



## Kentucky Coalition for Healthy Children

### Steering Committee Meeting Notes

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

#### Attendees

Sheila Schuster	Advocacy Action Network	Jim Tackett	Kentucky Department of Education
Melissa McDonald	Alliance for a Healthier Generation	Stephanie Bunge	Kentucky Department of Education
Joe Bargione	Bounce Coalition	Lucy Senters	Kentucky Department for Medicaid Services
Jessica Lawrence	Cairn Guidance	Gannon Tagher	Kentucky Nurses Association
Tracey Antle	Cumberland Family Medical Center, Inc.	Nicole Barber-Culp	KY Department for Public Health
Amalia Mendoza	Foundation for a Healthy Kentucky	Emily Beuregard	Kentucky Voices for Health
Amanda Goldman	Gordon Food Services	Alicia Whatley	Kentucky Youth Advocates
Eva Stone	Jefferson County Public Schools	Laura Beard	Prichard Committee for Academic Excellence
Rhonda Caldwell.	Kentucky Association of School Administrators	Ellee Humphrey	St. Elizabeth Healthcare
Mike Stone	Kentucky Council on Problem Gambling	Liza Creel	University of Louisville School of Public Health and Information Sciences

#### Meeting Objectives:

- Review 2021 Legislation – bills filed with an impact on children’s health and schools; discuss any possible actions.
- Review and discuss the Whole School, Whole Community, Whole Child framework as it relates to the Kentucky Coalition for Healthy Children’s work moving forward.

#### Pre-Meeting Materials Included in Packet:

- 2021 Legislature – Bills with Impact on Children’s Health and Schools
- Whole School, Whole Community, Whole Child Fact Sheet
- Healthy People 2030 – Children’s Objectives: <https://health.gov/healthypeople/objectives-and-data/browse-objectives/children>

#### Meeting Notes:

##### I. Updates

- The information sheet introducing the Kentucky Coalition for Healthy Children to legislators was sent electronically to all members of the General Assembly. In just the first couple of hours, 63% had opened the email. A follow up hard copy will be sent.
- A letter with the information sheet will be sent to the Kentucky Coalition for Healthy Children members. The KCHC web site has also been updated with the logos sent in by Steering Committee members and the information sheets. <https://www.kentuckyhealthychildren.org/>



- As part of the evaluation activities of the Foundation, we're contracting with Dr. Beverly Winsch to develop a coalition survey so that we can track our progress. This will be linked to the Coalition's work developing goals, a logic model and strategies.
- Kentucky Youth Advocates announced their Children's Advocacy Week at the Capitol, February 1 through the 5th: [KYA -Capitol](#). The KYA Bill Tracker can be found at the following link: [KYA Bill Tracker](#)
- The Kentucky Council on Problem Gambling annual conference will be held virtually March 11-12 and will have presentations on video gaming and its links to addiction and gambling. For more information, e-mail Mike Stone at: [kmstone1951@gmail.com](mailto:kmstone1951@gmail.com).
- The Prichard Committee for Academic Excellence's Education Bill Tracker and 5 priorities can be found at the following link: [Prichard- Bill Tracker](#)
- Kentucky Voices for Health and the Advocacy Action Network have put together a General Assembly 2021 Accessibility Guide, which can be found at the following link: [AAN - GA Accessibility Guide](#).

## II. 2021 Legislative Session

Dr. Sheila Schuster presented an update of the 2021 Legislative Session.

- This is a very short session with much to cover, including the budget. The General Assembly will come back February 2 and adjourn March 30, so a lot is being crammed into few days.
- Changes have been made to the operating rules of the House and the Senate which have added a level of difficulty for citizen input:
  - There will now be only a 24 hour notice for a bill to get on the agenda for a committee hearing.
  - Since there are limitations to access due to working remotely, written comments can still be sent to the committee chairs and staff but it's hard to know if those comments will be disseminated to committee members.
  - Amendments to bills are required to have a fiscal impact statement and this would usually take more than the 24 hours allowed for amendments.
  - The new rules indicate bills don't need to be assigned to a committee upon introduction. For example, two bills that are important to protecting youth in Kentucky, HB19 and SB 30, related to protecting youth mental health, have not been assigned to committees.
- The Steering Committee received an update chart of bills filed with impact on children and youth health. Dr. Schuster highlighted some of these bills:
  - Special attention needs to be given to a number of bills filed related to vaccines [SB8, SB 37, SB 98, SB 117, HB 36 and HB 101], with several bills removing requirements for children to be vaccinated before they go to day care or schools. Already a letter has been sent signed by over 20 organizations, warning of the dangers of SB 8 which broadens the exemptions to vaccines.
  - SB21 related to mental health treatment of a minor passed out of committee. It solves the problem with transportation of youth to a hospital without a psychiatric unit. It also allows homeless youth to be able to sign their own permission slip to receive mental health treatment. This is very important as it relates to certain populations, for example LGBTQ youth have high rates of mental health problems and many times are alienated from their parents, so this makes it easier for them to get treatment.



- There is a Legislative Message Line which can easily be used in advocacy efforts:  
1-800-372-7181

### III. Whole School, Whole Community, Whole Child framework

Stephanie Bunge, Student Tracking and Data Branch Coordinator with the Kentucky Department of Education, presented an overview of the Whole School, Whole Community, Whole Child (WSCC) framework. A summary was included in the meeting packet. The full committee participated in a Padlet exercise on possible strategies for each of the 10 WSCC components:

WSCC Components	Possible Strategies
<b>Health Education</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Adopt an SEL curriculum like Second Steps</li> <li>• School nurses can provide education to both children and families about health topics pertinent for the age</li> </ul>
<b>Physical Education and Physical Activity</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Creating trauma informed PE curriculum</li> <li>• Incorporating SEL le</li> <li>• High school students as physical activity mentors for elementary students</li> <li>• Utilize Health Moves Minds curriculum</li> </ul>
<b>Employee Wellness</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Work with HR on supporting</li> <li>• Provide training opportunities for staff on Staff Wellness, specifically on SEL</li> <li>• Make nursing services available to staff and teachers</li> <li>• Train staff in self-care to recognize signs of compassion fatigue</li> </ul>
<b>Counseling, Psychological &amp; Social Services</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Have BH providers visit classrooms on regular basis</li> </ul>
<b>Nutrition Environment &amp; Services</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensure there are rules and policies so all students feel emotionally safe eating in the cafeteria</li> <li>• Creating a space for high school students to eat breakfast, socialize, plug in their phones, etc. (Worked with a school to do this to increase breakfast consumption)</li> </ul>
<b>Community Involvement</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Create a local SEL task force with the help of community partners who can offer services for staff, students and parents on self-care</li> <li>• Connect with local churches to educate on trauma informed care and resiliency skills</li> <li>• Have health professionals visit the school</li> </ul>
<b>Social and Emotional School Climate</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensure policies have an equity, diversity, accessibility and inclusion lens</li> </ul>
<b>Family Engagement</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prepare a presentation and panel or community discussion on Adverse Childhood Experiences and their impact on children’s wellbeing</li> <li>• Educate parents how to build resiliency skills in their children</li> </ul>
<b>Physical Environment</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• For posters, etc. use images that reflect the diversity of the student body</li> </ul>
<b>Health Services</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• School nurse coordinates with the School Counselor to teach some SEL classes in health</li> <li>• Training for school nurses on assessing students for mental health concerns when they present with somatic complaints; include information on referral supports with that training</li> <li>• Provide TA to schools to leverage Medicaid to fund school nurses</li> <li>• Promote supports for data sharing agreements</li> </ul>



Additional resources were suggested by members of the committee:

- Strategies for Integrating WSCC  
<https://www.cdc.gov/healthyschools/wscs/strategies.htm>
- Toolkit for Supporting the Whole Child During a Pandemic:  
<http://www.cairnguidance.com/resources-publications>
- Stories from around the US (High School) related to SEL/Mental Health:  
<http://www.cairnguidance.com/wscs>

#### **IV. Legislative Action**

The Steering Committee approved developing a summary information sheet on the importance of vaccinating children and sending that sheet, along with a letter to the Chair of the Senate Health and Welfare Committee and the House Health and Family Services Committee.

#### **Next Meeting:**

**February 23, 2021. 1:00 to 2:00 EST.**