



KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION COMMISSIONER'S SCHOOL COUNSELING ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING SUMMARY

MAY 13, 2020

ATTENDANCE: Sara Akin, Hopkinsville; Jack Breunig, Elizabethtown; Heather Bushellman, Boone County; Karen Coleman, KEDC; Dana Goins, Jefferson County; Lacy Gross, CKEC; Ashley Hall, Bourbon County; Kayla Jones, WKEC; Mandy McLaren, Courier Journal; Cassandra Newsom, Marshall County; Sally Pierce, Pulaski County; Judy Rice, Henry County; Ashley Riley, Mercer County; Stacy Russell, Boone County, Mercer County; Michelle Sircy, Jefferson County; Karen Sweeney, Bourbon County; Regina Taylor, Woodford County; Sharon Todd, Danville; Melissa Waynewright, OVEC

MEMBERS ABSENT:

SUMMARY:

Agenda Item: CARES Funding – What is your biggest concern as we work to distribute CARES Act money?

Presenter: Robin Kinney, associate commissioner, Office of Finance and Operations

Kentucky Department of Education (KDE)

Summary of Discussion:

Kinney gave updates on the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act, passed on March 27, 2020.

- Governor's Emergency Education Relief (GEER) provides \$44 million, with \$30 million to school districts.
- Funds to be distributed by Title I formula.
- Assurances are available May 15 for signature.
- Elementary and Secondary Schools Emergency Relief (ESSER) provides \$194 million. ,These funds are broader use than GEER.

Feedback:

Question: Amy Riley: Can money be used for adding counselors?

Answer: We do not encourage you to add long-term staff to assist with COVID-19. You should pursue funds appropriated for an option. Check with Center for School Safety.

Agenda Item: Summer Learning – What are the biggest barriers preventing the provision of summer learning for students?

Presenter: Amanda Ellis, associate commissioner, KDE Office of Teaching and Learning

Summary of Discussion:

- Working on supports for audience of families.
- Page launched for summer support - Summer Read Up Program to encourage children to keep reading and working on math.
- KET has changed its format to assist with non-traditional instruction (NTI).

Feedback:

Question: Sally Pierce: Some ESL students have no internet and no transportation. How are school districts handling this problem?

Answer: Amanda Ellis will research and follow up.

Comment: Sara Akin: YMCA provides summer programs.

Follow-up Required:

ESL student services.

Agenda Item: Re-entry in the fall

Presenters: Amanda Ellis

Kay Kennedy, education consultant, KDE Office of Finance and Operations

Bill Buchanan, program consultant, KDE Office of Special Education and Early Learning

Sylvia Starkey, division director, KDE Office of Special Education and Early Learning

Summary of Discussion:

Ellis – Instruction and Guidance

- Focus around re-enter logistically, mental well-being for students, staff and parents.
- Completing third week on how teachers can walk through curriculum, identify what was taught during COVID-19, address gaps and just not place all children in intervention.

Kennedy – Public Health Issues

- How do we ensure the health and safety for all at school?
 - Transporting, feeding and teaching in a safe environment.

Looking at the need for a Healthy at Work Officer; someone to oversee that all facets of teaching and learning gets done in a timely manner.

Starkey and Buchanan –Special Education re-entry questions

Starkey

- Think about equity and access; did the student have access the internet, did they have the ability.
- Looking into the past to prepare for the future; confusion between extended school year services and compensatory education. We are in the development process for guidance to help build a piece to help Admissions and Release Committee (ARC) chairs for what they need to think about compensatory education in the fall. It should help to delineate the difference between the two.
- Maintenance of effort; making sure your district spends the same amount of local funds on special education as it did the year before.
- Contingency planning for the future, how can we use what we learned from this section of the pandemic to prevent any future confusion on how we will provide this service. Could prevent the need for future compensatory education.

Bill Buchanan – Early Childhood

- Based on the economic impact of COVID-19, we should be prepared for an increase for income eligible children. Part of the guidance is to consider using CARES Act funding to support preschool students for re-entry and use the funds for professional development for preschool teachers. Partnerships will be needed with Head Start and childcare to ensure all children have access to high quality services.

Agenda Item: Mental Health Issues

Presenters: Damien Sweeney, program coordinator, KDE Office of Teaching and Learning

Miriam Silman, program administrator

Kentucky Department for Behavioral Health, Developmental and Intellectual Disabilities

Summary of Discussion:

- What do you need to do to improve your happiness rating?
 - Get out of the house, away from work daily.
- Practice self-care.
- Be aware of the signs of stress in staff and students.

Feedback: Counselors completed an exit slip and were extremely appreciative of the opportunity to participate.

Follow-up: They felt that participating in meetings like this would be helpful in the future. As a result, we will schedule quarterly meetings beginning in the fall of 2020.

Agenda Item: Resources for School Counselors

Presenter: Damien Sweeney

Summary of Discussion: School counselors explained that they needed more time to address the mental health of their students and they needed their school administrators to better understand their role in this work.

Feedback: School counselors would like reminders about self-care and resources on how to talk to students about their mental health.

Follow-up: Host virtual event about talking to students about their mental health and offer slides as a resource.

Agenda Item: Next meeting

Presenter: Damien Sweeney

Summary of Discussion:

Feedback: Counselors would like to do these advisory sessions on Thursdays starting this fall.

Follow-up: The Office of Teaching and Learning will schedule these meetings for the year starting in the fall.

Agenda Item: Open Discussion and Feedback

Presenter: Damien Sweeney

Summary of Discussion:

Feedback: School Counselors appreciated being on the call and the opportunity to hear what was happening throughout the state. They were very excited to learn about the CARES funding that will be coming to our state and concerns about mental health during school re-entry.

Follow-up: N/A