

**SCHOOL COUNSELOR ADVISORY COUNCIL**

**NOV. 30, 2023, 10 A.M. ET  
VIRTUAL MEETING**

**Purpose:** The School Counselor Advisory Council (SCAC) is designed to provide the commissioner of education with direct input from school counselors who serve in Kentucky public schools. Bridging the gap between policy and practice, the SCAC advises the commissioner on educational priorities that meet the needs of the whole child, ensuring the provision to our community of a transition-ready workforce.

**AGENDA**

**I. Welcome**

Damien Sweeney, Ed.D, Director of Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Belonging (DEIB), Kentucky Department of Education (KDE)

**II. Roll Call of Member**

Caryn Scheiding, School Counseling Advisory Council Chairperson

Members in Attendance: Sarah Akin, Travis Kern, Elizabeth Barnett, Kaet Barron, Beth Fleming, Carl Schoensiegel, Caryn Scheiding, Chelsey Craine, Cordia Pickerill, Courtney Benefield, Scott Danner, Terri Hall, Jalina Wheeler, John Hargis, Juli Link, Kelly Fox, Jessica Longland, Kari McGarth, Kayla Kinney, Antonio Melton, Heather Moore, Paula Moore, Mindy Rose, Santina Plotter, Suzanne Gibbs, Chloe Wilcher, Kristyn Williamson

**III. Inclusion Activity**

Damien Sweeney, Director of Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Belonging, Kentucky Department of Education

**IV. Kentucky Department of Education Updates**

Damien Sweeney, Director of Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Belonging, Kentucky Department of Education

Sweeney gave a KDE Update including information on the statewide school counselor cadre that will be held on Dec. 5. In this cadre, counselors will be partnering with other school-based mental health professionals. Counselors will hear from the presidents of school counselors, school psychologists and school social workers as well as FRYSC. The focus will be on creating collaborative student support systems with school based mental health professionals.

Sweeney shared information about the eight new counselor academies that are being hosted at the educational cooperatives and what great sessions they have been. He discussed the asynchronous modules being completed and said one will specifically be on social emotional learning. Sweeney and Michelle Sircy, Ed.D, KDE's program coordinator for Comprehensive School Counseling, will be presenting on an ASCA

webinar on Dec. 19 about how data can create equitable environments. Sweeney had some additional updates from the DEIB team on the equity playbook; Governor School of the Arts; and Advanced Placement (AP) testing that no student in Kentucky will pay more than \$12 for an exam. He also discussed how to use attendance, behavior and course passing (ABC) data in making decisions in their counseling programs.

Sweeney said the DEIB team along with the educational cooperatives are completing a book study on the “Energy Bus” by John Gordon.

Sweeney also provided an update on the use of time survey that was due Nov. 1. There are still 28 districts that have not turned in their results. He shared some information on questions that were asked about the survey specifically on direct and indirect services and how they could not add additional to the survey based off what the law states. Sweeney also discussed vibrant learning experiences and related work at KDE. Members of the advisory council were given an opportunity to ask any questions.

#### **V. School Counselor Share-Out**

Some advisory council members shared about programs they are doing in their school to decrease chronic absenteeism.

Sweeney asked the group about training they would like to see offered. Members suggested Tier 2 and Tier 3 social and emotional learning (SEL) support, multi-tiered system of supports (MTSS) Tier 2 and Tier 3, school counselor advocacy, multilingual learners, training for principals to help them understand their role better, community/family involvement, interventions, data, school counselor pipeline, available grants to school counselors, high school balancing Tier 1, Senate Bill 150.

A request was made to have a comprehensive calendar with training and conferences available. Members of the group along with Sweeney discussed educator wellbeing.

Advisory council members shared examples of how they use Impact Kentucky data to better help the educators in their building. They also shared ideas to increase educator well-being within their school.

#### **VI. National School Counseling Week**

National School Counseling week is Feb. 5-9, and the theme is “School Counseling, Standards-Based, Student Focused.”

#### **VII. Questions and Additional Feedback**

A question was asked about the use of time survey and why the questions change each year. It was just shared that with the questions changing, it is hard to track data over time. No other questions were asked.

#### **VIII. Adjournment and Optimistic Closure**

##### **Future Meetings:**

Feb. 8, 10-11:30 a.m. ET

May 30, 10-11:30 a.m. ET