

**KENTUCKY STATE COUNCIL
MILITARY INTERSTATE CHILDREN'S COMPACT COMMISSION**

Draft Minutes

January 24, 2023 1:00PM EST

MS Teams, hosted from the Kentucky State Capitol

1. CALL TO ORDER AND WELCOME

Brig. Gen. (Ret.) Steven P. Bullard, Commissioner, Kentucky State Council
Called to order at 1:02 p.m.

2. ROLL CALL AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Minutes of January 18, 2022 meeting were shared by email immediately following last year's meeting and prior to this year's meeting. Those present included Commissioner Bullard, Military MIC3 Representative Colonel Lance O'Bryan (Fort Knox Garrison Commander), Hardin County Schools Superintendent Teresa Morgan, Tracy Leath representing Christian County Public Schools Superintendent Chris Bentzel, State Senator Mike Wilson, Fort Knox School Liaison Officer Brenda Weatherington, and Stacey Shane (KCMA). David Wickersham of the Kentucky Department of Education's Office of Special Education and Early Learning planned to attend representing Commissioner of Education Jason Glass; however, before the meeting began he was pulled away for a federal government call and was unable to join. Commissioner Bullard said that the new official Kentucky Department of Education MIC3 Representative is their Director of Government Relations, Brian Perry, replacing Tracy Goff-Herman, who left state employment. Mr. Perry and Rep. Dossett were unable to attend due to scheduling conflicts. Commissioner Bullard added he will get the minutes out quickly and keep everyone up-to-date.

3. NATIONAL OVERVIEW OF MIC3

Cherise Imai, National MIC3 Executive Director, presented an overview of current national MIC3 programs and reviewed the 2022 Annual Business Meeting (ABM) held in October in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. This was the first MIC3 ABM to be held in person since October 2019 due to COVID restrictions. Key topics addressed at the ABM included a resolution of the National Guard and Reserve inclusion proposal. Commissioners voted not to attempt to open up the base MIC3 legislative due to the associated complexities; however, they endorsed the concept of states adopting their own state-specific legislation to do so, similar to existing legislation covering Guard and Reserve personnel in Arkansas and a similar best-practice legislation (KRS 156.735) in Kentucky providing compact protection to DOD civilian employees and their families. MIC3 has developed a legislative tool kit for interested states, though Executive Director Imai noted that she understands Kentucky already has draft legislation in place. She also highlighted the effort to assist states in crafting a citation correction to the compact, in which the base federal law was inadvertently cited as a section instead of chapter.

Executive Director Imai outlined the implementation of the new 3-year MIC3 strategic plan, focusing on education, outreach and training. She said commissioners adopted a new rule for extra-curricular activities that originated from an Elizabethtown, Kentucky case from February 2022 in which a military student was unable to make his high school baseball team. The new rule clarifies the intent associated with the availability of tryout information to help ensure all new students receive important information on extra-curricular activities available to them. She added the MIC3 has produced several new training videos and continues to do monthly on-line training, with the potential for in-person training – an excellent option for nearby states, especially Kentucky, which hosts the MIC3 staff with the Council of State Governments in Lexington. Executive Director Imai praised the MIC3 team’s outstanding relationship with the Kentucky council and school liaison officers.

Commissioner Bullard added that MIC3 national staff conducted in-person training with Elizabethtown Independent Schools staff in early January. We’re looking to set up similar training for the counties around Fort Campbell, he said. Lastly, Commissioner Bullard continues to serve as national Compliance Committee chair, which also places him on the national MIC3 Executive Committee. He was appointed to this role in January 2022. It’s been a great opportunity to learn more about the compact and it’s impact on the national level, he said.

4. STATE OVERVIEW OF MIC3

Commissioner Bullard was appointed by the Governor on August 20, 2019 to serve as the state commissioner for this national program as an additional duty for the Kentucky Commission on Military Affairs. The Kentucky MIC3 State Council was created by the Kentucky General Assembly during their 2008 session, through Senate Bill 68, sponsored by the late Senator Tom Buford.

Commissioner Bullard said Kentucky submitted our 2022 MIC3 Annual Report on June 30, 2022 and paid our annual dues on June 3, 2022. The MIC3 year runs July through June annually and dues payments are due by September 30. They are paid through the Department of Military Affairs, as KCMA has no budget function. This year’s amount was \$10,273, based on K-12 dependents of military personnel assigned. Bullard submitted his mandatory annual Code of Conduct and Conflict of Interest forms for 2023 at the ABM in October.

Commissioner Bullard said that MIC3, which ensures smooth transfer to new school districts, is very effective here in Kentucky. We have a great partnership with Kentucky Department of Education and our DODEA school liaisons at Fort Knox and Fort Campbell. All elements continue to go well, he briefed. Our MIC3 State Council membership is full, and cases are at a minimum, with one case thus far this current fiscal year. That case involved the family of SGM Karl Fratzke, assigned to Fort Knox, and was successfully resolved. Bullitt County Schools informed the soldier his children cannot attend school next year unless he gets a Kentucky driver’s license. This is in violation of KRS 186.430, with this exemption adopted into Kentucky law during the 2021 Kentucky General Assembly (House Bill 277). Military personnel assigned to Kentucky are allowed to maintain their official home of record outside Kentucky, as many soldiers do (including this soldier), and may retain a valid driver’s license

from that state versus obtaining a Kentucky license. The school official was simply unaware of this legislation, understandable as it was recently passed, and promptly complied with its intent. No further issues are anticipated.

Commissioner Bullard said we have omnibus military legislation filed by State MIC3 Council member Rep. Myron Dossett, House Bill 63, which includes the MIC3 Compact Statute Correction for KRS 156.730 and the addition of the National Guard and Reserve to the protections of KRS 156.735. He expects it to pass easily. He reviewed Defense State Liaison Office priority occupational licensing compact legislation, noting that Kentucky is a leader in occupational compacts and is a member of six of the eight current DOD priority compacts. We were hoping to add the remaining Emergency Medical Services Compact this year, he said; however, the national compact is conducting a legal review on state concerns, so we elected to postpone consideration until the 2024 session. (As an added note, DOD has recently added the Advanced Practice Registered Nurse compact, sponsored this year by Rep. Walker Thomas as House Bill 108) DOD does have a pending new priority compact, approved as a priority in December – the “Interstate Teacher Mobility Compact.” Sen. Wilson said the compact is still under evaluation here in Kentucky so he’s not sure if/when they’ll be ready to introduce legislation, adding that they’re finding most teachers should already qualify for a Kentucky license if licensed by other states. Licensure for teachers is consistent and robust, he said, which is already a positive. While Kentucky is a leader in compact adoption, he stressed, we must ensure Kentucky sovereignty is properly protected. Commissioner Bullard said we look forward to the full assessment and way ahead. He added that another pending DOD priority compact is the Cosmetology Licensure Compact, which will be first considered here in Kentucky this session through new State Senator Allison Bledsoe’s SB 57.

Commissioner Bullard said Fort Knox has already issued an invitation for First Lady Britainy Beshear for their annual Month of the Military Child/Purple Up! Day celebration on April 21. It’s on her calendar, pending official approval, he said. We’ll also work with Fort Campbell to bring her to that installation sometime during the month. We still have the wonderful Month of the Military Child videos produced by Fort Campbell and the Governor/First Lady over the past two years. They are timeless videos that remain relevant, he said. If anyone needs assistance acquiring them, please let us know, he added.

5. OLD BUSINESS

None

6. NEW BUSINESS

Commissioner Bullard briefed the January 9, 2023 adoption by Kentucky of the new Military Child Care in Your Neighborhood-PLUS (MCCYN-PLUS) program, in coordination with the Department of Defense (DOD) Office of Personnel and Readiness and our Cabinet for Health and Family Services (CHFS). CHFS is the lead, providing DOD with our state listing of potential participating childcare providers (statewide: ~145). This program will provide active duty (full-time) military families a federal (DOD) monthly stipend up to \$1,500 to assist with child care expenses. The intent is to assist military families with living expenses/challenges and encourage their retention in the armed forces. CHFS has agreed to send DOD a monthly updated listing on providers to DOD partner-Child Care Aware of America (CCAoA), a

nationwide service company dedicated to service our nation's military and DOD families. Kentucky is one of the first states to obtain participation approval. Other states now participating are Colorado, Maryland, Nevada, Texas, Virginia, Washington State, and Miami-Dade County, Florida. Additional states continue to join the initiative. COL O'Bryan noted the Fort Knox Garrison hopes to provide a listing of eligible providers to all soldiers based at the installation. Commissioner Bullard said DOD reached out to the states in August 2022 to see who was ready to go, and Kentucky responded immediately, with great cooperation from the Governor's Office and CHFS.

7. OPEN DISCUSSION

Commissioner Bullard briefed the council on actions to date for the unrelated but complimentary Kentucky Purple Star Schools' program, for which he serves as chair of program's advisory council. The program is officially managed by the Kentucky Cabinet for Health and Family Services' Prevention and Programs Branch and their program director, Steve Cambron, with grant assistance from the Military Child Education Coalition (MCEC). Purple Star Schools is an independent program created by a fellow MIC3 state commissioner, Pete LuPiba of Ohio. It has gained DOD support and is rapidly being adopted by states around the nation, over 40 states at last count. This program recognizes schools and communities that show a major commitment to serving students and families connected to our nation's armed forces. Programs include awards/recognition ceremonies/educational programs. There are now 26 participating schools in Kentucky, a list expected to grow rapidly. Bullard noted that Kentucky law requires schools to have a Veterans' Day-related program, so this effort feeds right into that. The Purple Star Schools team in Kentucky is also working on draft legislation to formally adopt the program in the Commonwealth, possibly in the 2024 "budget" session. Sen. Wilson said to ensure all state legislators are educated as to the need, benefits and costs. Commissioner Bullard said that will be a priority during the interim following the 2023 session. The official Kentucky Purple Star Schools website is at <https://www.facebook.com/KYPurpleStarAward>. He encouraged council members to educate their communities about the program.

8. NEXT MEETING

January 23, 2024

9. ADJOURN

1:31 p.m.