

Alexandria City Public Schools
SCHOOL HEALTH ADVISORY BOARD MINUTES
October 18, 2018 4:00 – 5:30 PM

Called to order at 4:05 pm

Attendees: Julie Crawford, Robyn Douglas, Wendy Harper, Karen Seaver Hill, Connie Johnson, Rachel Mendelson and guests, Fredy Martinez and Brittany Wood. With ACPS staff liaison, Barbara Nowak and ACPS School Board member, Christopher Lewis

Absent: Freddi Brubaker, Deborah Bowers, Mike Humphreys, Vivek Sinha and Brooke Sydnor

Approvals

- Agenda adopted with no revisions.
- Minutes from the September 13, 2018 meeting were reviewed and approved by vote with no corrections.
- School Year 2018-2019 meeting dates were affirmed as: 11/8, 12/13, 1/10, 2/14, 3/14, 4/11, 5/9, 6/13. Chair noted she is unavailable on 3/14 and seeks a substitute and/or a member to fill the role of Vice Chair.

Old Business and Action Items

A. Member Recruitment and Retention

An article will appear in the ACPS Express to help encourage involvement in committees, including SHAb. Jennifer requested testimonials from members for use in the articles. Flyers will be distributed at upcoming ACPS Board Candidate Forums.

B. Scope of Work

Group familiarized themselves with the SHAB mission statement. Of note, SHAB is no longer a state mandate but rather a recommendation acted on by ACPS.

The mission of the School Health Advisory Board (SHAB) is to assist with the development of health policies in the school division and the evaluation of the status of school health, health education, the school environment and health services.

The Chair suggested that the current Scope of Work (SOW) could be make more actionable and measurable if the nine items in that SOW were categorized according to effort and expectation. The group discussed tiering as follows:

Active Work Items	Monitoring Items	Policy Review
4	1	8
5	2	
6	3*	
9	7*	

Discussion highlights include:

SOW item #3 (“Promote programs and develop measures in an effort to identify and begin decreasing childhood obesity. Monitor BMI data and ACPS efforts to encourage the incorporation of exercise and movement into daily activities, including the support of bike and walk to school programs and movement throughout the day.”) Currently read as monitoring, but based on what is observed, could become actionable items.

SOW #5 (“Monitor the ACPS 2020 strategic plan implementation of health and wellness goals and related incorporation of nutritional services measures health data into ACPS dashboard. Additionally, align with ongoing City health initiatives like the Health Matters in Alexandria Disparities Dashboard and the City’s Community Health Improvement Plan effort.”) was noted by members to be of increasing importance as ACPS enters a the development of a new 5 year plan. Group expects to prioritize this effort.

SOW #9 (“Assess the current coverages of nurses, social workers, school psychologists, and school counselors against national standards to support students.”) is important as the health service functions are not formula-driven. SHAB is interested in better understanding what would be the ideal, acceptable for the nursing etc. support services?

SOW #7 (“Monitor Family Life Education curriculum content and implementation in light of decision to make the course an elective rather than as a requirement; highlighting the recent drop in student attendance.”) triggered member discussion:

Questioning if there are plans to review what is in place now and how implementation is occurring. The big change is that it has moved to elective level – does this meet state standards? Is sex ed being offered in a different setting? There has been a lot of “buzz” about how the decision happened. As a committee are we interested in establishing this as an opt-in or mandatory? Recognition of the fact that competitions for time makes this elective “doomed” (ie AP load and drive to academic competition)

As context: state mandate that FLE is monitored; there is a KPI related to trained teachers; there have been changes at Human Growth and Development Class at HS level. This is a frequent area of question/focus from stakeholders and parents.

Background: School Board has a curriculum of studies that are approved – not just courses but standards of learning and state mandates; tools and resources utilized by teachers. Been the same with tweaks since 2012/2013

Action: follow up w/ Mike Humphries and correlate to 22.1-207.1 state statute in Code of VA. Compare enrollment last school year vs. this school year. What should ACPS be monitoring?

Community Partner Organizations

- Children, Youth and Families Collaborative
- Public Health Advisory Commission
- HIV/AIDS Commission
- Partnership for a Healthier Alexandria
- Early Care and Education Workgroup

- Youth Services Coordinating Committee
- Partnership to Prevent and End Homelessness in Alexandria
- Social Services Advisory Board
- Economic Opportunities Commission
- Commission on Women

New Business and Reports

A. Reports – Barbara Nowak

Barb will be able to provide monthly data to the School Health Services Report. Percent in the RTL is important to see where there is a “hot spot” of illness. Discussed the information across the report.

Teen Wellness Center – collaboration between ACPS and Health Department. When it started was only reproductive health. Now doing more primary care types of clinic activities.

WOW bus is inoperative. There have been 3 staff departures (all dental roles). Dental only bus is very successful. Many SDoH barriers. Offers restorative work/preventive work but no sedative dentistry. Focuses on West End, Mt. Vernon, CK, TCW. Members discussed if vaccination could be a part of the WOW. The Alex Health Dept has a tight budget, and is unable to support vaccination service in the WOW.

Teen Wellness Center – has a Student Advisory Panel which may be able to survey beyond the patients serviced to see who is not coming in and why.

B. Policy Review - Jennifer Abbruzzese

Chair will work with Jennifer to thread necessary policy review into the monthly SHAB agenda. For example, Virginia DOE and USDA are coming for inspections in the Spring, so these policy discussions should be timed prior to this visit (follow up with Robyn). Jennifer helped to prioritize policy reviews including: IGAE/IGAF, JHC, AND JHCH as the most driving ACPS policy.

Fredy Martinez, K-12 Substance Abuse Prevention & Intervention Services Coordinator provided a comprehensive update to substance abuse policy, practice and education in ACPS.

Fredy drives program expertise and implementation. Students should be assessed according to need and appropriate services then offered (across continuum of mild, moderate, severe). No previous policies so now the regulation includes definitions. Intervention is not about therapy but about screening. Future educational sessions will be parent/child seminar. Mandated reporting if there are illegal substances found in school. Discussion included

- Guidance for “principal or designee” for how they act on an infraction is available through the Code of Contact. Restorative practice to actually change behavior – there are students past education/suspension. These students need a different intervention, including treatment because behavior isn’t changing.
- Changing of mindset is important – simply removing from school is not enough to change behavior. Just go home is not working. This is a medical issue needing intervention

- Developing Community Circles partnership. 4k student will receive the flyer and be directed to resources. This calendar year, 32 unique cases have been referred to Freddy. There will be a question of capacity. CFC and Satellite Schools need more intensive services. Screening is low lift... assessment is increased effort.
- Student population is heavy alcohol and marijuana, Due to proximity to WDC there is confusion and dismissive mindset among students.
- Conflict if student wants services and the parents/guardians do not consent.

New Chrome Book Filter called Securely. Monitors for self-harm, bullying and violence – flags can be added. Will have tracking data to help look at needed assets/resources. Members requested Securely be added to a future meeting agenda.

General Announcements

Upcoming ACPS School Board Candidate Forums to be held at Minnie Howard and Hammond.

11/7 Children's Hospital Association webinar Hospitals, Schools & Communities Working Together

Adjourn 5:45 pm