



Kentucky Coalition for Healthy Children

Steering Committee Meeting Notes

June 29, 2023, 11:00 – 12:30 EST

Attendees:

Sheila Schuster	Advocacy Action Network	Penny Christian	Kentucky Parent Teacher Association – 16 th District
Christopher Bolling	American Academy of Pediatrics - Kentucky	Laurie Grimes	Kentucky Psychological Association
Joe Bargione	Bounce Coalition	Kristen Martin	Kentucky Strengthening Families
Kate McDonald Goodin	Feeding Kentucky	Emily Beauregard Cara Stewart	Kentucky Voices for Health
Amalia Mendoza Alexandra Kerley	Foundation for a Healthy Kentucky	Alicia Whatley	Kentucky Youth Advocates
Lauren Sherrow	GLSEN	Benjamin Gies	Prichard Committee for Academic Excellence
Mike Stone	Kentucky Council on Problem Gambling	Ellee Humphrey	St. Elizabeth Healthcare
Melissa Goins	Kentucky Department for Public Health	Jennifer Sumeracki	Trans Parent Lex
Jim Tackett	Kentucky Department of Education	J. Eric Davis	United Healthcare

Meeting Objectives:

- The Steering Committee will learn about the Community Schools model and The Prichard Committee’s initiative.
- The Steering Committee will review recent Kentucky data pertinent to children’s health.
- The Steering Committee will receive an update on actions pertaining to SB150 and discuss KCHC collaboration efforts.

Pre-Meeting Documents to Review:

- Prichard Committee Community Schools Initiative Summary
- Annie E. Casey Foundation 2023 Kids Count Data Book
- Schools and SB150- PowerPoint
- Kentucky Department of Education (KDE) Legislative Guidance – 2023 Legislative Session
- KDE Senate Bill 150 (2023) Section Two Supplemental Guidance
- Letter to Superintendents from Stephanie Craycraft, Commissioner of the Department for Behavioral Health, Developmental and Intellectual Disabilities
- The Department of Justice’s Statement of Interest in the case against SB150

Meeting Notes:

I. Member Updates

- Updates related to SB150:



- The bills which the KCHC has been watching go into effect today, except bills with emergency clause that went into effect right away. There has been a ruling on SB150 to suspend the health part of the bill going into effect.
 - The Kentucky Department of Education found an error in the drafting of SB150 (“or” vs. “and” as it relates to stopping instruction on human sexuality or gender identity). Fayette County school district has opted to stop human sexuality course work, keeping in place gender identity and sexual orientation.
 - There have been protests around the state in schools, especially regarding the bathroom stipulations in the bill.
 - Community mental health centers and school social workers are very concerned about the impact on mental health services.
 - The KIP survey was not able to begin given the change in parental consent language in SB150 (before it was opt out, now opt in). It has been postponed to next year. This will also impact YRBS. There is a concern about how the lack of data will impact the delivery of services in schools.
 - Representatives from the Kentucky American Academy of Pediatrics met with Senator Carroll who, while sympathetic, indicated that there would be no fixing the bill in the interim session.
- The Kentucky Department of Education has established a School Health Branch and is in the process of staffing the branch. KDE was also awarded an additional 5-year grant to address health in schools.
 - Kentucky Voices for Health (KVH) has prepared a comprehensive Medicaid renewals explainer. [Explainer.](#)
 - The Bounce Coalition has received funding from the Foundation for a Healthy Kentucky to provide two years of training and technical assistance to one elementary school in Eastern KY school district and one in a Western KY school district around Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) and creating a trauma-informed school culture. This program would include training for school staff at all levels, technical assistance, parent and community engagement opportunities, and evaluation services to assess for change. More information: email info@bouncecoalition.org.
 - The Kentucky Department of Education [School Health Profiles](#) (Profiles) is a system of surveys developed by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to assess school health policies and programs in states and large urban school districts. (See more below).
 - The ThriveKY coalition and the Cabinet for Health and Family Services will hold their Quarterly Advocacy Update on state and federal policies with an impact on Kentucky families on July 11 2023, 2:00 to 3:00 ET.
 - Kentucky Voices for Health (KVH) & the coalition of ThriveKY partners will provide in-person around the Commonwealth events this year, April through November, with updates on state and federal policies that impact the health and wellbeing of Kentuckians. More information: [KVH](#)

II. Prichard Committee – Community Schools Initiative

Benjamin M. Gies, Director of Government Affairs for The Prichard Committee, presented their Community Schools Initiative. The Prichard Committee has received a 5-year (2023-2028), \$47



million dollar grant from the US Department of Education to implement the Community Schools Initiative in Kentucky. The initiative seeks to have schools coordinate with the community to bring in the services needed to address societal barriers that get in the way of learning.

This is a community-based strategy focused on local engagement. The four pillars of Community Schools are:

1. Active Family and Community Engagement
2. Integrated Student Supports
3. Expanded Learning Time and Opportunities
4. Collaborative Leadership and Practice

Kentucky was selected because it had established the infrastructure for community schools since the Kentucky Education Reform Act (KERA) and has established the Family Resource and Youth Services Centers (FRYSCs).

The slides to the presentation were sent out in the June meeting packet.

III. Kids County Data

Alicia Whatley, Policy and Advocacy Director at Kentucky Youth Advocates, presented an overview of the Annie E. Casey Foundation's *2023 Kids County Data Book, State Trends in Child-Well Being*. The data book presents national and state data across four domains: economic well-being, education, health and family and community, and ranks states in overall child well-being, sharing the latest information of its kind available.

Kentucky's overall ranking in child well-being is 40th in the nation. Kentucky also ranks 40th in Health, 41st in Economic Well-Being, 29th in Education, and 42nd in family and community.

IV. School Health Profiles

Jim Tackett, Healthy Schools Project Director at the Kentucky Department of Education, presented on the School Health Profiles. The profiles are collected biennially, on odd number years. They assist state and local education agencies in monitoring and assessing:

- characteristics of school health education,
- physical education and physical activity,
- practices related to bullying and sexual harassment,
- school health policies related to tobacco use prevention and nutrition,
- school-based health services,
- family engagement and community involvement, and
- school health coordination.

Jim presented charts with the results on some of the topics. The data can be accessed [at School Health Profiles](#).

The presentation led to a conversation among steering committee members around the expansion of school billing Medicaid for health services, in particular the conversation was around school nurses. The following link contains school nurse counts data: [KDE School Health Data](#).



V. Updates on SB150 and Other School Related Legislation

Melissa Goins, Chair of the State Interagency Council for Services and Supports to Children and Transition-age Youth (SIAC), indicated that they have created an ad-hoc group of the SIAC related to SB150, Sections 1 and 6.

This ad hoc-group has been looking at the impact on the KIP and YRBS, as well as other behavioral health surveys. They will be meeting on July 7, following which they hope to distribute information to superintendents.

Next Meeting: July 24, 2023 – In Person.