



## Kentucky Coalition for Healthy Children

### Steering Committee Meeting Notes

November 30, 2021, 1:00 to 2:00 EST

#### Attendees:

Sheila Schuster	Advocacy Action Network	Jim Tackett Stephanie Bunge	Kentucky Department of Education
Candace Gurley	Aetna Better Health of Kentucky	Lucy Senters	Kentucky Department for Medicaid Services
Shannon Smith	American Heart Association	Elizabeth Anderson-Hoagland Nicole Barber-Culp	Kentucky Department for Public Health
Jennifer Miller	Anthem Medicaid	Gannon Tagher	Kentucky Nurses Association
Joe Bargione Beverly Winsch	Bounce Coalition	Penny Christian	Kentucky Parent Teacher Association -16 <sup>th</sup> District
Jess Lawrence	Cairn Guidance	Emily Beauregard Cara Stewart	Kentucky Voices for Health
Wendy Morris Vestena Robbins	Dept. Behavioral Health, Dev.& Intellectual Disabilities	Alicia Whatley	Kentucky Youth Advocates
Amalia Mendoza Alexandra Kerley	Foundation for a Healthy Kentucky	Laura Beard	Pritchard Committee
Eva Stone	Jefferson County Public Schools	Liza Creel	University of Louisville
Lori Vogel	Kentucky Association for School Social Work		

#### Meeting Objectives:

- The Steering Committee will review and approve the final version of the Kentucky Coalition for Healthy Children’s Equity Vision and Mission Statements, and Principles for Equity and Justice in Schools brief to be sent to the members of the General Assembly.
- In preparation for the 2022 legislative session, the Steering Committee will review information and discuss its policy agenda.

#### Pre-Meeting Materials Included in Packet to Review:

- Kentucky Coalition for Children’s Health Equity Vision and Mission Statements & Principles for Equity and Justice in Schools – Draft
- 2022 Session Bill Request Chart

#### Meeting Notes:

##### I. Member Updates

- The Foundation for a Healthy Kentucky, as part of its Health for a Change series, is having a Local Tobacco Control Advocate Training on Dec 1, 2021
  - Link to register [https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_9zbJEGCbOg291aa-u8kYgg](https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_9zbJEGCbOg291aa-u8kYgg)



- In January, the Foundation for a Healthy Kentucky and Anthem Blue Cross and Blue Shield Medicaid will kick off a new public service campaign, “High Five for Health”, to address concerns of Kentucky parents about Covid-19 vaccines for children ages 5 to 11.
- The Kentucky Nurses Association has received a Robert Wood Johnson Foundation grant to implement a mental health and wellness training for school nurses, which will provide QPR training (Question, Persuade, and Refer) for suicide prevention, self-care, and recognition of children’s mental health issues to 100 nurses. Recruiting for that training will be in December 2021.
- Jefferson County Public Schools applied for funding for vaccine outreach to English as a second language (ESL) population. JCPS will establish vaccine clinics in two zip codes, and outreach to JCPS ESL students and families will start in the coming months.
- Kentucky Voices for Health’s Annual Meeting is taking place on December 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2021.
  - Registration link for December 2<sup>nd</sup> :  
: <https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZcpdequpjgsGdzkQHqvsjJNoTp-KMpJ653>
  - Link for December 3<sup>rd</sup>:  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZArceqrqDkrHNCvLvyQXqjiFlqaWApbURQIE>
- ThriveKY’s State and Federal Policy Updates will be held on December 7, 2021.
  - Registration: <https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZUrdOGprDkvHtOfmLROB-MzVZvgyDHOgcmMm>
- Kentucky Advocacy Network is having an Advocacy 101 Training on January 10, 2022. The link will be provided via email to the Steering Committee.
- The 2022 Blueprint for Kentucky's Children Policy Priorities led by Kentucky Youth Advocates (KYA) will be unveiled on December 8, 2021.
  - RSVP: [https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeIJco\\_jPwydRjrCUBkckjYFN085UoNcYYxAEDPLOW6Mf1CQ/viewform](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeIJco_jPwydRjrCUBkckjYFN085UoNcYYxAEDPLOW6Mf1CQ/viewform)
- KYA is holding its Children's Advocacy Week at the Capitol from January 18 to 21, 2022.
  - Link: <https://kyyouth.org/childrens-advocacy-week/>
- KYA also announced the release of the Kentucky Kids Count 2021.  
<https://kyyouth.org/kentucky-kids-count/>
- The Prichard Committee announced that they had kicked off their Family Friendly Schools Initiative, beyond their 60 Learning Network schools and early childhood centers. The materials are available to all schools and applications for certification will be accepted in March of 2022. The new resources for family engagement can also be found on their web site:
  - <https://prichardcommittee.org/familyengagement/>
  - Article on Spanish - Language Parent Institute:  
<https://prichardcommittee.org/spanish-language-parent-institute-makes-deeper-connections>



This information related to events in December was also shared to the full Steering Committee via email after the meeting.

## II. Final Review and approval of the KCHC equity vision and mission statements, and principles for equity and justice in schools.

- The Committee reviewed the final draft of the brief that contains the Kentucky Coalition for Children's Health *Equity Vision and Mission Statements* and *the Principles for Equity and Justice in Schools*, which were included in the meeting packet. These documents were approved.
- The Committee also approved that the statements and principles be sent electronically with a letter from the KCHC Chair, Ben Chandler, to the members of the General Assembly at the start of the 2022 legislative session. The group agreed that the brief could exceed two pages because of the importance of having the data about disparities in schools included. Suggestions were made to clarify the table related to Grade 4 reading and the percentages on the tables.
- Related to disciplinary measures in schools, the group was informed that the Kentucky Board of Education (KBE), using its authority to promulgate regulations related to student discipline, had approved a regulation around corporal punishment in schools. The regulation defines corporal punishment in schools and exempts students with an IEP, 504 plan, and those classified as homeless or in foster care from corporal punishment. It stipulates that if a district allows corporal punishment, they need to communicate with the parent or guardian and obtain written and/or verbal consent from them (depending on the time the parent is informed). The regulation determines who can administer the punishment and that the student must receive 30 minutes of counseling following the corporal punishment.

The reactions in the group to this information included conversations about how harmful corporal punishment may be to students, how it may actually increase problematic behaviors, and certainly make it harder for a student to feel secure and safe in school, which is what many organizations, including the American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry, have pointed out. It was mentioned that it was also hard to reconcile being a trauma informed school, which schools are required to be, and yet allow any form of corporal punishment.

## III. 2022 Legislative Session

- Lori Vogel, President of the Kentucky Association for School Social Work, presented a legislative action that the Kentucky Association for Psychology in the Schools (KAPS), Kentucky School Counseling Association (KSCA) and the Kentucky Association for School Social Work (KASSW) are taking on mental health providers in schools for the 2022 legislative session. The recommendations from these organizations are:
  - Overall funding for mental health professionals that schools receive should be increased from the 2021 and 2022 fiscal years amount of \$7.4 million to \$16.8 million.
  - Districts should receive \$56,400 per mental health professional versus the \$43,000 in the 2021 and 2022 budgets. This increase in funding would provide districts with



\$56,400 to hire a qualified mental health service provider for this role as was outlined in Senate Bill 8 (2020).

- Each district should get funding for 1 mental health professional per 3,000 students in the district. This would add an additional 134 mental health professionals to the state, for a total of 306. 172 were already provided for funding in the last budget.
  - The School Safety and Resiliency Act should be amended to include a yearly count of all school based mental health service providers, as defined in the law, that are practicing in the district to better account for the 250:1 ratio. A database of who those professionals are, and what their certification and/or licensure is should be maintained by the Kentucky Department of Education. The Act currently only requires a yearly count of school counselors.
  - The Kentucky Department of Education (KDE) shall identify an employee within the department that shall maintain that database and make that information available to the public upon request.
  - KDE should also ascertain that those that are reported as school based mental health service providers by each school district have the correct licensure/certification to fill that role as defined in the School Safety and Resiliency Act. Protecting students from those not qualified to fill these roles should be a high priority
- Dr. Sheila Schuster, Executive Director of the Kentucky Advocacy Network, presented a summary of the bills that have been pre-filed which relate to children's health, schools and other health bills, such as Medicaid, with an impact on children's health. The pre-filed bill chart was included in the packet.

At the next meeting of the Steering Committee in January, once bills have been filed, the Committee will again discuss its legislative actions.

**Next Meeting:** January 25, 2022. 1:00 to 2:00 EST. (The meeting was changed to January 31, 2022, via email).