



Kentucky Coalition for Healthy Children

Steering Committee Meeting Notes

July 27, 2021, 1:00 to 2:00 EST

Attendees:

Sheila Schuster	Advocacy Action Network	Jim Tackett	Kentucky Department of Education
Kelly Pullen	Aetna Better Health of Kentucky KY SKY Program	Elizabeth Anderson-Hoagland Nicole Barber-Culp	Kentucky Department for Public Health
Joe Bargione Beverly Winsch	Bounce Coalition	Dana Nickles	Kentucky Health Departments Association
Tracey Antle	Cumberland Family Medical Center Inc.	Gannon Tagher	Kentucky Nurses Association
Jessica Lawrence	Cairn Guidance, Inc.	Penny Christian	Kentucky Parent Teacher Association – 16 th District
Vestena Robbins	Dept. Behavioral Health, Dev.& Intellectual Disabilities	David Bolt Molly Lewis	Kentucky Primary Care Association
Lucy Senters	Kentucky Department for Medicaid Services	Emily Beuregard Cara Stewart	Kentucky Voices for Health
Amalia Mendoza Allison Adams Ashley Brauer	Foundation for a Healthy Kentucky	Elle Humphrey	St. Elizabeth Healthcare
Lauren Sherraw	GLSEN Bluegrass	Pukur Patel	Seven Counties Services / Bellewood & Brooklawn Inc.
Mike Stone	Kentucky Council on Problem Gambling	J. Eric Davis	United HealthCare Community Plan of Kentucky

Meeting Objectives:

- Finalize “Policy Priority Tree”
- Coalition Steering Committee Survey
- Determine Next Steps on recommendations to School Funding Task Force & Racial Equity Conversation

Pre-Meeting Materials to Review:

- KCHC Policy Tree- Draft
- Notes for back of Policy Tree-Draft
- Recommendations for the letter to the School Funding Task Force – Draft

Meeting Notes:

I. Member Updates

- The Steering Committee welcome a new member organization, **Seven Counties Services/Bellewood & Brooklawn Inc.**, represented by Dr. Pukur Patel.



- A meeting took place on July 13, 2021 with the Commissioner of the Department of Education, Dr. Jason E. Glass, and Kentucky Coalition for Healthy Children (KCHC) Steering Committee members. The Steering Committee was represented by Ben Chandler, Coalition Chair, Dr. Sheila Schuster, from Advocacy Action Network, Emily Beauregard, from Kentucky Voices for Health, Joe Bargione from the Bounce Coalition / KYA, Elise Kearns, from the University of Kentucky, Allison Adams, the Foundation's VP for Policy and Amalia Mendoza, the KCHC Coalition Coordinator.

The Commissioner reviewed and discussed with the group the coalition's policy recommendations document. The outcome of the meeting was Dr. Glass referring our recommendations to his policy staff at the Kentucky Department of Education in order to coordinate a project or campaign with the coalition based on joint policy priorities.

- On July 26, Governor Beshear and Commissioner Glass held a press conference to talk about guidance for schools considering the Delta variant's impact. The three main points made:
 1. Unvaccinated students and staff should use masks in the classroom and indoor settings.
 2. School districts with students under 12 should use masks in the classroom and indoor settings
 3. School districts that want to optimize the number of days in person should consider using masks in the classroom and indoor settings.

There are 2.2 million people in Kentucky who are still unvaccinated. The upsurge is a preventable problem through increased vaccinations.

- Kentucky SHAPE held its Summer Conference on July 18. This is an important conference related to physical activity. The Mary Ann Miller Award was given to the Governor. Dr. Brian Creasman was among the key note speakers.
- Kentucky Youth Advocates and the Foundation for a Healthy Kentucky, among other Kentucky Foundations, is launching the new Bloom Kentucky campaign for developing and implementing policies with an impact on Adverse Childhood Experiences. The launch will take place August 24, 2021 at the Kentucky Derby Museum.
- ThriveKY will be holding their quarterly forum with CHFS on August 3rd at 2pm ET. Staff from the Kentucky Department for Public Health will discuss recommendations for COVID safety as kids are returning to school:
[https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZlocuGtqzgtE9FA3wSiE70Eg5L9FeDkfdLQ](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/8448111790)

II. KCHC Steering Committee Survey

Dr. Beverly Winsch was invited to presented on the Kentucky Coalition for Healthy Children's Steering Committee Survey. Dr. Winsch is a lead evaluator of federal and state funded programs with more than 25 years of experience in research and program evaluation. She has been contracted by the Foundation for a Healthy Kentucky to develop a survey for the Steering Committee, which will be applied annually.



The purpose of this survey is to assess the role of the Steering Committee partners in advancing the KCHC's vision and mission, the strength of the partnership, and changes in the coalition's capacity with the Foundation's support. The survey is part of the Foundation's ongoing evaluation of its support to the KCHC.

The survey will be sent the second week of September 2021, constituting the baseline for measuring the Coalition's progress. All Steering Committee members are strongly encouraged to participate in the survey.

III. KCHC Policy Tree

The following comments were received from the Steering Committee members regarding the first draft of the Kentucky Coalition for Healthy Children's priority policies, as presented in the "Policy Tree":

- Use "Skills-Based Substance-Use Prevention Education" instead of tobacco prevention. Tobacco should be highlighted, however, because it is still a leading cause of death. Suggest "Skills-based tobacco and substance use prevention education."
- Instead of "eliminate corporal punishment", which is punitive, use restorative justice language instead.
- Excitement around School Equity Committees.
- Should add language related to supporting the continuum of care between schools and other services and programs.
- Need to connect with other organizations doing work in these policy areas in order to not duplicate their work.
- While the school setting is the focus of the KCHC work; should we look into how children in residential facilities are touched by our work?

IV. School Funding Task Force. Racial Equity.

The Steering Committee reviewed the draft recommendations to be submitted to the Kentucky Legislature's School Funding Task Force. The group agreed on including the following three in the letter to the Task Force from the Coalition:

1. Make full-day Kindergarten funding permanent.

The current budget allocation for one year of full-day Kindergarten statewide is a good start, but for it to really make a difference, it needs to be funded annually.

2. Restore the state's portion of the SEEK base per-pupil amount to at least where it was in 2008 in real dollars.

The Center on Budget and Policy Priorities report showing core, inflation-adjusted per student funding for K-12 education ranked Kentucky 4th worst in the nation with a 13% cut between 2008 and 2019.

3. Fully fund school transportation costs.

KRS 157.370 requires full funding of school transportation costs, which has not been done since 2004; school transportation costs are currently funded at 55% of the statutorily required amount.



Additionally, members of the group suggested a fourth point that could be highlighted is that of equity.

A draft letter will be sent to the Steering Committee before it is sent by the Coalition Chair to the School Funding Task Force.

The group spoke to the importance of having a meeting around the issue of racial equity considering the bill proposals about critical race theory. Rep. Matt Lockett, R-Nicholasville/ co-sponsors Rep. Jennifer Decker, R-Waddy - Bill Request 69 - the goal of BR 69 is to ban the teaching and promoting of critical race theory in Kentucky's public schools.

The August meeting of the Coalition would potentially be dedicated to the issue. The Committee agreed it would be good to invite a presenter with expertise in racial equity. The speaker names suggested:

Dr. Brandy Kelly Pryor: Director of Strategy with the Humana Foundation, with expertise in health equity, social justice youth development, racial justice, and community capacity building.

Aja Barber, M.S.: Community Health Administrator, Center for Health Equity in Louisville. Consultant.

Dr. Steven Kniffley Jr.: Coordinator for the Collective Care Center and Chief Diversity Officer for Spalding University.

Next Meeting:

August 31, 2021. 1:00 to 2:00 EST.