

Montgomery County School Health Council

March 10th, 2025 Meeting Minutes

- 6:30 - Introductions by Carey Dwyer. Hybrid meetings continue.
- 6:40 - Review and approval of September 9th, 2024 meeting minutes
- 6:45 – Beka Urgessa, Senior Administrator of School Health Services (SHS)
 - Ongoing recruitment of School Health Community Nurses (SCHNs) and School Health Room Technicians, creation of new SCHN positions, and working closely with DHHS HR to onboard personnel faster. 14 nurse positions are covered by contractors, and 2 new nurse manager positions have been created. Immunization update: Less than 1% of MCPS students have a religious or medical exemption for vaccinations.
- 6:55 – Dr. Kisha Davis, Health Officer, Montgomery County DHHS
 - Discussion about the Howard County Measles case, PG county pediatric flu deaths, flu and respiratory virus monitoring, and preparing for the mental health burden resulting from the impact of federal layoffs
- 7:00 – Laura Howard, Senior Program Manager, Community Health, Kaiser Permanente
 - America's Healthiest School, Kaiser is offering a grant to support the schools that support America's Healthiest Schools Activities, an upcoming event on May 6th. Thriving School Summit
- 7:10-Nijha Young, Our Minds Matter (OMM)
 - Overview of the vision (working toward a day when no teen dies by suicide), mission (equip teens with evidence-based mental health skills that improve their wellbeing and reduce their risk of suicide), and history of the organization (started in 2009, name changed in 2020 and organization started partnering with MCPS). In School Year 2023-2024, OMM had 33 clubs led by student leaders with at least one adult sponsor with mental health training. To learn more about how to support the program: ourmindsmatter.org/contact-us.
- 7:40 – Subcommittee reports and closing remarks
 - Student School Health Council-Rabira Dosho-reviewed House Bill 672
 - Nomination of new co-chair and filing membership gaps
 - Proposed topics for School Health Council Meetings for SY 2024-2025
 - Increasing student involvement

Participants:

Carey Dwyer, Nurse Manager, SHS, Beka Urgessa, Senior Administrator, SHS, Hope McGuire, Supervisor of Community Schools, MCPS, Dr. Nina Ashford, Mary Cullinane, Allison Schnitzer, Montgomery County Food Council, Laura Beth Chief Program Officer Our Minds Matter, Yael, Lynise Hogue, Program Manager-Mid Atlantic Region with the Alliance for Healthier Generation, Kristina Buescher, Dietitian MCPS Division Food & and Nutrition Services, Laura Howard, Thriving Schools Initiative, Kaiser Permanente, Dr. Davis, Rabira Dosho Student Member, Dr. Kisha Davis, Montgomery County Health Officer, DHHS, Dr. Sandy Salsberg, Community member, Evie Salsberg, Student member, Sean O' Donnell, Program Administrator for Public Health Emergency Preparedness and Response, Montgomery County, DHHS, Kirsten Andersen, Administrator, Linkages to Learning, Nijha Young, Program Coordinator for Outreach and Engagement, Our Minds Matter, Debra Bitonti, Nurse Manager, SHS, Abhisneha Jones, student member, Maryam Habib, student member, Rajan Bell, student member