



Kentucky Coalition for Healthy Children

Steering Committee Meeting Notes

August 29, 2023, 1:00 to 2:00 EST.

Attendees:

Sheila Schuster	Advocacy Action Network	Elizabeth Anderson-Hoagland	Kentucky Department for Public Health
Candance Gurley	Aetna Better Health of Kentucky	Melissa Goins	Kentucky Department for Public Health -Division of FRYSCs
Jess Lawrence	Cairn Guidance, Inc.	Penny Christian	Kentucky Parent Teacher Association – 16th District
Vestena Robbins	Dept. Behavioral Health, Dev.& Intellectual Disabilities	Gannon Tagher	Kentucky Nurses Association
Kate McDonald Goodin	Feeding Kentucky	Laurie Grimes	Kentucky Psychological Association
Amalia Mendoza Katy Walker	Foundation for a Healthy Kentucky	Emily Beauregard Cara Stewart	Kentucky Voices for Health
Lori Vogel	Kentucky Association for School Social Work	Alicia Whatley	Kentucky Youth Advocates
Mike Stone	Kentucky Council on Problem Gambling	J. Eric Davis Jacob Archibald Stephanie Koenig	United Healthcare
Jim Tackett Stephanie Bunge	Kentucky Department of Education	Rachel Farr	University of Kentucky
Erica Jones	Kentucky Department for Medicaid Services		

Meeting Objectives:

- The Steering Committee will discuss recommendations related to trauma-informed schools' legislation.
- The Steering Committee will learn about and discuss the findings from the Bloom Initiative listening tour of 9 regions of the state designed to hear from community members about the biggest challenges facing children and families.
- The Steering Committee will begin to discuss the 2024 School Health Agenda for the next legislative session.

Pre-Meeting Documents to Review:

- Trauma-informed schools – pertinent sections of SB1(2019 GA) and SB8 (2020 GA) currently in statute.
- Bloom Kentucky Listening Tour materials:
 - Summary from each region
 - A graphic developed to help visualize the trends.

Meeting Notes:

I. Member Updates

- The Prichard Committee's [Community Schools](#) Initiative has opened its application for Full-Service Community Schools. Twenty school districts across Kentucky will develop local responses to the unique needs of students and families, ultimately improving academic outcomes. A total of



\$30 million will be distributed over five years, each selected district will receive \$1.5 million, equivalent to \$300,000 per year, to bring communities to the table and implement this research-informed framework. The application for selecting the 16 new districts is live and will remain open until August 25, 2023. Link to the application form: [Prichard Committee Community Schools](#)

- Kentucky Youth Advocates has a **Health Youth Ambassadors** program, "a statewide cohort that engages youth to learn about advocacy and policy, address social determinants of health through policy change, and advocate for themselves and their peers on health-related issues." Link to the application form for interested high school students: [Health Youth Ambassadors](#).
- Feeding Kentucky reminds us that during the summer months families who counted on school breakfast and lunch can have a difficult time stretching the family food budgets. The Summer Food Service Program helps low-income children up to age 18 at risk of inadequate nutrition with free meals during the summer months when school is not in session. For program information visit the [USDA Summer Food Service Program website](#) and the [KY Kids Eat website](#).
- Aetna Better Health Medicaid stresses the importance of well child visits and vaccinations as the best way to prevent illness and help children's immune systems to fight off infections. Aetna has an age-by-age schedule to well-child visits, vaccinations and keeping children healthy, link [here](#).
- 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 September 5 2023, 2:00 to 3:30 ET. Register [here](#).
- 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. Click [here](#) for more information.

II. Trauma Informed Schools Legislation

Dr. Sheila Schuster, Executive Director of the Advocacy Action Network, presented on the School Safety and Resilience Act (SB1-2019, SB8 - 2020). The emphasis was on the trauma-informed plans and approach of the legislation. A trauma-informed approach means incorporating principles of trauma awareness and trauma-informed practices in schools with the purpose of fostering a safe, stable, and understanding learning environment for all students and staff.

The slides for the presentation were sent to the Steering Committee. Dr. Schuster added that conversations with Representative Lisa Wilner and Senator Max Wise had taken place to coordinate a presentation she and Dr. Joe Bargione, KCHC Steering Committee members, will give at the September 19, 2023, meeting of the Task Force on School and Campus Security.

Comments from the Steering Committee members included a conversation around whether Adverse Childhood Experiences were being used to identify trauma in schools, given that children really don't know what to say when they experience it.

The importance of having a good definition of trauma was raised and talk about who would be included given the definition. For example, it was important to ensure that LGBTQ+ students can receive services related to trauma that is caused by interpersonal and institutional discrimination



and stigma, such as that contained in SB150 and other anti-queer societal sentiments and structures.

Additionally, it was also noted that when addressing trauma in schools, it was important to include a discussion on the school to prison pipeline and the need for restorative practices when it comes to discipline.

III. Bloom Kentucky Listening Tour Findings

Alicia Whatley, Policy and Advocacy Director at Kentucky Youth Advocates, gave a presentation on the Bloom Kentucky Listening Tour findings. The listening tour, “Sowing Resilience”, had 350 attendees at 19 community events in May and June 2023.

The top five main challenges expressed by the communities were housing, poverty, substance use, mental health, and childcare.

The presentation provided a review of some of the issues that each region brought up, and highlighted some recommendations to address these issues, including:

- Increasing reimbursement rates for Medicaid mental health providers, as well as increasing rates for childcare workers.
- Prioritizing prevention at the community level, for example, safer, positive activities for youth outside school hours.
- Reducing barriers to resources, such as simplifying application processes, adding transportation, co-locating services, etc.
- Prioritizing state investment in housing, child care, mental health services.

The link to the findings was shared with the Steering Committee (see links above).

The discussion around the KCHC 2024 School Health Policy Priorities was postponed to the next meeting of the Steering Committee.

Next Meeting: September 26, 2023 - Zoom