



## Kentucky Coalition for Healthy Children

### Steering Committee Meeting Notes

December 17, 2020, 1:00 to 2:00 EST

#### Attendees

Sheila Schuster	Advocacy Action Network	Stephanie Bunge	Kentucky Department of Education
Melissa McDonald	Alliance for a Healthier Generation	Elizabeth Anderson Hoagland	Kentucky Health Promotion Program – KY DPH
Christopher Bolling	American Academy of Pediatrics – Kentucky Chapter	Lucy Senters	Kentucky Department for Medicaid Services
Shannon Smith	American Heart Association	Gannon Tagher	Kentucky Nurses Association
Joe Bargione	Bounce	Nicole Barber-Culp	KY Department for Public Health
Jessica Lawrence	Cairn Guidance	Emily Beuregard	Kentucky Voices for Health
Wendy Morris	Dept. Behavioral Health, Dev.& Intellectual Disabilities	Mahak Kalra Alicia Whatley	Kentucky Youth Advocates
Vestena Robbins	Dept. Behavioral Health, Dev.& Intellectual Disabilities	Penny Christian	KY Parent Teacher Association – 16 <sup>th</sup> District
Amalia Mendoza	Foundation for a Healthy Kentucky	Laura Beard	Prichard Committee for Academic Excellence
Amanda Goldman	Gordon Food Services	Jeb Teichman	United Health Care
Donna Piercy	Humana Healthy Horizons	Ellee Humphrey	St. Elizabeth Healthcare
Rhonda Caldwell.	Kentucky Association of School Administrators		
Jim Tackett	Kentucky Department of Education		

#### Meeting Objectives:

- Review, make necessary additions and/or modifications, and approve one page Kentucky Coalition for Healthy Children document for legislators.
- Begin discussion of 2021 Coalition work.

#### Meeting Notes:

#### I. Top 2021 Legislative/Policy Priorities of Steering Committee Member Organizations Related to Children and Youth Health in the School Setting.

- Advocacy Action Network:
  - Support to the bill that prohibits the practice of conversion therapy with a minor by any licensed mental health professional.
  - Bill to give unaccompanied minors ages 16 & 17 the ability to consent to mental health treatment.
  - Prepare for 2021-2022 school year to move to having nurses in every public school every day.
- Alliance for a Healthier Generation:
  - The National organization's priority goal this year is resiliency, social emotional health and learning. The organization is adapting more of the WSCC model, connecting healthy schools programs and out of school time programs.



- American Academy of Pediatrics – Kentucky Chapter:
  - The American Academy of Pediatrics nationally has a robust list of national policies on everything from gun safety to conversion therapy to support of CHIP funding.
  - The AAP goals are to be supportive of organizations that are working to improve children’s health.
  - Promote a Health Act for Children to increase mental health access for children, promote access to health care for all children in Kentucky, and provide evidence-based care for as many children as possible.
  
- American Heart Association:
  - Repealing preemption.
  - Looking at early care and education standards as they relate to in-home care.
  - Restoring smoking prevention and cessation funding back to what it was in 2019.
  - Surprise medical billing.
  - Liability protection for non-profits during the pandemic.
  
- Cairn Guidance:
  - The WSCC model and ensuring physical activity, school nurses, safety, in schools, with an emphasis on collaborating and coordinating better with the community.
  
- Department of Behavioral Health, Developmental and Intellectual Disabilities
  - Advocating for children at risk for being placed in the child welfare system.
  - Support sister agencies in the Cabinet for Health and Family Services.
  - Access to services, racial justice, and trauma informed principles.
  
- Foundation for a Healthy Kentucky
  - Support bill to permit city or county governments to impose restrictions or requirements on the use, display, sale, and distribution of tobacco products or vapor products that are stricter than those imposed under state law.
  - Support to the bill that prohibits the practice of conversion therapy with a minor by any licensed mental health professional.
  
- Kentucky Association of School Administrators:
  - Adequate funding for all schools
  - Pre-school across the board (3 or 4 year olds).
  
- Kentucky Department of Education:
  - No key priorities.
  - Most interested in keeping funding levels the same or increase if possible. COVID-19 issues are top on the agenda.
  - Staff wellness is also an important issue, especially mental health. The Department is hearing this from the districts quite heavily.
  
- Kentucky Department for Public Health:
  - A focus on Public Health Transformation and COVID-19.
  - Physical activity and nutrition.
  - Tobacco prevention and cessation program.



- Kentucky Nurses Association:
  - Focusing on the school nurse task force to get nurses in school all day, every day, beginning with a pilot project in the fall to measure outcomes based on having a full time nurse in schools.
- Kentucky Parent Teacher Association:
  - Health and wellness, which includes racial justice; as well as gun safety, since this impacts children emotionally and physically.
  - Pushing back on tax credits – when you take funds from public schools, children are going to suffer.
- Kentucky Voices for Health:
  - A continuation budget with no cuts to programs to children and families.
  - Ensuring that safety net programs –SNAP, WIC, Medicaid, etc.- remain fully funded; oppose cuts to safety net programs.
  - Make Community Health Workers Medicaid billable.
- Kentucky Youth Advocates:
  - Tobacco preemption policy: allowing cities and county government to regulate the use, distribution and sale of tobacco products.
  - Access for state employees to 12 weeks of family leave.
  - Child care related to health: amending zoning and planning laws to have more home based family options.
  - Budget year: sustaining funding for Medicaid and KCHIP, FRYSC funding, investing in and securing HANDs program. Protecting the safety net programs.

## II. Comments on KCHC Information Sheet for Legislators

- It is easy for legislators to read. May need to add something at bottom of first page to have them turn it over to see logos.
- School safety is on the mind of the legislators, should insert something related to that in the sheet.
- Add something related to children having a trusted adult in schools, something to lift their importance.
- Many of these issues, such as health education, safety, etc., are tied to the Healthy People 2030 Children’s Objectives, so this could be mentioned in the sheet.
- The same with respect to the Whole School, Whole Community, Whole Child framework.
- Steering Committee organizations are asked to send Amalia their organizational logo to go on the back of the information sheet.

In terms of distribution

- The sheet and a letter from the Coalition Chair should be sent both electronically and in printed form.
- Legislators will be home for three weeks, so send the printed version to home addresses.
- Each organization could commit to meeting with a legislator when in session or in the interim to talk about the Coalition.



### III. Next Steps in Kentucky Coalition for Healthy Children Development

The group spoke about setting up an Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) Work Group and to work on developing a Youth Advisory Group.

- In terms of the ACEs Work Group, the Foundation for a Healthy Kentucky and Kentucky Youth Advocates have begun conversations on an ACEs awareness campaign which could be the starting point for the ACEs Work Group of the Kentucky Coalition for Healthy Children.
- For the Youth Advisory Group, the members mentioned the following existing youth groups with which we could consult:
  - The Prichard Committee's Youth Voice Team.
  - Kentucky Youth Advocates works with different youth on policy advocacy.
  - The Kentucky Partnership for Families and Children has a statewide Youth MOVE chapter, specific to youth with behavioral health needs.
  - YMCA Youth Assemblies.
  - The state was looking into creating a Youth Advisory Group for tobacco prevention.

If a Youth Advisory Group is to be developed for the Coalition, it was suggested that young adults in college (freshmen, those recently out of high school) could be potential preferred advisory group members since they are still close enough in age to provide advice on health and school-related issues, yet are adults so don't have parental consent requirements and more control over participation, meeting times, etc.

#### Next Meeting:

January 26, 2021. 1:00 to 2:00 EST.