

INTERIM JOINT COMMITTEE ON HEALTH SERVICES

Minutes of the 1st Meeting of the 2025 Interim

June 18, 2025

Call to Order and Roll Call

The first meeting of the Interim Joint Committee on Health Services was held on June 18, 2025, at 11:00 AM in the Madison Events Center in Covington, Kentucky.

Representative Kimberly Poore Moser, Chair, called the meeting to order, and the secretary called the roll. Gary Moore, Boone County Judge/Executive, welcomed the members and public to the meeting.

Present were:

Members: Senator Stephen Meredith, Co-Chair; Representative Kimberly Poore Moser, Co-Chair; Senators Julie Raque Adams, Karen Berg, Donald Douglas, Keturah Herron, Robby Mills, Michael J. Nemes, Steve Rawlings, Craig Richardson, and Lindsey Tichenor; and Representatives Steve Bratcher, Lindsey Burke, Emily Callaway, Adrielle Camuel, Ryan Dotson, Robert Duvall, Ken Fleming, Deanna Gordon, Kim Holloway, Mary Lou Marzian, Marianne Proctor, Rebecca Raymer, Steve Riley, and Scott Sharp.

Guests: Amanda Fuller, Executive Director, Kentucky Academy of Science; Sara Jo Best, Past President, Kentucky Health Departments Association; Christin Godale, PhD, Executive Director, LifeSciKY; Jon Akers, Executive Director, Kentucky Center for School Safety; Marcie Timmerman, Education and Outreach Liaison, Mental Health America of Kentucky; Beck Whipple, Suicide Prevention Coordinator, Department for Behavioral Health, Developmental and Intellectual Disabilities, Cabinet for Health and Family Services; Stephanie Vogel, M.Ed., MCHES, Director of Population Health, Northern Kentucky Health Department; Denise Durbin, Office of Legal Counsel, Office of Attorney General; Gary Moore, Boone County Judge/Executive; Kris Attema, OneNKY Alliance; Jamie Palumbo, Moms Demand Action; Ashlee Young, Vice President, Policy and Engagement, Interact for Health; Nicole Murone, Social Service Clinician, Children's Law Center; Karen Sherman, Early Childhood Community Engagement Specialist, EC Learn; and Denise Beach, Western Kentucky Representative, Kentucky Health Departments Association.

LRC Staff: DeeAnn Wenk, Chris Joffrion, and D. J. Burns.

Sciences in Kentucky

A. Kentucky Academy of Science - Science and Research Resources

Amanda Fuller, Executive Director, Kentucky Academy of Science, discussed the Academy's history, mission, outreach programs, and available resources.

In response to Senator Rawlings, Ms. Fuller stated she has been in contact with the Department of Education in regards to making contributions and offering to support teachers.

B. Kentucky Health Departments Association - Update on Measles Outbreaks

Sara Jo Best, Past President, Kentucky Health Departments Association (KHDA), discussed KHDA's core areas of focus. Denise Beach, Western Kentucky Representative, Kentucky Health Departments Association, discussed the importance of vaccines to eradicate diseases, recommended ages for immunizations, and information, morbidity, incidence rates, and other facts about measles.

In response to Senator Rawlings, Ms. Best stated KHDA's mission is to prevent, promote, and protect the public health. Ms. Beach stated KHDA would like to see immunization rates above 90 percent.

In response to Representative Callaway, Ms. Beach stated she will always promote vaccines because of outcomes she has seen as a pediatric nurse when patients are not vaccinated.

In response to Senator Tichenor, Ms. Beach stated the level of antigens in vaccines are reviewed by pediatric doctors.

In response to Representative Sharp, Ms. Beach stated the measles rate was very low from 2000 to 2015 then rose in 2020 and 2025.

C. LifeSciKY

Christin Godale, PhD, Executive Director, LifeSciKY, discussed LifeSciKy's available resources, goals, the OneNKY Center progress, and reasons for the need of additional support and funds.

Youth Suicide

A. State of Youth Mental Health and Youth Suicide in Kentucky - Prevention and Postvention

Beck Whipple, Suicide Prevention Coordinator, Department for Behavioral Health, Developmental and Intellectual Disabilities (BHDID), Cabinet for Health and Family

Services (CHFS), discussed the areas of Kentucky's suicide prevention, support for individuals in a suicidal crisis, and building a survivor-centered response to suicide.

In response to Representative Proctor, Mr. Whipple stated BHDID and CHFS are working with Homeland Security to educate the public on the dangers of social media.

In response to Senator Herron, Mr. Whipple stated that firearms are used in 56 percent of youth suicides, and discussed the Armory Project, a peer-to-peer model of suicide prevention for firearm dealers.

Marcie Timmerman, Education and Outreach Liaison, Mental Health America of Kentucky, discussed the 2024 State of Mental Health Report, mental health screening data, youth mental health trainings and materials, suggested steps for suicide prevention, and crisis lines.

Jon Akers, Executive Director, Kentucky Center for School Safety, discussed training school safety coordinators and support for conferences that keep school safety and mental health in the forefront of discussions.

In response to Senator Berg, Ms. Timmerman stated policies that allow gun owners to work on gun safety voluntarily would be helpful.

In response to Representative Fleming, Mr. Akers stated there is \$7.4 million allocated to schools from the state budget for enhancing mental health services in schools.

B. Jaimee Kelley Seitz, Advocate, Mother of Audree Heine

Ms. Seitz discussed her experiences before and after discovering her daughter had died by suicide.

C. Community Response: Boone County Suicide Response Team

Stephanie Vogel, M.Ed., MCHES, Director of Population Health, Northern Kentucky Health Department, discussed the Boone County Suicide Response Team members, partners, mission, data regarding intentional injury deaths from 2020 to 2025, postvention training and services in various areas of the community, and future actions of the team.

In response to Senator Herron, Ms. Vogel stated there is some real-time data related to 988 calls but no real-time data on actual deaths.

D. Cyberbullying and Social Media Influences

Denise Durbin, Office of Legal Counsel, Office of Attorney General, discussed consumer protection litigation against Meta and TikTok, Kentucky's current penal code relating to suicide, and how other states are facing challenges with social media influences on youth.

In response to Representative Moser, Ms. Durbin stated the penal code is written broad enough that a person might be charged if they knowingly by force or duress cause another person's death.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 1:48 PM.