

Minutes
Superintendent's Health Advisory Council
Monday, November 8, 2021

The meeting was called to order by Dr. Davis and introductions were made. Dr. Davis added two topics to the agenda: (1) how to support the social emotional well being of students and employees; (2) Discussion about COVID protocols, specifically about how long to continue the mask requirement.

Dawn MacAdams reviewed the minutes from November 20, 2021 and provided an update to health services. COVID-19 numbers have been on the decline from a high of 2,000 students in quarantine and 500 students in isolation, to current numbers of 217 students in quarantine and 79 in isolation.

Mylan continues to support free Epi-Pen and Epi-Pen Jr. for public schools There has been an increase in the number of parents turning in Religious exemptions for an immunization certificate. These parents voiced concern that the COVID vaccine will be mandated and they do not want their child to receive the vaccine. Dr. Davis suggested reaching out to these parents to ensure they understand their child could be excluded from school if there is a vaccine preventable disease outbreak.

Richland Two partnered with MUSC Providence to provide Pfizer vaccinations to employees in Spring 2021. The Richland Two nurses vaccinated over 1600 employees. In October, Prisma's Mobile van was at each high school with the Pfizer vaccine. The Pfizer vaccine was administered to 282 people; 275 staff, 51 students, and 34 community members. This was a mix of 258 booster doses, 20 first doses, and 4 second doses. We hope to partner with an agency to offer the COVID-19 vaccine to students in the future.

Learning Support Services has established LSS Prime Time twice a week. During this time school based LSS team members and administrators can drop in by "Google meet" and meet with LSS Leadership to discuss and brainstorm about situations they are facing at their school. It is going well.

Students in Richland Two in grades 4, 6, 7, 9, and 10 completed the Whole Child Survey looking specifically at safety and environment. Dr. Vickery discussed some of the results. We will display survey results at our next meeting, as well as information from our database BrightBytes that accumulates data from PowerSchool on attendance, graders, discipline, etc. to identify at-risk students.

Dr. Greenhouse expressed increased mental health concerns with patients with decreased resources. Caused by isolation, anxiety, family issues, loss/ grief, falling behind in school. She suggested bringing in people from the Richland County delegation and partnering with other districts to invest in mental health care. Our new mental health advisors shared concerns with increased referrals and decreased capacity to see new clients.

Our students and employees are experiencing symbolic losses- loss of relationships, socialization, transitions, e.g. prom, graduation, promotion to middle school or high school. Students in 12th grade last normal year was 9th grade, 6th grade was 3rd grade, etc.

Abby Cobb shared information from a survey she sent to our mental health providers.....

Survey Summary:

Question 1: What has been your overall experience working with schools?

Question 1 Summary: Overall experiences have been positive. Working with school staff to address specific student needs, helping parents to advocate for their children, sharing recommendations regarding a specific student issue, sharing best practices, and providing mental health training.

Question 2: What have you found to be helpful when collaborating with schools?

Question 2 Summary: Feedback from teachers on student behaviors. Teachers and school staff have a unique perspective that others do not observe. Communication from school staff that is consistent and regular, not just a one time occurrence.

Question 3: What are your wishes about school collaboration?

Question 3 Summary: More collaboration, not just a one time occurrence/phone call, more in-depth collaboration between school and mental health providers. Utilize mental health providers for training and an education resource. Incorporate mental health providers into more prevention and overall mental health wellness.

Question 4: What would you recommend regarding the mental wellness need of our students?

Question 4 Summary: More mental health professionals in the schools. Invest in the teachers, ensure the teacher mental health is a priority. Incorporate mental health hygiene into the culture of the schools. Support parents.

Dr. Davis suggested Richland Two work with AAU sports, travel ball, church groups to increase the awareness of trauma and warning signs. Provide three things to watch for, similar to PSA for stroke warnings

There is community pressure to stop our face covering/ mask requirement. Our health care providers unanimously agree that use of face coverings should continue through the holidays and cold/flu season, and when Richland County is no longer in substantial or high transmission per CDC. Dr. DuBose suggested this will most likely be until spring time.

Plans for next meeting- share data from the Whole Child survey with sample questions, and information from BrightBytes.

Respectfully,

**Dawn MacAdams, MSN, RN, NCSN
Richland School District Two Coordinator of Health Services**