

Home/Hospital Program Based Planning Committee Minutes  
Wednesday, March 13th, 2019 - 2:45 PM

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

1. Minutes of February 13th, 2019 Planning Meeting: Approved
2. Student Assignment Process: We filed a grievance regarding the way our assignments are now being done by committee, rather than by our assignment coordinator, Kelly Nauerth. Kelly knows our student population and the strengths of our teachers and always makes assignments that are in the best interests of our students. Many of the changes being made at these meetings are arbitrary and detrimental to the positive work we do. Rearranging students to different teachers at this point in the year is extremely harmful to student learning and the relationships we make with our students. Our program has always run very well without the micromanaging we are now enduring. Tony is in agreement with these statements.
3. Assignment of HHT Students to non-HHT Teachers: At one on these committee meetings last Thursday, a HHT teacher was assigned to a certain student. Tony and Kelly agreed which HHT would be assigned. On Monday, without either of their knowledge, this student was reassigned to a district sub (not HHT) while our teacher went out to meet the student, as scheduled. Another teacher, at LyncX, was also assigned a HHT student through a deal not run by Kelly or Tony. Other “deals” seem to be assigning our students to other teachers in the building.
4. Alterations to Student Schedules: We sometimes notice a discrepancy between the homeschool schedule of a student and the one we receive from our counselor for Home Instruction. Tony said sometimes our counselor sees the need for a Regents level science class or other modification and makes an appropriate change. We recently had a student who was moved from Environmental Science into Living Environment. Our lab teacher covered over 1000 minutes of labs and when the student returned to the home school, they were put back into Environmental Science. The student was upset that they would not get credit for all the labs - and they now had missed many months of the Environmental Science curriculum. We feel that if such changes from a homeschool schedule are made, our counselor should have a dialogue with the homeschool counselor to be certain the student is in the appropriate class when they return. If a change to a schedule is made for Home Instruction, our counselor should also include in the schedule email to us why there was a change. We notice such changes and only question them because we are looking out for the best interest of our students. We are not questioning the ability of our counselor to make a schedule. We also feel that when a *temporary* student comes to us with a homeschool schedule, changes should not be made. Our job is to help students succeed by providing continuity of instruction. Tony said it is all about collaboration. We are a team and should work together.
5. Safety Procedures: One of our teachers is working in a home with a severe roach infestation (crawling all over laptop and papers). Tony agrees that these situations are difficult. We do not want to insult the family, but we definitely don't want to bring roaches into our cars and homes. We can say very clearly to a parent that, unless the situation is taken care of, the location of the instruction has to change. If the HHT does

not feel comfortable addressing this issue with the parent, Tony said he can ask his secretary to draft a letter.

6. Summer School: Michael Chan is in charge of summer school this year.

7. Unfinished Business:

- a. There are multiple Home/Hospital students who have been assigned to work with our teachers on the 4th floor at YM & IHA. This is a problem because there is no dedicated space for us here. There are also additional transportation costs associated with getting these students here. One current medical student would rather be seen at her home, but Kelly was told it was not “fiscally responsible.” This makes no sense. It would actually cost less for our teacher to meet the student at home, as there would be no medical transportation costs.
- b. We brought to Tony’s attention that a professional at more than one CSE meeting has made disparaging remarks about Home Instruction and the education our students receive. Negative generalities and prejudicial personal comments are highly inappropriate and hurtful to both the student and teacher sitting at the meeting. There are many H/H students who thrive on Home Instruction and do far superior work to what they produce in a building.

Next Planning Meeting: Wednesday, April 10th, 2019