

**Minutes
Superintendent's Health Advisory Council
November 16, 2022**

The meeting was called to order. Introductions were made and a welcome provided to new members, Logan Rush, Westwood High School Senior, and Dr. Michael Barno. There were no questions or comments about the meeting notes from March 29, 2022.

Ms. MacAdams provided a health services update. COVID numbers have continued to drop to a few cases a week. We are seeing a resurgence of influenza, with multiple schools at outbreak levels. We are also seeing RSV in both students and employees.

Immunization audits have been more difficult this year with students enrolling in K-2nd grade without their traditional "four-year old shots". Students are still catching up on immunizations from two-and-a-half years of the pandemic. Students without medical homes are booking appointments with DHEC into January and February, making it difficult on students and parents. Sandhill Pediatrics and Palmetto Pediatrics are accepting new patients. They will begin seeing them without a current immunization record, if needed.

Dental services are the most difficult service for school nurses to find for uninsured students and those with Medicaid. Fewer dental practices are accepting new Medicaid patients. School nurses partner with Healthy Learners and the Children's Dental clinic for care for our uninsured and underinsured students. Richland Two also partners with Dental Access with Dr. John Reese and Health Promotion Specialists run by Tammi Bryd. Dental Access provides care to students with Medicaid in a self-contained van with a dental hygienist, dental assistant, and dentist. They can provide preventative and restorative services. Health Promotion Specialists see students with Medicaid, private insurance and uninsured to provide preventative care with cleanings and dental sealants. They refer to local dentists for dental work.

A concern was raised in a neighboring district about students returning to school after dental services. Common sense should be used to ensure students who are still numb do not chew the inside of their mouth or tongue. School nurses should check on the student upon return to school and provide post dental care as needed, e.g. change the gauze, encourage students to chew on the opposite side of their mouth, etc.

The District's Learning Support Services Leadership team discussed the district's response to the alleged active shooter situation at Blythewood High School on October 5th. All students and employees were safely evacuated to the stadium by Richland County Deputies. Students were picked up by their parents from the stadium. The district's After Crisis team responded to Blythewood High School (BHS) the next day to provide emotional support to employees, while students attended school virtually.

The After Crisis team debriefed with BHS employees. School counselors, social workers, psychologists, family therapists and school nurses were on hand to assist individuals needing more support. Students returned to school on Friday. Mr. Sherman made a presentation to the students and employees, and then the After Crisis team broke up with individual classrooms and students to debrief using the Four F's of Active Reviewing by Roger Greenaway: Facts-Feelings-Findings-Future. Students and employees were provided individual follow-up, as needed, and those requiring more crisis intervention were assisted

utilizing the practices in ATIP- Acute Traumatic Incident Processing. Community partner resources were gathered to provide ongoing support and referrals for students and employees.

Dr. Melissa Swartz with Firm Foundations has offered to provide a Triple P seminar titled “Fear-Less” at no cost to the district. Triple P is an evidenced-based program utilizing a Public Health approach to parenting. Dr. Swartz says “Fear-Less” assists parents to help their child/ teen manage anxiety. The program is about 2 hours long and can be done with a group of up to 200 participants. It is really geared towards the parent and usually does not include the child/ teen.

The program begins with an introduction to anxiety, why it happens, and what causes it. It helps develop skills to manage anxiety and to understand what “feelings” are. The program helps restructure thoughts, learning to face fears gradually with support, and problem solving around anxiety. We will have further discussions to determine a time to host the program.

Student, Logan Rush, from Westwood (WHS), is interested in the program and questioned if there is something for students. She reports that students at WHS have a high level of anxiety surrounding school safety. They were in lockdown for four hours last year. Anytime there is an announcement for teachers to please check their email, student anxiety increases, especially after the event at BHS.

Julie Sandy, Athletic Trainer, discussed a time when Spring Valley High School was in “Secure” mode and the intercom system was not working. Not all classes were aware the school was in “Secure” and did not hear instructions. She questioned whether Parent Square can be utilized to send internal messages to teachers. Dr. Franklin will check on the use of Parent Square for employees. The intercom is now fixed- it succumbed to a lightning strike causing the malfunction.

Dr. Vickery shared the Whole Child Presentation with the group. The Whole Child survey was completed by students in grades 3-12 in October. Teams are now meeting with middle and high school administrators to review their data. Elementary school Principals were invited to a group presentation explaining the Whole Child. Schools can compare their data to district data and you can drill down by gender, grade, ethnicity, etc. Bright Bytes provides both the Student Success platform, which gives risk analysis of progress toward graduation and progress toward post secondary readiness based on three factors: Performance, Attendance, and Behavior. Data related to each of these factors is shared from Powerschool. The Whole Child survey results complement this platform, as they provide insights into how students perceive their school and their relationships within that school. Primary scales on the survey are Social Emotional Learning (rated as how students perceive their peers’ SEL), Engagement, Safety, and Environment.

Ms. MacAdams discussed a bill being created by DHEC to include school nurses as first responders in order to administer Narcan. Right now, school nurses do not have Narcan and are not covered to administer Narcan. We rely on Basic Life Support until the Richland County SRO arrives with their Narcan, or EMS arrives. Dr. Greenhouse has legislative connections. Ms. MacAdams will provide her with further information and ensure athletic trainers are added to the bill.

Respectfully submitted,

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