

Official Minutes

Home/Hospital Program Based Planning Committee Minutes

Wednesday, October 16th, 2019 - 2:45 PM

Present: Tony Robinson, Lisa Silverstein, Kelly Nauerth, Michele Mazzola, Patrick Cain, Laura Tai-Maneiro, Deborah Green

1. Minutes of September 17th , 2019 Meeting: Approved

2. Update on # of Students/Budgeted FTEs/Recall List:

- As of now, all teachers are full and we have reached our capacity to assign students to current and available H/H teachers. As of this week, we have 56 students on the books and 5 students on a wait list. Tony is pushing CO to bring back at least 2 of our laid-off teachers from last year as soon as possible. We may know the result of this request as early as this upcoming Monday. The district is now aware of the state labor laws which stipulate that substitutes can not be hired until all laid-off teachers are recalled. Those teachers who are still available to return to H/H will be brought back based on seniority. Tony is working to bring back all laid-off teachers, but because of severe measures being taken by the district, given the \$30 million deficit, this may not be possible until our student numbers increase.
- It was also agreed that our unit was unfairly hit last year because of the number of teacher lay-offs and retirements we suffered. The loss of a total of 9 H/H positions will severely impact our ability to service our SPED, ELL, and medically fragile students. In addition, the recent influx of suspended students placed on H/H, has displaced many of our neediest students who do not have teachers to meet with them. Tony and Kelly also updated us on the new student registration protocol enacted by CO. In past years, H/H enrollment gave Kelly the time to register students on the same day as their teacher assignment. Coordination of these events allowed us the ability to register students on H/H without jeopardizing their attendance. CO has changed the process, and is now enrolling students directly to H/H immediately after a CSE meeting or hearing, and prior to their initial assignment of a home school. This is a problem for us

because if students are not assigned to a teacher right away, that student will remain in limbo while his/her attendance will accrue against the student and reflect badly upon our program as a whole. Consequently, we are being placed in a position where we must create a documented wait list if no teacher is available. We are concerned that this will give the false impression that our students are not being serviced in a timely fashion. Tony plans on bringing this problem to the attention of Ruth Turner, our new Chief.

- Lastly, our Proposed Program Budget shows that there are a total of 22 FTEs budgeted for the 2019/2020 academic school year. We had questions about the additional 2 FTEs and whether or not this allowed us the opportunity to hire back any of our laid-off teachers. Tony explained that based on his staffing template, there are a total of 20 teacher FTEs and that the remaining 2 FTEs are for Social Worker positions.

3. **Mandated Services - Review of State Law**: Lisa made it a point to present specific state law to bring attention to the fact that regulations by NYSED make us a state mandated program. State law clearly reads that instruction to ***Homebound students*** must be provided by ***A teacher holding certification at the appropriate level***. This topic relates directly to reasons why the district can not legally hire substitutes to replace H/H teachers. In accordance to specific education code H/H teachers can not be replaced by substitutes because teachers must be certified.

4. **Attendance Issues - HHTTO**: This year because of the new Power Teacher changes in attendance, there is no designated way to mark a *teacher absence* without having the absence count negatively against our students. This is also a problem because it does not accurately report our student attendance. Until we can figure a way to correct the problem this year, Tony is asking that we continue to mark our students *absent excused* in the Teacher Power system and document the *teacher absence* with accompanying notes in attends action.

Next Planning Meeting: Wednesday, November 20, 2019 at 2:45 PM

