

MAKE AMERICA HEALTHY AGAIN KENTUCKY TASK FORCE

Minutes of the 1st Meeting of the 2025 Interim

June 4, 2025

Call to Order and Roll Call

The first meeting of the Make America Healthy Again Kentucky Task Force was held on June 4, 2025, at 11:30 AM in Room 169 of the Capitol Annex. Senator Shelley Funke Frommeyer, Chair, called the meeting to order, and the secretary called the roll.

Present were:

Members: Senator Shelley Funke Frommeyer, Co-Chair; Representative Matt Lockett, Co-Chair; Senators Donald Douglas, Craig Richardson, and Phillip Wheeler; Representatives Emily Callaway, Robert Duvall, Adam Moore, and Marianne Proctor.

Guests: Senator Stephen Meredith; Senator Lindsey Tichenor; Representative Kimberly Poore Moser; Janie Lindle, League of Women Voters of Kentucky; Sara Jo Best, Executive Director, Kentucky Health Departments Association; Tammy Riley, President, Kentucky Health Departments Association; Debbie Miller, Vice President, Kentucky Health Departments Association; Sally O'Boyle, Founding Member, Kentucky Food Independence Club; and Angela Sheehan, Ark of Wellness.

LRC Staff: DeeAnn Wenk, Logan Bush, and DJ Burns.

Introduction of Members

Senator Funke Frommeyer discussed the goals of the first meeting. Representative Lockett discussed his objectives for the task force. Each task force member then discussed their hopes for the task force.

Overview of the Purpose and Goals of the Task Force

Senator Tichenor hopes for a focus on students learning healthy eating plans and schools having nutritious options. Representative Moser hopes to discuss how nutrition is affecting Kentuckians along with activity levels in schools. Senator Meredith discussed how the unsustainable growth of healthcare costs will impact other committees.

Discussion of Make America Healthy Again (MAHA) Commission Report – May 22nd Summary with State-Level Action Opportunities

Senator Funke Frommeyer highlighted the six key areas of the MAHA Commission Report.

Discussion of Future Topics for the Task Force

Tammy Riley, President, Kentucky Health Departments Association (KHDA), discussed the KHDA's mission and willingness to be a resource for the task force. Sara Jo Best, Executive Director, discussed previously passed public health transformation legislation, and community health assessments. Debbie Miller, Vice President, KHDA, discussed her enthusiasm for the task force.

In response to Senator Funke Frommeyer, Ms. Riley stated community health assessments are available on the KHDA's website, social media, and the Kentucky Department of Public Health's website. Ms. Miller stated each county creates a community health improvement plan with strategic objectives.

In response to Senator Wheeler, Ms. Riley stated KHDA ensures access for high-risk, vulnerable populations through federally qualified health centers, hospitals, clinics, local clinics, senior services, and mobile outreach programs. Ms. Best stated community health assessments review quantitative and qualitative data in different areas with various needs.

In response to Senator Douglas, Ms. Riley stated access to care is a key health priority for all local health departments, especially in eastern Kentucky where there is no public transportation and a lower socioeconomic population. Ms. Best stated transportation is a barrier to healthcare resources in central Kentucky. Ms. Miller stated awareness of prevention screenings is also a barrier.

In response to Representative Lockett, Ms. Best stated the Academy of Science and local health departments work together to standardize community surveys so data can be compared equally.

Sally O'Boyle, Founding Member, Kentucky Food independence Club, discussed electromagnetic radiation exposure, geoengineering, and the effects on food sources.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:41 PM.