



Kentucky Coalition for Healthy Children

Steering Committee Meeting Notes

September 30, 2022, 11:00 to 12:00 EST

Attendees:

Sheila Schuster	Advocacy Action Network	Lori Vogel	Kentucky Association for School Social Work
Candace Gurley	Aetna Better Health of Kentucky	Jim Tackett, Stephanie Bunge	Kentucky Department of Education
Joe Bargione Beverly Winsch	Bounce Coalition	Elizabeth Anderson-Hoagland	Health Promotion – KY Chronic Disease Program – Kentucky Department for Public Health
Jessica Lawrence	Cairn Guidance Inc.	Michelle Malicote Bethany Thomas Candace Carpenter	Division of Maternal and Child Health – School Health Branch - Kentucky Department for Public Health
Vestena Robbins	Dept. Behavioral Health, Developmental & Intellectual Disabilities	Penny Christian	Kentucky Parent Teacher Association – 16 th District
Kate McDonald	Feeding Kentucky	Molly Lewis	Kentucky Primary Care Association
Amalia Mendoza Chloe Atwater	Foundation for a Healthy Kentucky	Emily Beauregard Cara Stewart	Kentucky Voices for Health
Eva Stone	Jefferson County Public Schools	J. Eric Davis	United Health Care

Meeting Objectives:

- The Steering Committee will discuss the KCHC Children’s Mental Health Policy Agenda to determine short, middle, and long-term policies.
- The Steering Committee will establish a children’s mental health work group and process to develop strategies for the approved policies.

Pre-Meeting Materials Included in Packet to Review:

- Children’s Mental Health Policies for a KCHC Policy Agenda – In packet

Meeting Notes:

I. Member Updates

- The October meeting of the KCHC Steering Committee will be held on **Friday, October 28 at 11:00 EST**. A calendar invite with zoom link has been sent.



- The November meeting of the Steering Committee will be held **on Tuesday, November 29 at 11:00**, as was originally scheduled. The Steering Committee will not meet in December, and the January 2023 meeting will be a longer, in-person meeting to kick off the new year! The date of the January meeting to be determined.
- The Kentucky Department of Education is one of five states which will participate in the first round of the WSCC Learning Collaborative with the National Center for School Mental Health. This will take place October 2022 through June 2023.
- Cairn Guidance is hiring two positions: a School Health Manager and a Health Education Manager. More information: email jess@cairnguidance.com
- **The Bounce Coalition** is holding the [Bounce Grand Rounds](#) on October 12. This is a learning opportunity to discuss school safety and the impact of community violence on young children in Kentucky. The event will feature local and national experts on school safety, including Sandy Hook Promise.
- **The Foundation for a Health Kentucky's [2022 Howard L. Bost Memorial Health Policy Forum](#)** will take place on October 17, with the focus on Education as a Cornerstone of Kentucky's Health Outcomes.
- **The Foundation for a Healthy Kentucky** is developing two workshops focused on children's health at the [2022 Shaping Our Appalachian Region \(SOAR\) Summit](#) in Pikeville, KY. The workshops will showcase Kentucky successes in addressing childhood obesity and youth tobacco use.
- **Kentucky Voices for Health (KVH)** and ThriveKY partners are continuing the [Advocacy for Thriving Communities](#) roadshow, presenting state and federal policy updates on issues impacting the health and wellbeing of Kentuckians. Dates in October include October 4 in Whitesburg, October 11 in Paintsville, October 18 in Ashland, October 20 in Owensboro and October 25 in Flemingsburg .
- **The Department for Behavioral Health, Developmental and Intellectual Disabilities** was awarded \$3.6 Million from the competitive [Garrett Lee Smith Suicide Prevention Grant](#), which focuses on reducing suicide among residents of the commonwealth under age 25.
- **11th Annual Pediatric Behavioral and Mental Health Symposium** – The Impact of Prejudice on Pediatric Mental Health. The symposium will be virtual and take place November 14, 2022.
- Please share the October edition of the **Kentucky Coalition for Healthy Children's Newsletter** with your networks when it comes out tomorrow.

II. Children's Mental Health Policy Agenda

The meeting packet included a document with the children's mental health policies including those a) approved by the Steering Committee as part of the policy priorities – "Policy Tree", b) the



children's mental health policies the Steering Committee supported or opposed During the 2022 Legislative Session, c) the policy recommendations from the office of the Lt. Governor Jacqueline Coleman & members of the KDE Commissioner's Student Advisory Council, d) some of the more recent policies developed in other states, and finally the chart which, after review of the previous documents, the executive partners brought forward as a list of policies to consider for the 2023 legislative session.

The group conversation was around the list of CMH policies for the 2023 legislative session.

1. Funding for a nurse in every Kentucky school all day, every day.

Comments:

- School nurses are a good front line for identification of mental health needs. Utilizing other professionals to identify needs early on could help reduce the acuity and thus the strain on resources. Also making sure that efforts are coordinated between providers can help with continuity of care and efficiency.
- The Kentucky School Nurse Association surveyed school nurses across the state with respect to whether schools were using the expanded Medicaid billing for school-based health services and 34% said they were. A community of practice for school nurses has started and may help determine why districts aren't participating more in the expanded Medicaid. Some special education directors who originally were coordinating billing for IEPs do not want to take on more work.

2. Funding for health services in coordination with schools

- It is important to get a comprehensive look at the possible different funding mechanisms. It was noted that ESSER funding (Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund) was available now (ESSERIII funds are available for use until September 30, 2024) but poses the issue of sustainability. Also, when using ESSR funds you can't use Medicaid funding.
- Federally Qualified Health Centers were mentioned in terms of other community services, and it would be important to find out about schools offering services through FQHCs.
- It was noted that the number of school-based health clinics has continued to grow in Kentucky and a link to them was provided:
<https://ci.uky.edu/kentuckyhealthnews/2022/05/09/number-of-school-based-health-clinics-keeps-growing/>

3. CMH workforce shortages

Comments:

- There is a dramatic shortage of children's mental health providers in Kentucky, not just those in practice but also in the pipeline. This is a pressing issue which needs to be addressed. The issue is compounded by the fact that there are also very few mental health providers for diverse populations.
- The group agreed that while training for teachers was important, teachers were already overwhelmed with the amount of training and responsibilities assigned to them that were non-academic in nature and the shortage of children's mental health professionals would not



be solved by adding more training to teachers. The option of getting additional paid professional days isn't necessarily going to solve the problem and may be hard to find legislators interested in pursuing.

- The trauma informed plans that schools had to submit provide a wealth of information but it would be important to know how to access that information. What are schools doing / planning in terms of physical and mental health?
- The lack of information as to mental health providers licensed, those available in different parts of the state, for diverse communities, etc. led to the group agreeing that it would be important to create a task force to look into the children's mental health workforce shortage issue, so this was a policy which should be added to the list.
- It was noted that the Office of Elementary and Secondary Education has a mental health service professional demonstration grant program and a school-based mental health services grant program, and the links to those were shared:

<https://oese.ed.gov/offices/office-of-formula-grants/safe-supportive-schools/mental-health-service-professional-demonstration-grant-program/>

<https://oese.ed.gov/offices/office-of-formula-grants/safe-supportive-schools/school-based-mental-health-services-grant-program/>

Because the committee did not complete the revision of list of policies, the group agreed to have the full Steering Committee vote via survey monkey on the 2023 legislative session policy priorities

Additionally, the group agreed to establish a children's mental health work group of the Steering Committee. The work group would meet before the Steering Committee meetings and bring forth recommendations, beginning with the 2023 children's mental health legislative policy agenda based on the survey results.

Next Meeting: October 28, 2022, 11:00 to 12:00