

MAKE AMERICA HEALTHY AGAIN KENTUCKY TASK FORCE

Minutes of the 3rd Meeting of the 2025 Interim

August 20, 2025

Call to Order and Roll Call

The third meeting of the Make America Healthy Again Kentucky Task Force was held on August 20, 2025, at 3:00 PM 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: Representative Matt Lockett, Co-Chair; Senator Shelley Funke Frommeyer, Co-Chair; Senators Donald Douglas, Craig Richardson, and Phillip Wheeler; and Representatives Emily Callaway, Robert Duvall, Adam Moore, and Marianne Proctor.

Guests: Senator Stephen Meredith; Maia M. Jack, PhD, Chief Science and Regulatory Officer, American Beverage Association; Dr. Gary Huber, DO, Founder, Huber Personalized Medicine; Chelsea Dorset, RD, LD, Registered Dietitian, Lifestyle Coach, Huber Personalized Medicine; Dr. Thomas J. Larkin, DDS, Founder, Proactive Oral Wellness; and Sara Police, PhD, Associate Professor, Director, Nutritional Sciences Education, College of Medicine, University of Kentucky (UK).

LRC Staff: DeeAnn Wenk, Logan Bush, Cameron Franey, and Becky Lancaster.

Approval of Minutes

A motion to approve the minutes of the July 4, 2025, meeting was made by Representative Duvall, seconded by Co-Chair Lockett, and approved by voice vote.

Beverage Ingredients

Maia M. Jack, PhD, Chief Science and Regulatory Officer, American Beverage Association, discussed the importance of using the totality of science to make the most accurate determinations, declining soda sales and consumption, and U.S. dietary guidelines for low- or no-calorie sweeteners (LNCS).

In response to Representative Proctor, Dr. Jack stated the majority of common ingredients in beverages are not banned in the U.S., Canada, or Europe.

In response to Representative Callaway, Dr. Jack stated the totality of science looks at all parameters for conclusions on the safety of an ingredient and discussed the components, metabolism, and clinical trials of aspartame.

In response to Co-Chair Lockett, Dr. Jack stated LNCS can be used to shift consumers towards healthy options and cane sugar is compositionally and metabolically the same as high fructose corn syrup. She discussed information from a clinical trial regarding sweetness levels.

In response to Chair Funke Frommeyer, Dr. Jack stated aspartame is heat labile, more information is available regarding the temperature degradation of aspartame, and information on goodtoknowfacts.org comes directly from food safety agencies in America and Europe.

In response to Senator Douglas, Dr. Jack stated some organizations and academics agree that overall health outcomes rely on dietary patterns.

Metabolic Syndrome

Dr. Gary Huber, DO, Founder, Huber Personalized Medicine, discussed the definition of metabolic syndrome, an analysis of The National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey, benefits of a whole foods diet, deaths caused by adverse drug events, the rise of health concerns for children, life expectancy rates, phone applications to identify ultra-processed foods, and the importance of exercise.

In response to Senator Wheeler, Dr. Huber stated countries with higher life expectancies have diverse cultures and less access to ultra-processed foods.

In response to Representative Moore, Dr. Huber stated NOVA is a classification system for foods to determine the level of processing or additives within each food.

In response to Representative Proctor, Dr. Huber stated physicians are incentivized to prescribe medications.

In response to Representative Callaway, Dr. Huber stated pesticides found in whole foods could be a health concern but a better alternative to ultra-processed foods and that parents and schools should lead by example when teaching nutrition.

Oral Systemic Health

Dr. Thomas J. Larkin, DDS, Founder, Proactive Oral Wellness, discussed the importance of oral health for systemic health, correlation of insulin resistance to oral disease,

lowered productivity with refined carbohydrates, the Proactive Solutions for Prolonging Resilience (PROSPR) program, other oral health studies, root-cause prevention healthcare recommendations, medical with dental integration solutions, school-based health programs, technology driven prevention, and incentive-based wellness ideas.

In response to Representative Duvall, Dr. Larkin stated universities need to study the root causes of diseases for better prevention knowledge and to reconfigure the job of a school nurse to better educate school-aged children on health.

In response to Co-Chair Lockett, Dr. Larkin stated reducing oral inflammation and proper oral maintenance will help reduce other inflammatory diseases such as diabetes, dementia, and heart disease and he presented a statement regarding adding fluoride in water.

Nutrition Education for Healthcare Providers

Sara Police, PhD, Associate Professor, Director, Nutritional Sciences Education, College of Medicine, UK, discussed the four pillars of UK's mission for nutrition education: nutrition specific medical curriculum, undergraduate and graduate programs with a focus on nutrition, supplemental nutrition education opportunities, and proposed nutrition competencies.

In response to Chair Funke Frommeyer, Dr. Police stated the elective precision nutrition class was added in the spring of 2022, the required classes have been a part of the curriculum for many years, and courses were previously available as continuing education credits.

In response to Co-Chair Lockett, Dr. Police stated there is a food course available to UK freshman during the orientation period at The Food Connection on campus. She is not aware of a nutritional class that is required for all students.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:56 PM.