



Kentucky Coalition for Healthy Children

Steering Committee Meeting Notes

October 31, 2023, 1:00 to 2:00 EST.

Attendees:

Sheila Schuster	Advocacy Action Network	Erica Jones	Kentucky Department for Medicaid Services
Christopher Bolling	American Academy of Pediatrics – Kentucky Chapter	Elizabeth Anderson-Hoagland	Kentucky Department for Public Health
Joe Bargione	Bounce Coalition	Melissa Goins	Kentucky Department for Public Health – FRYSCs
Vestena Robbins	Dept. Behavioral Health, Dev.& Intellectual Disabilities	Laurie Grimes	Kentucky Psychological Association
Melissa McDonald	Feeding Kentucky	Emily Beauregard Cara Stewart	Kentucky Voices for Health
Alexandra Kerley Katy Walker	Foundation for a Healthy Kentucky	Hannah Edelen	Kentucky Youth Advocates
Lori Vogel	Kentucky Association for School Social Work	Eric Davis Andrea Blair	United Health Care
Mike Stone	Kentucky Council on Problem Gambling	Rachel Farr	University of Kentucky
Stephanie Bunge Jim Tackett Annette Newsome	Kentucky Department of Education		

Meeting Objectives:

- The Steering Committee will hear projections about the upcoming 2024 Legislative Session and will hear from member organizations regarding their 2024 legislative policy priorities.
- The Steering Committee will discuss and finalize the KCHC 2024 Children’s Health Policy Priorities document.

Meeting Notes:

I. Member Updates

- The Kentucky Association for School Social Work is working with the Department for Behavioral Health, Developmental and Intellectual Disabilities (DBHDID) and the Kentucky department of Education (KDE) on a Sources of Strength Student Summit. Sources of Strength is an evidence-based suicide prevention effort that many schools in Kentucky have started.
- The Kentucky Department for Public Health’s School Health Branch has shifted K-12 preparedness funding over to the DBHDID to develop three new projects:
 1. Kentucky Community Crisis School Response Team - PREPARE
 2. CODE RED (Safety Planning) Implementation –Train the Trainer on implementing Code Red
 3. Anniversary Comprehensive Toolkit: Trauma Trigger Support for Communities, prepare, respond, and recover.



- The Maternal and Child Health Annual Conference will be held on November 16 and 17th, with a focus on Mental Health.
- An additional 16 school districts have been selected for the Prichard Committee’s Community School grant expansion and pilot in Kentucky. The districts are as follows:
 1. Bracken County School District
 2. Carter County Schools
 3. Christian County Public Schools
 4. Clark County Public Schools
 5. Covington Indep. Public Schools
 6. Danville Independent Schools
 7. Dayton Independent Schools
 8. Fayette County Public Schools
 9. Hopkins County Schools
 10. McCracken County Public Schools
 11. Paducah Independent
 12. Rockcastle County Schools
 13. Scott County Board of Education
 14. Shelby County Public Schools
 15. Warren County Public Schools
 16. Washington County Schools

These districts join the beta districts, Rowan County, Davies County, Owensboro Independent School District and Jefferson County Public Schools, for a total of 20 schools.

- The Kentucky Department for Public Health is working on updating the State Health Improvement Plan. The top priorities determined are mental health, substance use disorder, tobacco use and nutrition.
- The Kentucky Psychological Association is holding its Legislative Day on February 7, 2024.
- Kentucky Voices for Health’s (KVH) Annual Meeting will be held on December 5, 2023 in Lexington. <https://kyvoicesforhealth.org/kentucky-voices-for-health-2023-annual-meeting-is-december-5th-2023/>
- The ThriveKY Quarterly Forum with the Cabinet for Health and Family Services will be held on November 14th at 2pm ET: <https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZwkfuGoqz0oGNdUjDYd3ZG0aIAI07yvM62m>
- ThriveKY “Advocacy for Thriving Communities” Roadshow will take place in Paducah on Nov. 28th: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/2023-thriveky-roadshow-advocacy-for-thriving-communities-paducah-tickets-598744770727>
- Kentucky Youth Advocates Blueprint Summit will take place on December 6, 2023, from 10:00 to 3:00 EST. Children’s Health Advocacy Day is January 24, 2024.

II. The 2024 Legislative Session. Steering Committee Member Organizations Share their 2024 Legislative Priorities.

- An overview of the interim and 2024 Session was provided:
 - It has been a busy interim session with seven task forces. Of special interest to the KCHC were the School and Campus Safety task force, which focused on children’s mental health, the certificate of need task force, and the task force on the Cabinet for Health and Family Services, which included conversations around foster care and the long waiting list for the Home and Community Based 1915C waivers for children diagnosed with pervasive developmental disorders. Over 12,000 Kentuckians are waiting for the waivers.



- The session starts on January 2, 2024. This is a long session, ending April 15, 2024 (60 days) and it is the biennial budget session. There is \$1.4 billion dollars to spend of income over expenses so far.
- There won't be any changes in leadership or committee chairs, so it is easier to get ready because we know who is chairing what.
- The Kentucky Association for Psychology in the Schools, Kentucky School Counselors Association, and the Kentucky Association for School Social Work, three main school mental health organizations, have recommendations focused on suicide prevention.
 - They would like to see the term "evidence based" be added instead "highly effective" to suicide prevention programs.
 - Add suicide prevention training to 4th and 5th grade teachers.
 - Add "charter school", so they would also have training.
 - Ensure parent notification.
 - Provide follow-up training, which was also a recommendation by the student task force led by Lt. Governor. This would be January booster training, also for students who were absent on the day of the training.
- A social work interstate compact is being introduced this year. This would help increase mental health services' availability.
- The Mental Health Coalition's Sheila – Mental Health Coalition
 - A Ban Conversion Therapy Bill will remain a priority; Lisa Wilner to file again.
 - Funding for 988 suicide prevention fund.
- The Kentucky Department of Education's priorities include:
 - Requesting fully funding transportation costs
 - Universal Pre-K
 - Educational Workforce – requirements to retain and recruit new teachers and school staff.
- Kentucky Youth Advocates legislative priorities:
 - Pushing practicum teacher stipend pay.
 - Continued investment in school-based mental health services.
- Kentucky Voices for Health's legislative priorities:
 - Focused on childcare assistance and state funding to support childcare.
 - They have been talking to Representative Bentley about lowering the age of immunizations back to 3 for routine immunizations / improving access to vaccines.
- The American Academy of Pediatrics – Kentucky Chapter
 - The obesity treatment guideline has been published and indicates the need for more capacity building around treatment for obesity. The policy goals include reimbursement for obesity treatment, which is very sparse for children and there are just not enough intensive obesity treatment lifestyle programs around the state. There is also nobody in the state that really does active treatment around bariatric surgery or pharmacotherapy for patients who have illnesses associated with obesity.



- The chapter is really concerned about anti-vaccine conversations taking place which make it likely to come up in the legislature.
- The Kentucky Psychological Association:

Three categories that KPA is organizing efforts around:

1. Protecting practice of psychology – scope, parity, workplace presence
2. Health equity and population health initiatives
3. Suicide prevention and behavioral health resources in the community

Specific initiatives:

- Funding for 988
- Crisis aversion and rights retention bill
- Comprehensive health wellness / sex education curriculum in schools
- Funding for annual mental health exams,
- Maternal health bills.
- A bill to help with workforce, Master's bill.

III. Review of the KCHC 2024 Children's Health Policy Priorities

The KCHC 2024 Children's Health Policy Priorities draft document was reviewed, with the four areas it addresses: school funding, children's mental health, childhood obesity, and vaping.

Suggestions:

- In the background portion of the document related to childhood obesity, it would help to show how regular physical activity is directly correlated with higher education achievement, better mental health outcomes, etc. Show the benefits of nutrition and physical activity.

Steering Committee members were asked to send additional feedback to Amalia.

A reminder was given about the November 14, 2023, Steering Committee to be held at the Foundation for a Healthy Kentucky which will be in person only, with lunch provided. The focus will be on KCHC's next steps in terms of partnership engagement.

Next Meeting: November 14, 2023. Foundation for a Healthy Kentucky.