

**Maryland General Assembly
Joint Committee on Children, Youth, and Families
2013 Interim
Membership Roster**

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

Senators

Joanne C. Benson
Joan Carter Conway
Bill Ferguson
Jennie M. Forehand
Nancy Jacobs
Karen S. Montgomery
Edward R. Reilly
(two vacancies)

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Kathleen M. Dumais
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Tawanna P. Gaines
Ana Sol Gutiérrez
Nathaniel T. Oaks
Nancy R. Stocksdale
Melvin L. Stukes
Veronica L. Turner

Committee Staff

Caroline L. B. Boice
Kaitlyn S. Shulman



THE MARYLAND GENERAL ASSEMBLY
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401-1991

Joint Committee on Children, Youth, and Families

December 16, 2013

The Honorable Thomas V. Mike Miller, Jr., Co-chairman
The Honorable Michael E. Busch, Co-chairman
Members of the Legislative Policy Committee

Ladies and Gentlemen:

The Joint Committee on Children, Youth, and Families respectfully submits the following summary of its 2013 interim activities.

The joint committee met four times during the interim to consider children and youth issues, including presentations on child care subsidies; family leave; and homeless youth, foster care, and adoption. The joint committee also had an update on the Race to the Top – Early Learning Challenge Grant and the Home Visiting Accountability Act of 2012. The meetings were held as follows:

- June 19, 2013 – Hearing: Child Care Subsidy Program Financing;
- July 18, 2013 – Hearing: Race to the Top – Early Learning Challenge Grant Update;
- September 18, 2013 – Hearing: Home Visiting Accountability Act of 2012 Update; and
- October 30, 2013 – Hearing: Presentations on Family Leave Policies and Homeless Youth, Foster Care, and Adoption.

On June 19, 2013, the Maryland State Department of Education provided an overview of the Child Care Subsidy Program and the current trends in the program. The joint committee then heard from Montgomery County on how this program is implemented on the local level. Finally, the joint committee heard a presentation on *Ready or Not in Maryland*, a study on how prepared children were for kindergarten after coming from different child care arrangements.

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Page 2

On July 18, 2013, the Maryland State Department of Education provided an update on the Race to the Top – Early Learning Challenge Grant. The update was followed by presentations on the Reach Out and Read Project, improving the quality of child care programs with Maryland EXCELS, the development of the Maryland Guide to Early Childhood Pedagogy, the VIOLETS program, and the Early Childhood Breakthrough Centers. The final presentation was an update on the development of a new assessment to measure kindergarten readiness.

On September 18, 2013, the Governor’s Office for Children, the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, the Department of Human Resources, and the Maryland State Department of Education provided an update on the Home Visiting Accountability Act of 2012.

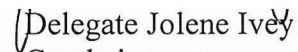
Finally, on October 30, 2013, the joint committee began the meeting with presentations on the Family and Medical Leave Act, state options for expanding leave laws, and some of the perspectives on those options within the business community. The second half of the meeting focused on the topics of homeless youth, adoption, and foster care and included presentations from the Governor’s Office for Children, the Department of Human Resources, a nonprofit adoptive family support center, and the Maryland Association of Resources for Families and Youth.

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 Joint Committee on Children, Youth, and Families wishes to thank those individuals who contributed their time and talent during the 2013 interim to inform and advise the joint committee.

Respectfully submitted,

Senator Nancy J. King
Presiding Chair


Co-chair

NJK:JI/KSS/jac

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