

Kentucky Council of Area Development Districts
Quarterly Board Meeting
Wednesday, February 10, 2022 at 8:30 am EST
Capitol Annex, Room 129, Frankfort, Kentucky

Board Members Present:

Judge Casey Ellis (NKADD) Chair
Mayor Les Stapleton (BSADD) 1st Vice-Chair
Mr. Steve Thurmond (BRADD) 2nd Vice-Chair
Mayor Rita Dotson (PuADD) Secretary
Judge John Phelps, Jr. (LCADD) Treasurer
George Spragens (LTADD)
Judge Wil Cannon (BRADD)
Judge Kenny Wilson (PuADD)

Ms. Penny Robinson (CVADD)
Judge Brad Schneider (GRADD)
Judge Scott Alexander (KRADD)
Judge Huston Wells (BGADD)
Judge Rick Stiltner (Gateway ADD)
Judge Matthew Wireman (BSADD)
Judge Steve Tribble (PeADD)
Judge Orbrey Gritton (BGADD)

Staff Present:

Whitney Chesnut (CVADD)
Jason Vincent (PeADD)
Mike Burress (LTADD)
Jeremy Buchanan (PuADD)
Lisa Cooper (NKADD)
Amy Kennedy (BTADD)
David Duttlinger (BGADD)

Waylon Wright (LCADD)
Joanna Shake (GRADD)
Eric Sexton (BRADD)
Jarrett Haley (KIPDA)
Kelly Ward (FIVCO)
Josh Farrow (Gateway ADD)

Tony Wilder, KCADD Executive Director
Marilyn Eaton-Thomas, KCADD Executive Assistant
Bill Cooper, Business Development Manager

Call to Order: Chair Ellis called the meeting to order and welcomed members, ADD staff and visitors. Following the Call of the Roll, conducted by Executive Assistant Eaton-Thomas, the Chair declared a quorum existed with 13 ADDs being represented.

Approval of November 3, 2021 Minutes Chair Ellis then called for approval of the minutes from the November 3 meeting. Judge Orbrey Gritton **offered a motion to approve with Judge Kenny Wilson issuing a second. All members voted in favor.**

KCADD Financial Report Chair Ellis recognized Judge Phelps to offer the financial report. Treasurer Phelps advised Financial Reports were sent electronically to all members to review prior to the meeting and copies were also included in today's meeting folder. He referred to the Monthly Statement of Revenue and Expenditures for the period ending January 31, 2022. He advised KCADD's income through January 31 was \$232,907.01. Year to date income receipts represents 61.53% of the budgeted figure of \$378,556.14. He also pointed to the total expenses for the fiscal year to date of \$164,074.16 which represents 39.57% of the budget. Treasurer Phelps noted that the expenditures are in-line and reasonable at this point in the fiscal year. With there being no questions or comments, Treasurer Phelps submitted the financial report for approval. **Mr. Steve Thurmond offered the motion to approve the Financial Report as presented and Ms. Penny Robinson issued a second. All members voted in favor.**

Guest Speakers:

Chair Ellis then proceeded to introduce House Speaker David Osborne who represents the 59th House District and has served as speaker at the House since 2017. Speaker Osborne expressed his appreciation for the opportunity to address the KCADD. He cited the fact that this day marked the 25th day of the 60 day session and noted the General Assembly has demonstrated so far a commitment to avoid end of session chaos by moving on “big ticket” measures early in the session. For example, he noted that the House shocked everyone by passing their own version of the 2022-2024 Biennial Budget and that both Chambers have acted on redistricting and the creation of new state and Federal political district maps. He noted there has been a legal challenge filed with oral arguments occurring this day. But, he assured the members, the product and the process was both legal and constitutional. He conceded there is discontent on both sides of the isle but contended the map is a more accurate and proportional representation than the previous maps.

He advised the Senate now has the House version of the Budget and it is under consideration by the Senate A & R Committee. It is his opinion there will be a Free Conference Committee impaneled following the Senate’s passage of their version and it will produce an excellent budget document. He concluded by indicating there will be tax reform legislation passed, a measure to reform Public Assistance (Unemployment Benefits) and additional Broadband infrastructure development funds appropriated.

Chair Ellis expressed appreciation to Speaker Osbourne on behalf of KCADD for devoting his valuable time to address the members.

Chair Ellis then proceeded to recognize Senate President Robert Stivers and invited him to address the members. He noted that Senator Stivers has served as Senate Chamber President since 2013 and he represents the 25th Senatorial District. Stivers informed that he and Speaker Osbourne meet regularly to coordinate the business of the Generally Assembly, a practice they have instituted in recent years.

In a response to a question regarding tax reform, he advised that Leadership in both chambers including relevant committee chairs are studying and deliberating and focused on achieving a consensus measure worthy of passage. He also predicts a tax reform measure will be considered for a vote in the coming weeks.

Senator Stivers advised he had been made aware of prospective students being denied the opportunity to enroll at Hazard Community and Technical College due to the fact they have exceeded their arbitrary cap of enrollees. He intends to facilitate the removal of those caps at the Community and Technical College level, particularly in view of the dire shortage of nurses and health care professionals in the Commonwealth and across the country.

He stated one of his highest priorities is to advance public policy that creates a realistic and accessible path for those suffering from substance abuse to be able to detox, enhance their education level and then obtain gainful employment. He stressed it is critically important for our economic system and society, in general, that we offer a “second chance” for employment for those who have recovered from addiction.

Mayor Stapleton and Judge Caudill advised the President regarding issues they and others across the state are encountering in providing Emergency Medical Services to their communities. They cited the shortage of paramedics, cost of operations and private sector competition. Senator Stivers indicated he was aware of some of these issues and would explore ways, legislatively, to improve the situation.

In response to a statement offered by Judge Schneider where he praised the ADDs for their invaluable assistance to local governments and their many services that positively impact local communities, Senator Stivers responded with a less than positive perception of his local ADD. He further implied that many he knows in local government are not familiar with their ADD's staff.

President Stivers concluded by responding to a question from Judge Alexander regarding possible legislative efforts to enact some jail reform to benefit counties. Senator Stivers acknowledged change is needed but offered that one course to improve the situation would be to create more multi-county regional jails.

Chair Ellis expressed his appreciation to President Stivers for his remarks and for the time he spent with KCADD. As the President departed, the Chair also offered a strong statement of support for the ADDs.

Nominating Committee Report Chair Ellis then called on Judge Tribble for the Nominating Committee Report. Judge Steve Tribble stated the committee was comprised of himself, Judge Wil Cannon and Mayor Mark Walter. He offered the following report: The nominees for the 2022 KCADD Executive Committee are Mayor Les Stapleton, Chairman; Mr. Steve Thurman, 1st Vice Chair; Mayor Rita Dotson, 2nd Vice Chair; Judge John Phelps, Secretary and Judge Rick Stiltner, Treasurer.

Election of Officers Judge Tribble moved that all current Executive Officers move up and Judge Rick Stiltner of Menifee County be elected to the office of Treasurer by acclamation. Judge Chuck Caudill issued a second. All members voted in favor. Outgoing Chair Casey Ellis thanked Judge Tribble and the Committee for their efforts and assistance in establishing the new Executive Committee for 2022 which will include Judge Ellis as Immediate Past Chair. The new officers were congratulated and thanked for their willingness to serve.

OLD BUSINESS

Community Health Care Connections Update: Newly seated Chair Stapleton then proceeded to Old Business and recognized Bill Cooper to deliver his report. Mr. Cooper began his presentation by highlighting his professional activities since the last meeting of the KCADD. He advised he had attended the monthly Department of Aging and Independent Living (DAIL/AAA) ZOOM meetings and the monthly KADD meetings. In addition, he advised he had attended several PACE Webinars, the Senior Hunger Summit and three legislative committee meetings on health issues. He further reported he has been engaged with PCHP, GRADD staff and Aetna/CVS regarding the proposed contract. Aetna/CVS continues to request IT security information and methods of operation. He concluded by expressing he feels we are close to moving forward with the business partnership.

NEW BUSINESS

Legislative Priorities for the 2022 Legislative Session: Chair Stapleton called on Executive Director Wilder to offer some insights and updates regarding the legislative session. Wilder reported that the House Budget proposal included \$500,000 in Area Development Funds (ADF) and level funding for the Joint Funding Agency (JFA) at the previous biennium's appropriation of \$1,984 million per year. He encouraged the members to engage their Senator's and solicit their support for these measures.

He also advised that we will be monitoring for any new legislation that may develop from the Medicaid Waiver Taskforce. He particularly cited the possibility of a measure to increase rates for Community Based Healthcare Services which the ADDs' Aging Programs provide.

In addition, he advised Rep. Sal Santoro is assessing the legislative will to pass a fuels tax increase this session before filing any measure in that regard. Wilder was pessimistic regarding the probability of any legislation being offered. Wilder did mention that it does appear there is momentum for local tax reform and does expect Rep. Meredith to sponsor a measure. Wilder concluded by inviting the KADD Legislative Chair Lisa Cooper to offer her insights and updates.

With respect to Meredith's proposal, Cooper indicated it was her understanding that he will be dropping his local tax reform measure today. She also advised that there could be some effort to increase JFA funds for the ADDs but stresses there is nothing "concrete" identified just yet. She also advised it appears SB 11 will now be revised to allow nursing home ombudsman to continue to review and inspect personal care facilities.

Chair Stapleton thanked Directors Wilder and Cooper for their updates and then proceeded to recognize GRADD Executive Direct and KADD Economic Development Committee Chair Joanna Shake to report regarding the Governor's new Economic Development Initiative.

Governor's Economic Development Initiative Director Shake advised the Governor has solicited the ADDs to assume a lead role in partnership with the Department for Local Government and the Economic Development Cabinet to evaluate and assess needs for all existing and proposed industrial development sites statewide. The effort will involve gathering data and creating visual electronically formatted regional presentations to be presented in person before the Governor in Frankfort on February 22 and March 1-3. She concluded by explaining that this will be a comprehensive and needed update of the locations and status of all priority development sites across the state. It is the Governor's intention to utilize this product, born of the efforts of ADDs and their partners, to promote and highlight Kentucky's potential for industrial development to potential investors across the globe.

Chair Stapleton thanked Director Shake for the impressive report and then called upon Executive Director Wilder to offer his report.

Executive Director's Report: Wilder offered an additional legislative update regarding the ADDs' effort at securing additional state funds to match the Appalachian Regional Commission's Local Development Fund allocation. The intent is to separate the additional match from JFA funding distribution formula.

Wilder further advised the KADD formally voted to issue a written request to the Governor asking him to allocate \$250,000 in each year of his proposed 2022-2024 budget. He reported the Governor did include the above request in his budget, but the House version omitted those funds. He advised that he and the KADD members are engaging with Senator David Givens, Vice Chair of the Senate A & R Committee to reinstate the ARC match at the above stated level. Wilder concluded by advising he has issued a KADD approved written request to Senator Chris McDaniel, Chair of the A & R Committee, to consider the ARC match allocation.

Adjournment: Chair Stapleton thanked Director Wilder for his report. He then inquired if there was further business or comments to come before the Council. There being no further business to entertain,

the Chair asked for a motion to adjourn. **Judge Orbrey Gritton offered the motion to adjourn and Ms. Penny Robinson issued a second. All members voted in favor.** The meeting adjourned at 9:30 am EST.