



Kentucky Coalition for Healthy Children

Steering Committee Meeting Notes

January 18, 2023, 11:00 – 2:00 EST

In-Person, Foundation for a Healthy Kentucky Office Building

Attendees:

Sheila Schuster	Advocacy Action Network	Jim Tackett, Stephanie Bunge	Kentucky Department of Education
Candace Gurley	Aetna Better Health of Kentucky	Candace Denise Beach	Kentucky Health Department Association
Christopher Bolling	American Academy of Pediatrics – Kentucky Chapter	Emily Beauregard Cara Stewart	Kentucky Voices for Health
Joe Bargione	Bounce Coalition	Alicia Whatley	Kentucky Youth Advocates
Jessica Lawrence	Cairn Guidance Inc.	Laura Beard	Prichard Committee for Academic Excellence
Amalia Mendoza Katy Walker	Foundation for a Healthy Kentucky	Ellee Humphrey	St. Elizabeth Healthcare
Mike Stone	Kentucky Council on Problem Gambling	J. Eric Davis	United Health Care

Meeting Objectives:

- The Steering Committee will review and discuss the bills filed in the 2023 legislative session related to children’s health and/or actions to file new bills and draft the list of bills to support or oppose during the session.
- The Steering Committee will hear a presentation on equity and justice and continue its conversation on ways to enhance the KCHC equity lens in the coalition’s work.

Pre-Meeting Materials Included in Packet to Review:

- KCHC 2023 Children’s Mental Health Legislative Agenda and letter sent to members of the General Assembly
- 2023 bills filed related to or with an impact on children’s health.
- KCHC Principles for Equity and Justice in Schools – with equity vision and mission statements
- Bio Pastor Marvin O. King

Meeting Notes:

1. Review of the 2023 Children’s Mental Health Legislative Agenda

The group reviewed and ratified the 2023 Children’s Mental Health Legislative Agenda. Comments made:

- A nurse in every school – the Kentucky Nurses Association is taking the lead. Do not expect a bill this session. The KCHC would be a supporting organization when the KNA decides to move legislation on this issue in 2024.



- Provider shortage – many licensed providers aren't really practicing (Deloitte Report). Provider directories aren't complete. Insurers are building networks that are skewed. The first step is to collect uniform information. There have been some initial conversations with Senator Meredith. A greater issue arises with shortages of providers of color.
- Suicide prevention – 988 funding is not being brought up in this session but rather in the 2024 budget session. Oregon has a suicide prevention program that we can look into as a model.
- Rep. Fleming is moving forward with a bill that is an app for youth to connect with a mental health provider. A pilot took place in JCPS, Bullitt, and Marshall Counties. Peace Hospital would be providing the support to the app. If a bill is presented, it would be one to consider.
- Youth vaping: the Coalition for a Smoke-Free Tomorrow is working to present a tobacco retail licensing bill. There is the concern that a bill increasing punishment for youth vaping may be presented. The KCHC will follow up and support and or oppose as needed.
- Ban conversion therapy – Rep. Lisa Willner and Sen. Kerr filed a bill in the past, but Sen. Kerr has retired. The person leading the coalition dedicated to banning conversion therapy has left, so the KCHC could take up the support if a bill is filed. Will talk with Rep. Willner again to see if she is interested in filing again.

2. Presentation by Pastor King and conversation on KCHC's equity lens and outcomes.

The group reviewed the concepts of diversity, equity, inclusion and belonging. The PowerPoint used by Pastor King will be distributed to Steering Committee.

The discussion by the group included:

- Importance of identifying champions, creating leaders at every level of an organization.
- Importance of becoming a learning organization, constantly expanding our perspective.
- Remember to look at this also from an opportunity and profitability perspective.
- Don't live in a mindset of scarcity, make sure to always bring others along.
- Belonging is a very important aspect to consider, enhancing peer relationships, creating cultures of belonging at work and elsewhere. Belonging means every individual knows themselves and feels they are known, valued, and welcomed at an organization.
- Belonging in school:
 - Do the children feel safe? Psychologically, physically, and emotionally.
 - Do they belong here? Are they celebrated or just "tolerated"?
 - Do they have a future? A future opportunity for social mobility, intellectual assent.

If anyone of these questions is answered in the negative, then belonging doesn't exist.

Policy Action: The KCHC has committed to using a health equity lens, which means intentionally looking at disparities and the population groups who are at increased risk of poor health and social outcomes.

In children's mental health the challenges faced by LGBTQ+ children and youth include higher rates of mental health problems. The group unanimously voted to have the KCHC prepare a brief on LGBTQ+ youth, including school data, to be sent to all members of the Kentucky General Assembly along with a letter.

Next Meeting: February 28, 2023. 1:00 to 2:00.