

School Counselor Advisory Council Meeting
March 25, 2021, at 3:00 p.m. ET
Microsoft Teams

Call to Order: Damien Sweeney, Ph.D.

1. Welcome and introductions
2. Roll call and attendance taken

Approve Summary from Last Meeting

A motion was made by Sarah Akin to approve the Jan. 28 summary minutes and the motion was seconded by Amy Beal. All approved.

Update on Asynchronous Comprehensive School Counseling Course/Kentucky Counselor and College Access Professional Program – KCCAPP (to be pronounced “K CAP”)

- a. Sweeney gave an update on the asynchronous course. This course will include 6 modules. Sweeney discussed each module in detail. This course will be used by practicing school counselors as well as by college advisors and GEAR UP professionals. The hope of this course is to support school counselors in building comprehensive school counseling programs. Sweeney shared that they are hoping to partner with groups such as KET and others. Sweeney discussed modeling the course after ASCA University. Discussion was had by members regarding the course, especially in regards to a name for the course.

KDE Efforts to Support Diversity, Equity and Inclusion: Thomas Woods-Tucker, Ph.D., Deputy Commissioner and Chief Equity Officer, Office of Teaching and Learning, Kentucky Department of Education

- a. Tucker discussed KDE’s commitment to diversity, equity and inclusion in Kentucky schools.
- b. Tucker shared NAEP data, which is a snapshot of reading and math and discussed closing the achievement gap and concerns on how KDE is working with schools and districts to provide equitable learning for all 650,000 Kentucky students.
- c. Tucker shared data from NKYEC (special education, gifted and talented, and suspensions). Tucker shared disproportion rates in all of those areas with students of color.
- d. Tucker discussed implicit bias training for all staff and cultural pedagogy.
- e. Tucker discussed guidance on summer learning to close the gaps. He shared that time on task and maximized class instruction were important. The guidance suggests 5-6 weeks, 60-90 minutes of math, 90-120 reading/writing minutes and 2-3 hours of

enrichment. Tucker suggested at least 20 days of summer learning, as well as offering enrichment and incentives (food and prizes).

- f. Discussion was held about the equity dashboard and indicators through elementary, middle and high school. Some indicators include, promotion, retention, discipline, GT and classrooms and dual credit.
- g. The advisory council was given an opportunity to ask questions about the dashboard.
- h. KDE will be pulling the data and making a video to help with understanding and to see next steps.

Training Opportunities Related to SEL, Trauma-Informed Care and Youth Mental Health First Aid: Deborah Sauber, M.S.W., MSSEM, Branch Manager, Office of Continuous Improvement and Support

- a. Safe and Supportive Schools Branch discussed initiatives they are responsible for such as school safety concerns, school mental health/wellness, suicide prevention, etc.
- b. A discussion was held regarding the trainings offered, and the following opportunities were mentioned: SEL, mindfulness, Sources or Strength, Olweus Bullying Prevention Program, trauma-informed practices for educators, resilience strategies, PBIS/Interconnected Systems Framework and youth mental health first aid.
- c. The advisory council was given an opportunity to ask questions regarding training opportunities.

Announcements (KEPS System, Members Rolling Off, New Application): Damien Sweeney, Ph.D., Office of Teaching and Learning, Kentucky Department of Education

- a. Sweeney shared that the Kentucky Educator Placement Program (KPES) has changed to School Counselor.
- b. Sweeney shared that the KAR related to School Counselors is being changed from Guidance Counselor to School Counselor.
- c. Sweeney discussed a presentation with Ohio Valley school counselors and a presentation simulation. He asked the advisory council members if they thought this would be benDr. Sweeney asked for volunteers to provide feedback on the equity playbook. Members volunteered, and names were placed in the chat box.
- d. Sweeney discussed members rolling off the council and shared that members serve 3 years. He thanked individuals for their service and work on the council and said there would be an application process for new members.

Request for Future Topics: Damien Sweeney, Ph.D., Office of Teaching and Learning, Kentucky Department of Education

- a. Interventions = Tier 1, Tier 2, Tier 3 (MTSS Framework) and intervention matching

- b. Heather Wells from Boyd County shared that the mayor in her community was signing a proclamation for SEL Day, and discussion was held by advisory council members about the day.

Adjournment: Damien Sweeney, Ph.D., Office of Teaching and Learning, Kentucky Department of Education; closing words from Thomas Woods-Tucker, Ph.D., Deputy Commissioner and Chief Equity Officer, Office of Teaching and Learning, Kentucky Department of Education

Future Meetings:

May 24, 2021

Respectfully Submitted,
Sarah Akin