



## Kentucky Coalition for Healthy Children

### Steering Committee Meeting Notes

October 26, 2020, 2:00 to 3:00 EST

#### Attendees:

Representative Josie Raymond	Rep. District 31	Stephanie Bunge	Kentucky Department of Education
Melissa McDonald	Alliance for a Healthier Generation	Elizabeth Hoagland	Kentucky Health Promotion Program – KY DPH
Christopher Bolling	American Academy of Pediatrics – Kentucky Chapter	Veronica Cecil	Kentucky Department for Medicaid Services
Candance Gurley	Aetna Better Health of Kentucky	Lucy Senters	Kentucky Department for Medicaid Services
Joe Bargione	Bounce	Gannon Tagher	Kentucky Nurses Association
Beverly Winsch	Bounce	Nicole Barber-Culp	KY Department for Public Health
Wendy Morris	Dept. Behavioral Health, Dev.& Intellectual Disabilities	Cara Stewart	Kentucky Voices for Health
Vestena Robbins	Dept. Behavioral Health, Dev.& Intellectual Disabilities	Priscilla Easterling	Kentucky Voices for Health
Allison Adams	Foundation for a Healthy Kentucky	Mahak Kalra	Kentucky Youth Advocates
Amalia Mendoza	Foundation for a Healthy Kentucky	Alicia Whatley	Kentucky Youth Advocates
Amanda Goldman	Gordon Food Services	Penny Christian	KY Parent Teacher Association – 16 <sup>th</sup> District
Donna Piercy	Humana	Laura Beard	Prichard Committee for Academic Excellence
Mike Stone	Kentucky Council on Problem Gambling	Tomara Adams	Spalding University
Jim Tackett	Kentucky Department of Education	Elise Kearns	University of Kentucky

#### Meeting Objective

Discuss and make recommendations on legislation related to children’s health in the school setting for the 2021 Legislative Session.

#### Pre-Meeting Materials:

- Summary chart of the 2021 legislative session prefiled bills with impact on children's health and schools
- Recommendations from the Prichard Committee Student-to-Student Study.
- The Prichard Committee's *Coping with COVID-19 Student-to-Student Study Executive Summary*
- The Prichard Committee's *How Kentucky Families and Educators are Coping with COVID: Results from the Prichard Committee's Citizen Research Team* (this document is in landscape view - you may need to zoom out to see it).

#### Meeting Notes

##### Updates

- Twenty-seven organizations have signed the Memorandum of Understanding to join the Kentucky Coalition for Healthy Children’s Steering Committee.



- A press release and letter went out on October 14, 2020 as part of the membership campaign for the Kentucky Coalition for Healthy Children and we already have 70 new members. Steering Committee members are encouraged to send their partners and networks an invitation to join. The membership form is on the Coalition's web site: <https://www.kentuckyhealthychildren.org/>
- Members are invited to join the Foundation for a Healthy Kentucky in a communications work group. The Coalition will have a newsletter and has already set up Facebook and Twitter accounts. The group could connect via email or zoom calls. Email Amalia if you are interested.

### Conversation around the 2021 Legislative Session

- Representative Josie Raymond presented an overview of the prefiled bills with an impact on children's health and the school setting. She indicated that an interim hearing was taking place on Bill Request 29 which would allow employees a paid leave of absence of 12 weeks for the birth or adoption of a child. She underscored that the COVID pandemic has revealed the need to examine systems which have not been working well and acknowledge that what impacts adults, such as loss of employment, has a tremendous impact on children.
- Conversation took place around Bill Request 99 which primarily establishes that a mental health professional shall not engage in sexual orientation and gender identity change efforts with a person under 18. The Foundation for a Healthy Kentucky sent a letter to the Interim Joint Committee on Licensing, Occupations and Administrative Regulations and issued a press release supporting the bill request filed by Reps. Willner, Banta and Roberts ([FHKY Press Release](#)). It was mentioned that the bill was not having a hearing and that the Chair of the Health and Family Services Committee opposed the bill based on not wanting to regulate providers.
- Gannon Tagher from the Kentucky Nurses Association, mentioned that a pilot project to assess outcomes for schools that have school nurses had been presented to the Interim Joint Committee on Education and they were also talking to the Chair of the Health and Family Services Committee. There is no bill yet, but it was emphasized that school nurses play an important role in children's physical and behavioral health.
- The Steering Committee spoke to the issue of **children and youth mental health**, a critical issue that has only become more so with the pandemic, as the data from the Prichard Committee surveys indicates. Conversation took place around the School Safety and Resiliency Act and the requirement for schools to employ at least one school counselor or school-based mental health services provider for every 250 students. In terms of implementation of this act:
  - Vestena Robbins indicated that cross agency coordination is taking place through a School Safety and Resiliency Act Implementation Support Team at the state, with representatives from the departments of education, behavioral health, the Kentucky



Center for School Safety (KCSS), FRYSC and others. She indicated she would send the team charter to the Committee.

- Amalia provided the information sent by Christina Weeter, Director of the Division of Student Success in the Office of Continuous Improvement and Support at the Kentucky Department of Education: HB352 (2020) allocates a total of \$7.4 million in new funding for “additional school-based mental health services provider full-time equivalent positions” and KCSS directed the Department of Education to disperse an equal amount of funds to each of the 171 school districts, so each local district received approximately \$43,000 to fund the position during the 2021-2022 school and fiscal years.
- In terms of reporting, districts report to the Department of Education the number and placement of school counselors, the source of funding for each position, as well as a summary of the job duties and work undertaken by each counselor and the approximate percent of time devoted to each duty over the course of the year (Reports to the Program Coordinator for Comprehensive Counseling).
- KCSS was charged with administering the funds allocated for school-based mental health services providers. Districts may also be hiring mental health professionals through use of Title IV-A funds, local funds and/or contracts with CMHCs, but these data are not being collected by KDE.

When addressing the issue of children and youth mental health, the Committee spoke to the need to maintain a strength-based, whole child supports approach, referencing the Whole School, Whole Community, Whole Child framework.

- In terms of the 2021 legislative session, the Committee felt it was necessary to begin by introducing legislators to the Kentucky Coalition for Healthy Children, presenting who we are, what we are, and what we stand for, before taking any action of support on bills this session. Committee members gave examples of documents their organizations work on :
  - The State Interagency Council for Services and Supports to Children and Transition-age Youth (SIAC) makes annual recommendations to the LRC and Governor each year. (Vestena Robbins I will share once finalized)
  - The State PTA also makes its priorities and policy statements, and statements of support.
  - The Prichard Committee issues a Bold Future report.
- Additionally, there are events linked to the legislative session at which the Kentucky Coalition for Healthy Children could participate and introduce itself.

For example:

- Kentucky Youth Advocates’ Children’s Advocacy Week (February 1-5) and the day at the Capitol: <https://kyyouth.org/childrens-advocacy-day-at-the-capitol/>
- The Advocacy Action 874K rally held in Frankfort during the legislative session.



## Next Steps

- The Foundation and KVH will develop a document for legislators for the Committee to review.
- The next meeting of the Coalition in November will be dedicated to talking about the budget as it relates to children's health in the school setting.
- Given requests by Steering Committee member organizations to move the meetings from the last Monday of the month to another week day and that we have various new Steering Committee members, Amalia will send out a new survey to set the recurring date for the Coalition meetings. The December meeting will take place earlier because of the holidays and a Doodle Poll will be sent out to set that meeting date.