

Montgomery County School Health Council

December 6, 2021 Meeting Minutes

Gail Warner	Community Member, SHC Co-Chair	Daniel Russ	Community Member, SHC Co-chair
Chanel Speaks	EveryMind	Catie Russ	Student Member
Robin Brannan	Community Member	Deborah Merke	Community Member
Liz Elliott	MCDHHS School Health Services	Shaun Sawko	MCPS Food & Nutrition
Peter Park	MCPS Systemwide Safety	Hannah Donart	MCCPTA Health & Wellness
Teresa Shatzer	MCPS Health Education	Laurie Lyons	MCPS Systemwide Safety
Kirsten Andersen	Linkages to Learning	Jessica Hasson	Community Member
Alana Aronin	Commission on Health	Sandy Salsberg	Community Member
Mark Hodge	MCDHHS School Health Services	Catherine Nardi	Community Member
Guest Speakers:	Heather Dublinske; Sean O'Donnell		

- The meeting was called to order by Gail Warner. Minutes from the September 2021 meeting were approved as amended.
- Sean O'Donnell from Montgomery County Emergency Preparedness shared a vaccination briefing. The County is in substantial transmission currently. Efforts are underway to increase the number of people being vaccinated; 93% of eligible residents have received 1 dose. The County tracks areas of the county, ethnic and racial disparities with disparities in vaccination rates to target area of need. Appointments are now available for ages 5-11, after school and on weekends; clinics are targeted at Title 1 elementary schools. For the first weekend, 12 locations will serve as hubs. Efforts are focused on encouraging families to be vigilant especially with both Delta and Omicron variants in the community. It is helpful that serious illness rates have gone down and that ICU patient rates have not increased.
- Heather Dublinske of MCPS shared the MCPS COVID Dashboard that is updated every Wednesday. Current quarantine guidance is for 10 days for isolation and 10 days of quarantine, with modified options if students are fully masked and are signed up for weekly in-school COVID testing; and return on Day 8 with a negative PCR test on Day 5. Fully vaccinated students and staff do not need to quarantine. COVID testing programs in MCPS include one-time rapid testing for symptomatic students; weekly screening testing; and the Test to Stay program. The MCPS COVID Board assists in determining guidance and will meet soon. Initiatives are underway to increase the participation rate for weekly assurance testing.
- Peter Park, MCPS Systemwide Safety shared an update about AEDs and Stop the Bleed initiatives. Automated External Defibrillators (AED) are needed in the event of sudden cardiac arrest. The AED analyzes the heart rhythm and shocks if there is a shockable rhythm. In recent years, there were several instances where AEDs in MCPS buildings have saved lives. State regulations are each middle and high school have an AED available and a trained individual is present for each school-sponsored athletic event; and that an individual is trained and on-site during the regular school day. AEDs must be registered with the State and inspected on a regular basis. AEDs are in high schools (2 wall-mounted and a portable unit), middle schools (2 wall-mounted) and in alternative programs. Starting in 2015, AEDs were installed in selected elementary schools. In 2022, AEDs will be installed in remaining elementary schools. Bleeding control kits are in all school buildings, provided by the State in 2019. The are in wall-mounted cabinets, in the health room and security carry wearable kits. Security and health room staff are trained.
- Mark Hodge shared School Health Services updates. Staffing has been augmented by contracts with Maxim for RNs and LPNs in health rooms and by staff designated for COVID rapid tests. Additional positions for nurses were recently approved by the County Council; efforts continue to improve nursing support. Currently, county staff must either be vaccinated or be tested for COVID on a weekly basis.
- Discussion topics of interest to members for upcoming SHC meetings; District-wide Wellness committee; hydration station status in school buildings as a lead abatement strategy as identified by the Water Work group of the MCCPTA Health and Safety Subcommittee.
- School Health Council Meetings for SY 2021-2022: March 21, 2022; May 9, 2022
- Meeting adjourned.