



Kentucky Coalition for Healthy Children

Steering Committee Meeting Notes

August 31, 2022, 12:00 to 1:00 EST

Attendees:

Sheila Schuster	Advocacy Action Network	Gannon Tagher	Kentucky Nurses Association
Debbie Lorence	Aetna Better Health of Kentucky	Penny Christian	Kentucky Parent Teacher Association – 16 th District
Jennifer Miller	Anthem Blue Cross Blue Shield-Kentucky Medicaid	Molly Lewis	Kentucky Primary Care Association
Christopher Bolling	American Academy of Pediatrics – Kentucky Chapter	Dana Nickles	Kentucky Public Health Association
Joe Bargione Beverly Winsch	Bounce Coalition	Emily Keely Shannon Parker	Kentucky Strengthening Families/ Family Thrive – KY DPH
Amalia Mendoza Chloe Atwater	Foundation for a Healthy Kentucky	Emily Beauregard Cara Stewart	Kentucky Voices for Health
Joseph Frazier	Kentucky Chamber of Commerce	Alicia Whatley	Kentucky Youth Advocates
Jim Tackett, Stephanie Bunge	Kentucky Department of Education	Laura Beard	Prichard Committee
Erica Jones Davis	Kentucky Department for Medicaid Services	Elle Humphrey	St. Elizabeth Health Care
Michelle Malicote	Division of Maternal and Child Health – Kentucky Department for Public Health	Eric Davis	United Health Care

Meeting Objectives:

- The Steering Committee will hear the second part of the overview on child and youth mental health and engage in a group discussion around the KCHC’s work to address the prioritized children’s mental health area.
- The Steering Committee will discuss children’s mental health related policies for the 2023 Session.

Pre-Meeting Materials Included in Packet to Review:

- Student Mental Health Initiative: Conversations & Solutions with Kentucky Students. Office of Lt. Governor Jacqueline Coleman & Members of the Kentucky Department of Education Commissioner’s Student Advisory Council. August 16, 2022
- 2022 Kids Count Data Book – Annie E. Casey Foundation – Special emphasis on children’s mental health



Meeting Notes:

I. Member Updates

- Kentucky Youth Advocates has issued a press release and the Kentucky profiles and data for the **2022 Kids Count Data Book**. Link: [KYA](#)
- Kentucky Voices for Health (KVH) and ThriveKY partners are continuing the **"Advocacy for Thriving Communities"** roadshow. They will be in Hopkinsville next Tuesday and in other regions each week through mid-November. Details here: [KVH](#)
- **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. (A correction in the date from last month's notes).
- Please share the September edition of the **Kentucky Coalition for Healthy Children's Newsletter** with your networks.
Additionally:
 - The Healthy Schools Campaign is holding the webinar **Change for Good 2022: Addressing the Student Mental Health Crisis** on September 14, 2022. Among the presenters is Dr. Eva Stone, Manager of District Health for JCPD. Dr. Stone participates in our Steering Committee meetings. Link to register: [HSC](#)
 - The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) announced new grant funding opportunities for school-based mental health programs. Link to [SAMHSA Grant](#).

II. Understanding and Improving Children's Mental Health – Part 2

Dr. Schuster presented on children's mental health systems and programs, as well as some of the more pressing issues in child and youth mental health. The complete PowerPoint presentation and materials have been shared with the committee.

The group made the following comments and considerations:

- Mental health parity continues to be an important issue, despite both federal and state legislation.
- Getting into the mental health system and negotiating is difficult for families.
- Medicaid and insurers pay at lower rate than the market so many providers don't accept insurance at all.
- There is a lack of information on the mental health care workforce in Kentucky. The licensing boards aren't asking the questions that need to be asked to have a complete picture.
- Network adequacy is an issue. There is an opportunity to collect data on the workforce issue, some legislators are interested (Sen. Alvarado).



- Telehealth has helped with the workforce issue. It helps in three ways, transportation, stigma, and changes brought about by immigration (language, interpreters, different cultures).
- There is limited availability of mental health providers of color and LGBTQ+ specialists.
- There is the issue of dual diagnosis developmental disabilities and mental health, which is not being adequately addressed. The same for issues of substance abuse and mental health.
- Many of the supports for young people go away when they turn 18 years old, it is important to consider the transition piece so healthcare services are not lost.
- The current political climate will play an important role in children's mental health policies. There will be as many as 30 new legislators who will have little information on many of these issues. There's the 2023 gubernatorial election which will have its impact in terms of the relationship between the legislative and executive branches. It is likely this will be a more partisan session.

Where do we go from here?

- While we work in the school setting, it is very important to ensure we don't expect schools and teachers to be responsible for the heavy lifting in this area. There has to be true community partnerships to bring in the changes we are proposing. We need to provide schools with resources to outsource services rather than add to their responsibility.
- If we want more training for teachers, we need to ensure there will be more funding and training days allotted.
- This needs to be a system thinking process. It's not just about counseling, it's about screening tools, sharing data, including FRYSCs and their work to address mental health, etc.
- There are a lot of efficiencies in having community-based healthcare providers also facilitate school clinics. There are also great examples of telehealth.
- This is about systems changes, models like the medical home, school-based health centers, other providers, such as community health workers, family resource and youth services center staff to support families, help coordinate services outside the school.

Next Meeting: September 30, 2022, 11:00 to 12:00