



## **KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION Commissioner's School Counselor Advisory Council SUMMARY**

**THURSDAY FEBRUARY 27, 2025, 10 -11:30A.M.**

**ATTENDANCE:** Completed on Spreadsheet 2/27/25

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Alecia Bush, Strauzie Collins, Scott Danner, Kelly Fox, Fatemia Fuson, Terri Hall, Mary Lewis, Juli Link, Karla McCarty, Kari McGrath, Antonio Melton and Manijeh Reynolds

**SUMMARY:** Minutes from the meeting on Dec. 12, 2024, were approved on a motion and second by Paula Moore and Chloe Wilcher.

### **Agenda Item: Welcome and KDE Greetings**

**Presenter:** Thomas Woods-Tucker, Ph.D., Deputy Commissioner and Chief Equity Officer, Kentucky Department of Education

**Summary of Discussion:** Attendees participated in an inclusive welcome activity led by Michelle Sircy, Ed.D. Woods-Tucker thanked school counselors and acknowledged a mindful moment to reflect on the tragedies that have occurred across Kentucky. Woods Tucker provided updates on the first agriculture week in Kentucky (March 17-21, 2025), KDE celebrated 117 National Certified Teachers, February is CTE month, and the governor signed a proclamation for February to be Gifted Education Month.

### **Agenda Item: Competency Connections: Aligning K-12 and Postsecondary Competencies**

**Presenter:** Rob Collins, Innovative Programs Consultant, Kentucky Department of Education

**Summary of Discussion:** Collins shared information regarding aligning the K-12 Portrait of a Learner with the Post Secondary 10 essential skills. Collins said that alignment will ensure that students are college-ready when leaving K-12, and he welcomed feedback from the School Counselor Advisory Council.

**Feedback:** Sircy said that the mindsets and behaviors of the American School Counselor Association (ASCA) are closely aligned with the Portrait of a Learner. Sircy said she may ask a few advisory council members to help develop a crosswalk between ASCA mindsets and behaviors, K-12 Portrait of a Learner and the post-secondary competencies. A member shared

that she has started including portrait standards in her social-emotional learning lesson plans. Another member made a correlation between the Portrait of a Learner and the Collaborative for Academic and Social-Emotional Learning (CASEL) 5 competencies.

**Agenda Item: Human Trafficking**

**Presenter:** Judy Vanderhaar, Ph.D., and Blake Konny, Division of Student Success Kentucky Department of Education

**Summary of Discussion:** Vanderhaar and Blake Konny shared resources related to Human Trafficking in Kentucky as well as resources they are currently developing. KRS 156.095 requires public schools to display the National Human Trafficking Reporting Hotline information. The presenters acknowledged that students may not know what human trafficking is and therefore cannot report it. If school counselors would like posters, they should email Vanderhaar [judi.vanderhaar@education.ky.gov](mailto:judi.vanderhaar@education.ky.gov) or [blake.konny@education.ky.gov](mailto:blake.konny@education.ky.gov) and they will send those. Counselors should specify if they need English/Spanish and what age. Vanderhaar recommends the Love 146 curriculum for schools. She and Konny are working on developing professional learning opportunities for the summer.

**Agenda Item: School Counselor Use of Time**

**Presenter:** Michelle Sircy, Ed.D, Program Coordinator of Comprehensive School Counseling, Kentucky Department of Education

**Summary of Discussion:** Currently, the report is being finalized. One challenge that the advisory council noted on the anonymous survey is that time is an issue with tracking their time. Sircy is planning to gain assistance in developing a one-page guidance document. Sircy will also share time-tracking resources with counselors.

**Agenda Item: Questions and Additional Feedback**

There were no other questions or additional feedback

**Adjournment and Next Meeting:**

Meeting adjourned at 11:22 a.m. Next meeting is May 29, 2025, 10 - 11:30 a.m.