Overview of Session

During the 2020 Missouri General Assembly, more than 2,200 pieces of legislation were filed. When the regular session ended at 6PM on May 15, only 32 policy related bills were Truly Agreed and Finally passed---and sent to Governor Parson for consideration. 18 budget-related bills were also Truly Agreed and Finally Passed.

- 18 House Budget Bills
- 16 House Policy Bills
- 13 Senate Policy Bills
- 2 Senate Concurrent Resolutions
- 1 Senate Joint Resolution

However, due to omnibus bills, these numbers may be deceiving. For example, in HB 1414 alone, the child protection omnibus bill, at least 15 introduced bills were included in the approved version that is going to the governor’s desk for his signature.

COVID-19 Impact to Session

Typically, the legislative session is approximately 19 weeks, including a 1-week legislative spring break. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, this legislative session was cut short 5 weeks—meaning that by including the legislative spring break, the COVID-19 pandemic shortened the legislative session by about 30% in total time.

COVID-19’s unknown economic impact forced legislators to drastically change the proposed FY 2021 budget. Compared to FY 2020’s budget, within a timeframe of approximately 3 weeks, budget leaders cut approximately $700 million from traditional revenue sources utilizing the budget proposed by Governor Parson in January as a baseline. The budget restores some funding for expenditures that have been reduced, but those restorations are contingent upon the federal government providing future fiscal relief to states. If federal relief does not come to fruition, Governor Parson may have to withhold significant funding from budget items.

When the legislature adjourned on May 15, conventional wisdom was that Governor Parson would likely need to call a Special Session of the General Assembly to address supplemental budgets and may include policy items such as implementing the online statewide sales tax collection system (known as Wayfair fix) which did not pass during the regular session.
2020 KWM Early Childhood Education’s Priorities

- **Expand access to voluntary, effective home visiting programs and services for families from prenatal to 5 that model relationship building, engage parents in their child’s learning, and refer for additional supports as needed.**
  - **2020 Session Outcomes:**
    - Flat funding for Parents as Teachers ($21 million)
    - Flat funding with $907,000 CARES Act stimulus increases for home visiting programs through Children’s Division ($8,345,500)
    - $3 million federal authority for Medicaid home visiting funding reimbursement

- **Implement strategies to improve salaries, benefits, and working conditions for early childhood and after school educators, and support compensation parity across early learning programs (B-2nd grade) and establish a coordinated professional development system to reflect the principles and indicators of NAEYC’s Blueprint for State and Early Childhood Professional Development Systems.**
  - **2020 Session Outcomes:**
    - Missouri’s Preschool Development Grant Needs Assessment was not released until February 2020
    - Missouri’s Preschool Development Grant Strategic Plan has not been officially released as of May 2020 due to undergoing a brand-matching effort between initial and renewal grant efforts
    - Kids Win Missouri has entered a policy cohort with “All Our Kin” and have begun working on a piloted Staffed Family Child Care Network

- **Increase safety, quality and coordination of early childhood programs (across settings) through policy and regulatory changes.**
  - **2020 Session Outcomes:**
    - HB 1414 included statutory language fixes around background check coordination, streamlining of offenses examined, and statutory definitions recommended by the 2019 Governor’s Child Care Working Group
    - Kids Win Missouri participated in the National Governor’s Association TA opportunity which resulted in home visiting data coordination and early work on data governance
    - PDG funding included in the FY 2021 approved budget
    - CCDBG Funding
      - Federal increases included in FY 2020 and FY 2021 approved budgets
      - Decrease of $9 million in total spending authority for FY 2021 (not accounting for 1-time CARES Act funds) compared to FY 2020 due to lack of utilization of funds.
• Legislative language included in FY 2020 appropriations regarding CARES Act funding
• Two letters to Governor Parson regarding child care funding
• Worked with Mission: Readiness who reached out to legislators regarding the importance of this funding
2020 KWM Economic Security Priorities

- Modernize and update tax code, ensuring revenue remains to fund critical investments in children and families.
  - 2020 Session Outcomes:
    - A tax reform package was not passed.

- Pass a State Earned Income Tax Credit.
  - 2020 Session Outcomes:
    - It appears that a state earned income tax credit is becoming linked to a tax reform package. During the 2020 session, a state earned income tax credit was not passed.

- Modernize Missouri’s TANF cash grant.
  - 2020 Session Outcomes:
    - Initial education efforts with Kids Win Missouri partners began to take place. Passage or a funding increase was not approved.
2020 KWM Health & Mental Health Priorities

- **Ease and simplify enrollment in and retention of public health insurance for children.**
  - 2020 Session Outcomes:
      - 20+ organizations testified in support
      - Fiscal note work was underway when COVID-19 took place
    - Missouri received approval in early May for 12-month continuous eligibility under a waiver during the COVID-19 pandemic emergency
    - Waiting for the release of MoHealthNet’s Civilla Report and recommendations for streamlining and easing the customer experience, using a human-centered approach

- **Ensuring youth who are homeless can access needed medical care.**
  - 2020 Session Outcomes
    - Added “mental health” services to contracting language to youth who are homeless statutes (HB 1414)
    - Added protections to providers serving youth who are homeless who are serving youth in-good-faith (HB 1414)
    - Added youth who are homeless and who are 19 or 20 to being eligible for MoHealthNet services (HB 1414)
    - Allow youth who are homeless to obtain a free copy of their birth certificate (HB 1414)
    - Did not pass MoHealthNet eligibility extension to former foster youth 13 and up due to projected fiscal note cost

- **Support policies that help schools start and sustain school-based health programs.**
  - 2020 Session Outcomes:
    - Worked with Show-Me School-Based Health Alliance to submit letters to Missouri’s Congressional leaders and Missouri state policymakers advocating for support for school health programs during the pandemic
    - Prior to COVID-19 crisis, worked with Show-Me School-Based Health Alliance to engage school-based health programs and understand what supports would assist programs in starting and sustaining operations.

- **Ensuring Missouri immunization rates rise and educate stakeholders on the safety and importance of childhood immunizations.**
  - 2020 Session Outcomes:
    - Legislation which would have added burdens were not passed.
• As the state moves forward with Medicaid Transformation, promote innovative, patient-centric projects that will improve care and enhance outcomes for children and families.
  
  ▪ 2020 Session Outcomes:
  ▪ Kids Win Missouri participated in Medicaid Advisory Group, Cover Missouri meetings, and was selected as part of a cohort of the Children’s Health Leadership Network led by the Annie E. Casey Foundation to continue work on improving children’s enrollment in Medicaid and ensuring transformation meets the needs of children and families. Partners in the cohort include Missouri Budget Project, Missouri KIDS COUNT, Missouri Health Care for All, Missouri Primary Care Association and Legal Services of Eastern Missouri

Approved in HB 1682:

• Pregnant women receiving mental health treatment for postpartum depression or related health conditions within 60 days of giving birth shall, subject to appropriations and any necessary federal approval, be eligible for 12 months of Medicaid health coverage for mental health services for the treatment of postpartum depression and related mental health conditions.
2020 KWM Safety, Security, Families Priorities

Short-Term Priorities

- Ensure children and their families can, without undue burden, access public programs that help provide sustenance and nourishment and health insurance coverage.
  - 2020 Session Outcomes:
    - Legislation that would have added barriers such as busy work requirements for Medicaid & SNAP recipients did not come to fruition
    - As COVID-19 pandemic began to take effect, Kids Win Missouri monitored and shared information on food security and health insurance coverage including SNAP, Medicaid, Pandemic-EBT, and more

- Update Guardian ad litem (GAL) standards and support measures to improve accountability.
  - 2020 Session Outcomes:
    - SB 623 (Libla) passed the Missouri Senate and voted out of the House Children & Families Committee. The bill was not put on the House Calendar for Third Read
    - SCS HB 1414 included GAL language but was taken out with a floor amendment approval by a standing division, not passed
    - Commitment from policymakers that this issue will not go away

- Juvenile Justice: Monitoring Raise the Age implementation and supporting children’s right to legal counsel.
  - 2020 Session Outcomes:
    - Blue Ribbon Panel on Juvenile Justice was formed and met once

- Support legislation to improve system response and services to child victims of trafficking.
  - 2020 Session Outcomes:
    - No advocacy opportunities came up

Mid-Term Priorities

- Support efforts to maximize the federal School Breakfast Program (SBP) and ensure all students start their day with a healthy, nutritious breakfast.
  - 2020 Session Outcomes:
    - Participated in briefings/research with Operation Food Search and No Kid Hungry; no policies were actively pursued

- Work with DSS to ensure compliance with Family First Prevention Services Act.
  - 2020 Session Outcomes
FY 2020 and FY 2021 budget includes $10 million in Family First Prevention Services Act transition funding authority

Leadership transitions in January at Children’s Division have delayed active participation with the Department on this issue

Other Efforts Approved in HB 1414

- Temporary Alternative Placement Agreements for children under safety plans
- Risk assessment completion requirement within 72 hours
- Ensuring adopted adult children have access to original birth certificate
2020 KWM Youth Education Priorities

- Support initiatives that encourage partnerships between schools, businesses and other programs to prepare youth for college and career.
  - 2020 Session Outcomes:
    - Did not find opportunities for advocacy

- Support initiatives designed to uplift at-risk students, with a preference toward evidence-based programs. These initiatives could include children or youth with special needs, children or youth impacted by trauma or homelessness, among others.
  - 2020 Session Outcomes:
    - Supported efforts of partner organizations for added transparency for use of restraint and seclusion in schools
    - Supported efforts of partner organizations to ensure parents can record IEP/504 meetings

- Intentionally gather the players in the wraparound services space to identify gaps, barriers, inefficiencies, and effective involvement with governmental agencies and report to the full Kids Win Missouri membership findings by the 2nd Quarter 2020 meeting.
  - 2020 Session Outcomes:
    - No advocacy opportunities were identified
    - Convening of wraparound service providers was delayed due to COVID-19.