternative programs for disruptive students, rate setting for nonpublic residential and nonresidential programs, the Maryland Sheriffs’ Youth Ranch, the Regional Institutes for Children and Adolescents, and placements of youth with the Department of Juvenile Services.

The joint committee also submitted a letter to the Governor requesting that the Governor restore $7.3 million for the upcoming fiscal year that was transferred from the Children’s Cabinet Interagency Fund so that local management boards may continue to provide critical services to children and families (see attached). The joint committee has no current plans to hold further meetings prior to next interim, but should departmental legislation pertaining to matters within the subject jurisdiction of the joint committee be introduced during the 2013 legislative session, the committee may elect to meet to determine whether to express its opinion on such legislation.
The Honorable Thomas V. Mike Miller, Jr., Co-chair  
The Honorable Michael E. Busch, Co-chair  
Members of the Legislative Policy Committee  
December 12, 2012  
Page 3

The Joint Committee on Children, Youth, and Families wishes to thank those individuals who contributed their time and talent during the 2012 interim to inform and advise the joint committee.

Respectfully submitted,

Delegate Jolene Ivey  
Presiding Chair

Senator Nancy J. King  
Co-chair

JI:NJK/YWS/jac

Enclosure

cc: Members, Joint Committee on Children, Youth, and Families  
Ms. Lynne B. Porter  
Mr. Karl S. Aro  
Mr. Warren G. Deschenaux
Joint Committee on Children, Youth, and Families

December 12, 2012

The Honorable Martin J. O’Malley
Governor of Maryland
State House
100 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401-1925

Dear Governor O’Malley:

The Joint Committee on Children, Youth, and Families addressed a number of issues during this past year that are critically important to strengthening Maryland’s support for families. While we were able to identify areas that can be improved without legislation or additional money (such as encouraging our hospitals to become licensed to participate in a milk bank for fragile newborns), others simply must have additional funds in order to function as intended.

Maryland’s Local Management Boards (LMB) have managed to continue providing critical services to children and families – reducing juvenile crime, childhood hunger, and infant mortality, as well as implementing out-of-school time activities, home visiting, and school-readiness programs – by leveraging funds from many sources. Their well, however, is quite nearly dry.

We are very aware of the severe cuts sustained by nearly every agency and program in the State during the recent economic downturn. LMBs have been cut by $38 million over the past four years. Our LMBs have continued to be fiscally prudent with their remaining budget. Ninety percent of LMB funds go directly to locally developed and implemented programs for children. For every $3 provided through the State Children’s Cabinet Interagency Fund, LMBs secured an additional $7. As a result, over 300,000 children received services in fiscal 2012.

We are asking you to please restore $7.3 million for the upcoming fiscal year that was transferred from the Children’s Cabinet Interagency Fund. This request is far below what is truly needed, but we recognize that our State is not out of the fiscal woods, and everyone has to continue to do more with less.
Thank you for considering our request. Please let us know if you need further information about this very important issue.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

JoIene Ivey
House Chair

[Signature]

Nancy J. King
Senate Chair

cc: President Thomas V. Mike Miller, Jr.
Speaker Michael E. Busch