



Kentucky Coalition for Healthy Children

Steering Committee Meeting Notes

September 28, 2021, 1:00 to 2:00 EST

Attendees:

Sheila Schuster	Advocacy Action Network	Jim Tackett Stephanie Bunge	Kentucky Department of Education
Jennifer Miller	Anthem Medicaid	Lucy Senters	Kentucky Department for Medicaid Services
Joe Bargione Beverly Winsch	Bounce Coalition	Elizabeth Anderson-Hoagland Nicole Barber-Culp	Kentucky Department for Public Health
Melissa McDonald	Brighter Bites	Penny Christian	Kentucky Parent Teacher Association -16th District
Jessica Lawrence	Cairn Guidance, Inc.	David Bolt	Kentucky Primary Care Association
Vestena Robbins	Dept. Behavioral Health, Dev.& Intellectual Disabilities	Emily Beuregard Cara Stewart	Kentucky Voices for Health
Amalia Mendoza	Foundation for a Healthy Kentucky	Alicia Whatley	Kentucky Youth Advocates
Lauren Sherrow	GLSEN Bluegrass	Laura Beard	Pritchard Committee
Lori Vogel	Kentucky Association for School Social Work	Elle Humphrey	St. Elizabeth Healthcare
Mike Stone	Kentucky Council on Problem Gambling	Liza Creel	University of Louisville

Meeting Objectives:

- The Steering Committee will discuss the impact of proposed legislation to limit public or public charter school instruction or discussion of concepts related to race, sex, and religion and its impact on education and equity.
- The Steering Committee will begin to delineate the Kentucky Coalition for Healthy Children's Principles on Equity and Justice in Schools.

Pre-Meeting Materials to Review:

- [Bill Request 69](#)
- [Bill Request 60](#)

Suggested Reading and Viewing:

- [Guide to Counter-Narrating the Attacks on Critical Race Theory: 4ORF Guide](#)
- [Who's Really Driving Critical Race Theory Legislation? An Investigation: Education Week](#)
- [This Critical Race Theory Panic is a Chip Off the Old Block: Slate](#)
- [Video: Will humanity survive? The Philosophy of John A. Powell: Powell](#)

Meeting Notes:

I. Member Updates

- The group welcomed a new organization to the Steering Committee, Anthem Medicaid. Jennifer Miller will be representing Anthem on the Steering Committee.



- From the survey related to the Steering Committee meetings day and time, the majority of the 24 survey respondents want to keep the last Tuesday of the month from 1:00 to 2:00.
- The Kentucky Coalition for Healthy Children Steering Committee survey received 30 responses which are being analyzed and will be presented at a future date.
- The 2021 Education Summit will take place November 1 and 2nd. [KDE](#)

II. Summary of the 2021 Special Session.

As a follow up to the August meeting of the Steering Committee, Emily Beauregard presented a summary of the special session's impact on students and schools.

- Extends the state's public health emergency declaration until January 15, 2022, along with most emergency executive orders issued by the Governor throughout the pandemic.
- Cancels any statewide mask mandate until January 15, 2022, meaning, even if the Governor issues a statewide mask mandate, it is null and void.
- Restricts additional administrative regulations related to statewide mask mandates until June 1, 2023.
- Makes null and void all emergency regulations that mandated masks statewide for childcare facilities and schools.
- Enables local school districts and childcare facilities to set their mask policies.
- Increases temporary remote instruction days from 10 days to 20 days. These days can be used by school districts for a single class, or for an entire grade, school, or school district, depending on the local need.
- Requires local health departments to develop a "test to stay" model for their school districts to use instead of requiring quarantining when school children test positive or become ill.
- Redirects \$69 million in ARPA funding to now be used by CHFS for the implementation needs of SB1 and SB2 (testing, "test to stay" programs, CAAC establishment and operation, etc.) and will ultimately assist healthcare providers, jails, schools, homeless shelters, local health departments, etc.
- Temporarily revises the retired teacher/retired employee reemployment provisions until January 15, 2022, to assist in addressing teacher and school staff shortages.
- Temporarily adjusts school funding provisions by associating funding to average daily attendance, allowing a school district to submit a school calendar plan to receive a waiver of 170 required student attendance days if 1,062 hours are achieved for the 2021-2022 school year.

Jim Tackett clarified with respect to Temporary Remote Instruction (TRI) and Non-Traditional Instruction (NTI). The NTI days are 10 and can be used for anything. The TRI days are 20 are related to the pandemic, and can be used as was indicated, even for small groups.

III. Equity and Justice in Schools

Dr. Rashaad Abdur-Rahman, Founder and CEO of the Racial Healing Project, joined the group for the conversation around equity in schools, including the bill proposals which could limit instruction or discussion of concepts related to race, sex, and religion in schools and their impact on equity.

Some of the points made by Dr. Abdur-Rahman and Steering Committee members included:

- Aligning our work with other efforts being made, for example the Prichard Committee which has created an equity coalition and an equity tool kit ([Prichard](#)); the Student Mental Health



Action Summit which took place in northern Kentucky with students from 15 schools, where mental health needs resulting from the pandemic were discussed and recommendations made.

- Understanding that the “critical race theory” (CRT) debate has been highjacked and is being used for political reasons. The conversations around CRT were happening in doctoral classrooms, in law classrooms, and were in no part of any curriculum in schools. It is being used to stoke fears and suggest that there is indoctrination taking place or perpetuation of an anti-white belief system.
- It is important to present a new narrative. The historical and geographical context is important and so is being clear with respect to what we’re dealing with. It is important to humanize one another and create a bigger sense of “we”. Rashaad suggested looking into using the targeted universalism framework: <https://belonging.berkeley.edu/targeted-universalism>
- The link between the issue of equity in schools and healthier children is strong. You can’t have healthier children without stopping the harm or racism and other forms of discrimination (intersectionality).
- The Kentucky Coalition for Healthy Children should be strongly committed to this issue to promote change. The importance of clearly stating the definition of equity we are adopting was emphasized. (The KCHC has adopted the Annie E. Casey definition of equity).
- The members agreed to develop principles for equity and justice in schools and commissioned a small group to bring forward recommendations to the October meeting of the Steering Committee. These principles would be distributed to legislators and other stakeholders.

Next Meeting: October 26, 2021. 1:00 to 2:00 EST.