



## Kentucky Coalition for Healthy Children

### Steering Committee Meeting Notes

May 25, 2021, 1:00 to 2:00 EST

#### Attendees:

Sheila Schuster	Advocacy Action Network	Jim Tackett Stephanie Bunge	Kentucky Department of Education
Kelly Pullen Candance Gurley	Aetna Better Health of Kentucky KY SKY Program	Lucy Senters	Kentucky Department for Medicaid Services
Jennifer Miller	Anthem Medicaid	Dana Nickles	Kentucky Health Departments Association / Kentucky Public Health Association
Christopher Bolling	American Academy of Pediatrics – Kentucky Chapter	Jeff Hadley	Kentucky Humana Healthy Horizons
Jessica Lawrence	Cairn Guidance, Inc.	Penny Christian	Kentucky Parent Teacher Association – 16 <sup>th</sup> District
Tracey Antle	Cumberland Family Medical Center, Inc.	David Bolt Molly Lewis	Kentucky Primary Care Association
Vestena Robbins	Dept. Behavioral Health, Dev. & Intellectual Disabilities	Nicole Barber-Culp	KY Department for Public Health
Amalia Mendoza Allison Adams Ashley Brauer	Foundation for a Healthy Kentucky	Emily Beuregard Cara Stewart	Kentucky Voices for Health
Amanda Goldman	Gordon Food Services	Mahak Kalra	Kentucky Youth Advocates
Lauren Sherrow	GLSEN Bluegrass	Laura Beard	Prichard Committee for Academic Excellence
Mike Stone	Kentucky Council on Problem Gambling	Jeb Teichmanq	United HealthCare Community Plan of Kentucky

#### Meeting Objective:

- Align Steering Committee members around adopting an equity lens for the coalition’s work.

#### Meeting Notes:

##### I. Member Updates

- The Steering Committee voted to approve the document **School Policies to Improve Child and Youth Health: Five Broad Policy Recommendations for the Commissioner of the Kentucky Department of Education** through a survey (20 survey results: 18 in favor of approving the document and sending it to the Commissioner). The document was sent and a meeting with the Commissioner to discuss it was requested.
- The University of Louisville School of Public Health and Information Sciences** signed the KCHC MOU and is formally part of the Steering Committee.
- The application to the policy support grant that **Voices for Healthy Kids** provides on certain areas related to children’s health will be postponed until March 2022, as the Steering Committee determines the policies it will prioritize.



- The General Assembly will hold its Interim period from June 1st to December 1. They have announced several special task forces; of interest to the group are the **School Funding Task Force** and the **Commission on Race and Access to Opportunity**. The meetings can be viewed online. Once the chairs are determined, we have the opportunity to introduce the KCHC to these committees. Link to special committees: [GA Special Committees](#) and the link to the calendar for the Interim period: [GA Interim Calendar](#)
- **ThriveKY** holds its state and federal policy webinar on June 1 at 2:00 ET. Dr. Sheila Schuster will be providing a legislative interim update and there will be discussion around the American Families Plan. Registration for this session: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84411111111>
- The Foundation for a Healthy Kentucky's **CATCH curriculum support** mini grants for schools in Appalachia received 14 applications for the 8 mini grants that will be awarded.
- **The Prichard Committee for Academic Excellence** has been working on information related to the American Rescue Plan Act funding. "What the American Rescue Plan Means for Kentucky's Students: How should Kentucky spend \$2.1 billion for K-12 education?" Here is the link: [ARPA-Prichard](#)
- **Kentucky Voices for Health** has an American Rescue Plan explainer and frequently asked questions in English and Spanish: [ARPA - KVH](#)
- **Kentucky Youth Advocates** / Bounce is holding a session on trauma informed plans for schools on June 9th.
- **The KY Council for Children with Behavior Disorders (KYCCBD)** has multiple professional development opportunities, including the Administrator Institute to support district trauma plan development. Register at: <https://www.kyccbd.org/>

## II. Adopting an Equity Lens

A group of Steering Committee members worked to prepare the conversation around adopting an equity lens. The group included Sheila Schuster from the Advocacy Action Network, Penny Christian from the Kentucky Parent Teacher Association 16<sup>th</sup> District, Lauren Sherrow from GLSEN Bluegrass, Emily Beauregard and Cara Stewart from Kentucky Voices for Health, and Amalia Mendoza from the Foundation for a Healthy Kentucky.

The group proposed beginning with a conversation around shared understanding and common language for adopting an equity lens. Given that cross-sector collaborations of different disciplines and organizational cultures come with multiple perspectives, getting on the same page with respect to various terms is critical to move forward on the important topic of equity.

The Steering Committee reviewed the common language slides prepared by the small group (which accompany these notes) and made the following observations:

- Health equity needs to be aligned with striving for total equity and take into consideration structural disadvantages, systemic disadvantages, the environment.
- It is important to determine examples, keeping them in the context of schools and children.
- When talking about diversity and inclusion, we need to be intentional in making sure we're including everyone, even those not necessarily seen as being "different".
- We want to make sure that everyone can fully participate in a democratic process and is included in it.
- When speaking to health disparities, it is important to recognize that many of these are masked. It is also important to add more layers of distinction. Not just related to the nuances within groups, but the intersections.



- Additionally, we should keep an expansive view on how these disparities space out.
- Some of the inequities of concern that were pointed out in the school setting:
  - Girls and how many inequities are overlooked or not addressed.
  - Access to counselors, outside referral sources for addressing mental health issues.
  - Other types of health care services: physical health, oral health and the underlying income disparities and resources, geographic disparities.
  - Differences in the professional development of school staff.
- We need to ensure we are addressing issues with an equity lens:
  - Be aware of the “standardization” that occurs: the norm is determined by a white, male perception, this is the model.
  - The SC can investigate using a “bias” list, checking off items in how we are doing our work. Review this as we develop our policy priorities.

The group was presented with some additional resources on toolkits for equity to follow up on the discussion, which will be ongoing.

- Local and Regional Government Alliance on Race and Equity – Racial Equity Toolkit:  
[https://www.racialequityalliance.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/10/GARE-Racial\\_Equity\\_Toolkit.pdf](https://www.racialequityalliance.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/10/GARE-Racial_Equity_Toolkit.pdf)
- Voices for Racial Justice – Pathways to Education Equity – Equity Assessment Data Checklist:  
<https://voicesforracialjustice.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/10/Data-Checklist.pdf>
- Housing Development Consortium – Racial Equity Toolkit:  
<https://www.housingconsortium.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/11/Racial-Equity-Toolkit-Downloadable.pdf>
- Race and Social Justice Initiative – Racial Equity Toolkit to Assess Policies, Initiatives, Programs, and Budget Issues:  
[https://www.seattle.gov/Documents/Departments/RSJI/RacialEquityToolkit\\_FINAL\\_August2012.pdf](https://www.seattle.gov/Documents/Departments/RSJI/RacialEquityToolkit_FINAL_August2012.pdf)
- Coalition of Communities of Color- Tool for Organizational Self-Assessment:  
<https://www.coalitioncommunitiescolor.org/research-and-publications/ccorgassessment>

### Next Meeting:

June 29, 2021. 1:00 to 2:00 EST.