



KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Education Continuation Task Force

SUMMARY

MEETING DATE: JULY 13, 2020

ATTENDANCE:

Casey Allen, Tina Bojanowski, Eddie Campbell, Jason Detre, Donna House, Nancy Hutchinson, Eric Kennedy, Brian Lovell, Leon Mooneyhan, Ronnie Nolan, O.J. Oleka, Tony Peavler, Amy Razor, Mary Pat Regan, Jackie Risdén-Smith, Kerri Schelling, Julian Tackett, Gretchen Wetzel, Wayne Young

SUMMARY:

Agenda Item: Welcome

Presenters: Kevin C. Brown, Interim Commissioner
Kentucky Department of Education (KDE)
Lt. Gov. Jacqueline Coleman, Secretary
Education and Workforce Development Cabinet

Summary of Discussion:

Brown welcomed the group and reviewed the agenda. He reminded the group to provide feedback in the Teams chat.

Coleman thanked task force members for their valuable feedback and input.

Feedback:

None.

Follow-up Required:

None.

Agenda Item: Medicaid Expanded Care

Presenters: Robin Kinney, KDE Associate Commissioner
Stephanie O'Connor, KDE Office of Finance and Operations
Lindsey Kimbleton, KDE Office of Finance and Operations
Lisa Lee, Commissioner
Kentucky Department for Medicaid Services (DMS)
Lee Guice, DMS Director

Summary of Discussion:

Kinney said that while Medicaid Expanded Care is not directly related to the pandemic, it will make additional federal funding available to districts. Kimbleton and O'Connor reviewed the Medicaid programs used for school-based services: School-Based Health Service, School-Based

Administrative Claiming (SBAC) and Cost Reporting/Settlement. Typically, schools are reimbursed for expenses when students receive Medicaid services that are identified in a student's Individualized Education Program (IEP) in school, such as occupational therapy and speech/language services. Expanded Care means districts can be reimbursed for Medicaid services that fall outside students' IEPs, if the students are eligible for Medicaid and the services are available to all students. Kimbleton and O'Connor detailed the requirements for reimbursement and which services are covered, and walked participants through an example of Medicaid Expanded Care in the school setting. Details can be found in the [presentation](#) used during the meeting.

Question: What cost is associated with administering the system? What kind of administrative staff will be needed? Why bring this in-house instead of continuing to contract with outside agencies which are already billing Medicaid?

Answer: Usually the district director of special education handles billing paperwork, and some districts are including the district health coordinator. Many schools contract with a billing agent who provides software where the service provider fills in the notes, thus providing the documentation for Medicaid reimbursement.

Question: Will mental health services provided by schools, as mandated by recent legislation, be covered under this program?

Answer: KDE is hopeful that mental health services will be eligible for Medicaid reimbursement, but there are several factors involved, based on whether the Expanded Care program requirements are met.

Question: Can only Medicaid-eligible students use the expanded care?

Answer: The program only allows billing for Medicaid eligible students, but the service must be available for free to all students. Previously, services were only billable if they were outlined in the IEP of a Medicaid-eligible student. So, for example, districts could not bill Medicaid when Medicaid-eligible students received services from a mobile dental service because that would not be identified in a student's IEP. Under expanded care, districts will now be able to bill Medicaid for services and receive partial reimbursement for students who are eligible for Medicaid. It is important to note that services only qualify as billable if they are available for free to all students in the school.

Question: Exactly which students are eligible?

Answer: It is difficult to predict which students are eligible, but best practice is for districts to obtain dual parental consent for all students. The billing software will pick it up and bill appropriately.

Question: The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) has identified contact tracing as a billable Medicaid service, so why is it not identified as an allowable expense for expanded care during school reopening?

Answer: DMS staff are unaware that CMS has identified contact tracing is a reimbursable Medicaid service, so staff will research the possibility. Update: DMS confirmed that the policy regarding contact tracing has not changed. DMS will not add contact tracing as a billable service. The Department for Public Health (DPH) has a contract with Deloitte to perform contact tracing activities.

Question: If students are deaf or hard of hearing and receiving a covered service, would interpreters used during the service also be a billable expense?

Answer: Interpreters are a billable service when they are used during IEP services, such as occupational therapy. All-day interpreters are not covered under expanded care.

Question: If an outside contractor comes to provide services, who bills Medicaid? The contractor or the district?

Answer: Both cannot bill, so that is between the contractor and the school. Districts are encouraged to check their contractual obligations.

Feedback:

This will be a source of additional funding for schools, which is very important and helpful, but it will not be a massive flow of funds and will not provide for all health services to be fully covered for all kids. Districts will have to plan carefully to take advantage of this fully and properly.

Follow-up Required:

None.

Agenda Item: Career and Technical Education Guidance

Presenters: David Horseman, Associate Commissioner

KDE Office of Career and Technical Education

Tom Thompson, Director

KDE Office of Career and Technical Education

Summary of Discussion:

Horseman and Thompson shared details of how students will return to Career and Technical Education (CTE) centers to complete industry recognized certifications and lab-based dual credit courses. Priority should be given to students who were seniors during the 2019-2020 school year. The four topics covered in [KDE's guidance document](#) are general requirements, arrival and dismissal, transition between classrooms and labs and area-specific guidance. Brown thanked the Kentucky Community and Technical College System and the Council on Postsecondary Education for making facilities available to Kentucky's high school students this summer before our facilities were able to open.

Question: Is information available regarding the success of the implementation of health guidelines?

Answer: KDE has not been informed of any health issues or concerns that have occurred as students have returned to instruction.

Feedback:

None.

Follow-up Required:

None.

Agenda Item: Workplace Health and Safety Guidance

Presenters: Angela McDonald, School Nurse Consultant and Kay Kennedy, Office of Finance and Operations, Kentucky Department of Education

Summary of Discussion:

Kennedy and McDonald shared the [Workplace Health and Safety guidance document](#) with participants and reviewed details of the health and safety team, health resources and support, mitigation strategies, employee health and wellness and student health and wellness. A resource from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) about self-assessment for reopening readiness was shared. Health resources and support are geared toward school nurses and district

health coordinators, and pull materials and best practices from national school health organizations together for district use.

Question: How will educator pay be handled if they must enter quarantine several times?

Answer: KDE is working to allow districts more flexibility to grant additional emergency leave if they want to, similar to provisions in [20RS SB 177](#).

Question: If a student tests positive for COVID-19, completes quarantine and tests negative, what documentation is needed for return? Is there a signatory requirement?

Answer: It is a local decision. Districts should work with their local health departments to determine their requirements. The [Healthy at School guidance](#) states clearance is needed from the health care provider or local health department.

Question: Schools may encounter problems when students have a fever due to non-COVID illnesses, such as colds, influenza or chicken pox. Is it mandated that schools require students to quarantine for 10 days for such illnesses?

Answer: Students who remain fever-free for three days and exhibit no other symptoms may return to school. If within those three days another illness presents, like influenza or chicken pox, schools should follow the protocol for that illness. If symptoms persist and the student tests positive for COVID-19, schools should follow the COVID-19 protocol.

Question: Is there a guideline that prevents teachers from wearing shields rather than masks?

Answer: The face mask is the most effective at keeping a person from spreading germs. The shield protects from getting germs. The shield is better than nothing if a medical condition prevents the use of a mask, but masks are better.

Feedback:

None.

Follow-up Required:

None.

Agenda Item: Updates from the Department for Public Health (DPH)

Presenters: Dr. Connie White, DPH Deputy Commissioner

Dr. Emily Messerli, DPH Branch Manager

Summary of Discussion:

White clarified discussion of medical exemptions for masks. Very few people are truly unable to wear masks due to medical conditions. Students with mild asthma may feel uncomfortable at first, so they should practice wearing a mask before school begins. Medical professionals routinely wear face masks for 8 hours per day.

Question: Primary teachers are concerned about their teaching abilities when students are unable to see their mouths. Do you have recommendations to help primary teachers?

Answer: Everything will be different this year, including teaching. Adjustments will occur during this time and it will be challenging, but the alternative is to not protect each other against the spread of this virus.

Question: Are there concerns with masks with acrylic or plastic inserts that make the mouth visible?

Answer: Dr. White has not seen research on the clear masks but feels like they could be very useful.

Question: State regulation requires schools to cancel athletic activities if the heat index reaches a certain level. In some sports the heat index threshold lowers if the user has on gear that raises internal temperature. Is there evidence that wearing masks raises the body temperature such that the heat index threshold should be lower for those activities?

Answer: Dr. White has no information about that topic but will look for more information to share with this group.

Question: Will guidance for foreign exchange students entering the country be available at the state level?

Answer: That would be determined by the U.S. State Department.

Feedback:

The acrylic masks could be helpful. Teaching in primary grades requires a lot of modeling. Hearing impaired students are going to be at a major disadvantage. Districts should be encouraged to offer acrylic masks.

Some districts are procuring a strategic number of the acrylic masks.

Follow-up Required:

None.

Agenda Item: Review and Adjournment

Presenter: Kevin Brown

Summary of Discussion:

Brown thanked everyone for participation on this task force and for their work to support their groups. The next meeting is scheduled for July 27, 2020, 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. E.T. Group members should send feedback or questions to [Commissioner Brown](#) or [Karen Dodd](#).