



Kentucky Coalition for Healthy Children

Steering Committee Meeting Notes

September 26, 2023, 1:00 to 2:00 EST.

Attendees:

Sheila Schuster	Advocacy Action Network	Erica Jones	Kentucky Department for Medicaid Services
Joe Bargione Beverly Winsch	Bounce Coalition	Gannon Tagher	Kentucky Nurses Association
Jess Lawrence	Cairn Guidance, Inc.	Emily Beauregard Cara Stewart	Kentucky Voices for Health
Vestena Robbins	Dept. Behavioral Health, Dev.& Intellectual Disabilities	Hannah Edelen	Kentucky Youth Advocates
Amalia Mendoza Alexandra Kerley Katy Walker	Foundation for a Healthy Kentucky	Elle Humphrey	St. Elizabeth Healthcare
Lori Vogel	Kentucky Association for School Social Work	Jennifer Sumeracki	Trans Parent Lex
Mike Stone	Kentucky Council on Problem Gambling	Rachel Farr	University of Kentucky
Stephanie Bunge Christina Weeter Annette Newsome	Kentucky Department of Education		

Meeting Objectives:

- The Steering Committee will hear about the Task Force on School and Campus Security hearing and discuss recommendations related to trauma-informed schools.
- The Steering Committee will begin discussion of the KCHC 2024 school health policy priorities.

Pre-Meeting Documents to Review:

- *Task Force on School Campus Security* PowerPoint – Dr. Joe Bargione
- *Strengthening Trauma-Informed Schools for Prevention and Resilience* PowerPoint – Dr. Sheila Schuster
- Link to Louisville Public Media article [Mental health experts warn Ky. lawmakers SB 150 will hinder data collection.](#)
- KCHC 2024 School Health Policy Priorities – Draft Recommendations for Discussion.

Meeting Notes:

I. Member Updates

- The ThriveKY coalition and the Cabinet for Health and Family Services will hold their Quarterly Advocacy Update on state and federal policies with an impact on Kentucky families on October 3, 2023, 2:00 to 3:30 ET.
- The Foundation for a Healthy Kentucky is holding its Howard L. Bost Memorial Health Policy Forum: Healthcare Workforce S.O.S. on October 11. The free, daylong event will highlight some of the factors contributing to the shortage and explore potential solutions. Learn and



collaborate with experts on ways we can better support our healthcare providers, optimize the use of our resources, and sustain the current workforce.

- Kentucky Voices for Health (KVH) & the coalition of ThriveKY partners will provide in-person around the Commonwealth events this year, April through November, with updates on state and federal policies that impact the health and wellbeing of Kentuckians.
- The Bounce Coalition will hold its virtual Bounce Grand Rounds forum on October 17. The forum will provide conversation around fostering cross-sector collaboration to build a trauma-informed community.
- The Pediatric Behavioral and Mental Health Symposium will take place November 3. Presentation topics include intergenerational trauma, mental health challenges of displaced youth, tele-mental health and mental health concerns of individuals with autism spectrum disorder.
- Cairn Guidance director, Jess Lawrence, is facilitating the Louisville Medicaid Coalition (October through Nov.8). More information in the coming weeks.
- Hannah Edelen, the new Director of Policy and Strategic Initiatives for Kentucky Youth Advocates introduced herself. She will be leading the Bloom Kentucky initiative and working on K-12 policy.

II. Task force on School Campus Security and Trauma-informed Schools' Legislation

Dr. Joe Bargione and Dr. Sheila Schuster provided the steering committee with an overview of their presentations to the School Campus Security task force.

The PowerPoint presentations were included in the meeting packet (Task Force on School Campus Security – Dr. Joe Bargione. Strengthening Trauma-Informed Schools for Prevention and Resilience – Dr. Sheila Schuster

Comments to overview:

- The initial legislation (SB1 and SB8) had some limitations with respect to not requiring the 171 school districts to put the trauma-informed school plans in one place, it did not require them to send them to the Kentucky Department of Education (KDE). KDE has been working with the Center for Trauma and Children on an analysis of the plans they have been able to review.
- There is interest in the building resiliency aspect of the work and talking about positive childhood experiences. Representatives have not heard speak of the PCEs. Framework.
- There needs to be a strong focus on all children, not just ones in tier 3. Preventative work needs to be emphasized. If we do better with tier 1 supports, even if we don't have more mental health providers, we will be able to bring about change.
- The impact of SB150 on collecting data on children (change in parents having to opt-in for student surveys) was talked about and of interest to legislators.
- Related to SB150, it was reported that a legal team in Lexington was preparing to file a law suit to challenge the education part of SB 150.
- Suicide prevention programs: KDE in partnership with DBHDID is doing a wonderful job providing resources to districts. School districts receive federal grants. The AWARE program (which has



been renewed) has shown great results, but it does not reach all school districts. More resources are needed for districts to have trauma-informed trainings.

- Ray of Sunshine - an organization dedicated to suicide prevention — is creating some “Smile Clubs” across the state that are supposed to serve as peer-to-peer support groups.

III. Kentucky Coalition for Healthy Children 2024 School Health Policy Priorities

The Steering Committee packet included the initial set of recommendations for the 2024 legislative session. The document with recommendations and the supporting data and narrative will be finalized at the October 2023 meeting of the steering committee.

The suggested changes and comments to the policy recommendations are as follows.

Children’s Mental Health Recommendations

- Change of language “trauma-informed teams”.
- Include the periodical review of trauma-informed school plans. A suggestion was made to make this more specific, recommend that the trauma-informed revision be incorporated into the existing yearly CDIP process (for districts) and CSIP process (for schools). Make it a part of an instituted cycle.
- Use “promoting” resilience instead of “building”. The steering committee was also informed of an emerging concept “prosilient”.
- With respect to the corporal punishment recommendation, it was noted that KDE produces the school safety report, and the use of corporal punishment has continued to shrink. However, it is still something which should be eliminated.

Childhood Obesity Prevention

- Include that the task force for PE also incorporate skills-based health education.
- Various members of the committee emphasized the importance of physical activity and education in schools. Recess was talked about. Also, School recess playground equipment needs to be accessible for children with physical disabilities, some thing to make sure schools are aware.

Next Meeting: October 31, 2023 - Zoom