



Kentucky Coalition for Healthy Children

Steering Committee Meeting Notes

January 30, 2024, 1:00 to 2:00 EST. Virtual Meeting.

Attendees:

Sheila Schuster	Advocacy Action Network	Gannon Tagher	Kentucky Nurses Association
Joe Bargione Beverly Winsch	Bounce Coalition	Penny Christian	Kentucky Parent Teacher Association – 16th District
Vestena Robbins	Dept. Behavioral Health, Dev.& Intellectual Disabilities	Emily Beauregard Cara Stewart Kelly Taulbee	Kentucky Voices for Health
Amalia Mendoza Alexandra Kerley Katy Walker	Foundation for a Healthy Kentucky	Alicia Whatley	Kentucky Youth Advocates
Mike Stone	Kentucky Council on Problem Gambling	Jordan Ojile Michael Callan	Prichard Committee
Erica Jones Annette Newsome	Kentucky Department for Medicaid Services	Jennifer Sumeracki	Trans Parent Lex
Elizabeth Anderson- Hoagland	Kentucky Department for Public Health	Eric Davis Andrea Blair	United Health Care

Meeting Objectives:

- The Steering Committee will review member organizations’ survey input on advocacy activities related to each of the KCHC priority areas.
- The Steering Committee will discuss KHCH priority bills to support or oppose during the 2024 Legislative Session and their organization’s positions on each.
- The Steering Committee will begin an environmental scan on key legislators’ positions and those of the organizations outside of KCHC on bills that are priority for KCHC.

Meeting Materials

- KCHC Bill Tracker – 2024 Legislative Session
- KCHC Steering Committee Advocacy Activities- 2024 Policy Priorities

Meeting Notes:

I. Member Updates

- The Kentucky Council on Problem Gambling (KYCPG) is holding its 27th Annual Educational and Awareness Conference March 7-8, 2024. Registration: [here](#).
- Ignite KYouth: Enforce Tobacco 21 Rally on February 15, 2024, at the State Capitol. Contact: Nemeth.griffin@uky.edu To learn more [here](#). Register [here](#).
- 874K – ARMS Rally will take place February 27, 2024 at the State Capitol. To learn more [here](#). RSVP to ccdd@ky.gov
- KY Dept for Behavioral Health presented a report in January report to the State Interagency Council (SIAC).



- The States Tobacco Conference will take place in April.
- The Foundation for a Healthy Kentucky held a Health for a Change webinar on ACEs, Substance Use Disorder, and Prevention. The recording is available [here](#).
- Kentucky Voices for Health (KVH) published its 2024 Health Justice Bill Tracker [here](#).
- Kentucky Youth Advocate (KYA) published its 2024 Bill Tracker [here](#).

II. Review of Advocacy Activities Survey

The Steering Committee received the spreadsheet with the results of the advocacy and lobbying activities each member organization carries out in the four priority areas of the KCHC: school funding, children’s mental health, childhood obesity prevention, and tobacco use prevention.

This is an internal tool not just for the Kentucky Coalition for Healthy Children to know the areas and activities member organizations are interested in for advocacy purposes, but for each organization to also know and use this for support to their advocacy efforts with support from other member organizations.

III. KCHC Priority Bill Discussion & Environmental Scan

The Steering Committee reviewed the bills presented for discussion, having received the spreadsheet with all the bills for consideration which had a direct or indirect impact on children’s health, especially those in the school setting. The discussion would lead to determining which bills should be sent to the full committee for a vote via Survey Monkey.

The following bills were selected to be sent for a vote by the full committee:

To support: HB10, HB36, HB93, HB189 (SB40), HB273, HB274, HB275, HB30, HB330, HB364, HB376, SB34.

To oppose: HB2, HB41, HB51, HB142, HB177, HB304, SB93.

Additional comments were made on the following bills:

- HB2 modify constitution – funds to private schools:
 - Is likely to move forward given support by leadership.
 - Takes money away from public schools. Other states (Florida) where this was done, the funding for public school was strongly impacted; when a child moves to a charter school, funding goes with that child, leaving those in the public school with less funds.
 - Decreases federal dollars to schools as well.
 - Private schools are expensive and the amount the follows the child won’t cover everything in the private school. Economically disadvantaged families might not benefit.
 - It will be important to provide information on what people are voting for if it goes on the Ballot. KYA is holding a forum on school funding in December and exploring the implications of this. They may do some polling advocacy.

Bill to be monitored.

- HB142 – Vaping:



- Brings back status offenses, PUP provisions.
- Having children in contact with the juvenile justice system is negative. Has been assigned to education.
- KVH opposes.
- HB 93 – Healthy Farm and Food Innovation Fund:
 - Support by Foundation for a Healthy Kentucky.
- Restrictions to immunizations should be opposed, such as HB177. However, KVH does support HB274 which allows pharmacists to immunize minors down to age 3 (note: was modified to age 5).
- Various organizations expressed support to HB330 – youth mental health protection (KYA, Trans Parent Lex, similar bill was supported by the KCHC in a past session).
- Various organizations expressed strong opposition to SB93 – anti-DEI bill that also removes trauma-informed care, plan, team, approaches from schools (Foundation, KVH, KY Council for Children with Behavior Disorders, Bounce, KYA). It was mentioned that some legislators could be under the impression that funding for trauma informed care was being funneled to DEI programming.
- HB141 weakens statewide water fluoridation mandate so should be considered for inclusion.
- KVH expressed support for HB10 and SB34 and HB376.
- Trans Parent Lex expressed support for HB376 as well.

Next Meeting: February 27, 2024. 1:00 to 2:00 Zoom Meeting.