

Montgomery County School Health Council

May 10, 2021 Meeting Minutes

Gail Warner	Community Member, SHC Co-Chair	Daniel Russ	Community Member, SHC Co-chair
Drew Warner	Student Member	Alana Arorin	Commission on Health
Robin Brannan	Community Member	Sandy Salsberg	Community Member
Victoria Thompson	MCPS OTLS	Liz Elliott	MCDHHS School Health Services
Peter Park	MCPS Systemwide Safety	Heather Dublinske	MCPS Office of Operations
Teresa Shatzer	MCPS Health Education	Joanie Glick	Senior Administrator, SHS
Kirsten Anderson	Linkages to Learning	Katie Elliott	Student Member
Guest:	Brittne Jackson, Montgomery County Commission on Health		

- The meeting was called to order by Gail Warner. Minutes from the March 2021 meeting were approved.
- Brittne Jackson shared information on racial inequities associated with COVID and children returning for in-person learning. The Commission on Health has a subgroup actively working on these issues. The goal is to engage in conversation to bring awareness to the issue of why some groups tend to be more comfortable with a return to in-person learning. Minority families may be more susceptible to the impact of COVID. Historically, there is a mistrust by some minority families of institutions. Institutional racism is another concern. In December 2020, the CDC explored the racial and ethnic parent differences in concerns related to school reopening. Black and Hispanic parents reported additional concerns related to returning to in-person learning. These groups are also more likely to contract COVID. Every week of remote learning, especially for minority students, creates more opportunity to fall behind in learning. Information is power, and more education leads to better decisions. Listening in communities and validating concerns is important. Discussion focused on awareness of discrepancies and hesitancy in some communities.
- Victoria Thompson of MCPS shared information about virtual schools for SY 2021-2022. The program will be for preK-12th grade, and will include services for special education and ESOL as needed. Efforts are underway for home school services to partner with the virtual academy. Dedicated staffing will be in place for the virtual academy, and families will need to participate in an application process. Instruction will combine synchronous and asynchronous instruction. Anticipated timelines include an interest survey sent to parents; information sharing about program offerings and application deadlines. The program will be for the full school year.
- Joanie Glick shared School Health Services updates. Currently staffing in school building is at minimal levels. At the end of May, SHS staff will no longer be able to utilize health status waivers so staffing availability will increase soon. The number of health room visits is lower than usual and students are sent home when sick. COVID cases occur on occasion. Telehealth may be an option for School Health Services Centers later this year.
- Teresa Shatzer of MCPS Health Education shared a health education framework from the State. MCPS is considering adopting the updated Comprehensive Health Education MSDE framework. A review of topics and indicators was provided to SHC members. Members were asked to provide feedback on mental and emotional health; family life and human sexuality; and safety and violence prevention. An e-mail will come to SHC members with the link to provide feedback.
- Peter Park shared that AEDs are coming soon to remaining Elementary Schools. Stop the Bleed is also coming to all MCPS buildings. This represents additional kits and training for school staff as these kits are already in the health room.
- Student representatives Drew Warner and Katie Elliott were recognized for their contributions to the SHC committee.
- Discussion topics for the next SHC meeting include pandemic effects on mental health.
- School Health Council Meeting Schedule for SY 2021-2022
 - September 20, 2021; December 6, 2021; March 21, 2022; May 9, 2022
- Meeting adjourned.