

# Montgomery County School Health Council

## September 15th, 2025 Meeting Minutes

- 6:00 – Introductions by Carey Dwyer, Nurse Manager, SHS. Hybrid meetings continue.
- 6:05 – Review and approval of May 12th, 2025 meeting minutes
- 6:10 – Motion and approval of Laura Howard as SHC chair. Actively looking for co-chair.
- 6:15 – Beka Urgessa, Senior Administrator of School Health Services (SHS)
  - Shared successes with hiring School Health Room Technicians and ongoing recruitment of School Health Community Nurses (SCHNs). Shared five new programs with individual vaccines, inhalers, Neffy, retractable needles, Narcan, Epi, and albuterol. Immunization status: 592 students out of compliance. Continued communication to lower this number every day with MCPS.
- 6:30 – Hope McGuire, Supervisor Community Schools, MCPS
  - Provided an update on community schools trends
- 6:40 – Dr. Nina Ashford, Chief of Public Health Services (HHS)
  - Shared overview of vaccine implementation and access for COVID/Flu.
- 6:45 – Dr. Cara Grant, PreK-12 Curriculum Supervisor, Health and Physical Education, MCPS
  - Update on Maryland State Department of Education, Standards and Framework Verification Committee for Health Education and Physical Education Pre-K-12 Content Standards; Grade 4 health education updated for this school year; physical education resources updated to enhance learning for emerging multilingual learners; shared collaborative presentation with HHS and MCPS to the South Korean Delegation on ways to reduce substance misuse; highlighted three schools that received award recognition from the Alliance for a Healthier Generation (Burtonsville Elementary, Redland Middle, and Twinbrook Elementary); October is Health Literacy Month; CDC What Works in schools grant was awarded in MCPS for year 2 funding. [Slides LINK](#)
- 7:00 – Closing remarks
  - Student School Health Council-shared update and [interest form](#)
  - Proposed topics for School Health Council Meetings for SY 2025-2026

### Participants:

**Carey Dwyer**, Nurse Manager, SHS, **Beka Urgessa**, Senior Administrator, SHS, **Laura Howard**, Thriving Schools Initiative, Kaiser Permanente, **Ashley Thomas**, Executive Account Manager, Kaiser Permanente, **Dr. Luis Ruiz**, Physician, Kaiser Permanente, **Dr. Cara Grant**, PreK-12 Curriculum Supervisor, Health and Physical Education, MCPS, **Dr. Nina Ashford**, Chief of Public Health Services, **Anne Marie Hart Bookbinder**, Moco Food Council, **Hope McGuire**, Supervisor of Community Schools, MCPS, **Shauna-Kay Jorandby**, Director Student Engagement & Behavioral Health, **Laura Mitchell**, MCCPTA, **Kirsten O. Anderson**,  
**Students participants:** Mikayla Agaba, Darren Chen Dulce Amador, Blen Asegu, Jayden Chen, Minh Quang Nguyen, Rajan (Lead for student-led school health council), Cassidy Carter, Dennis Huleve, Bersabeh Tensu, Ashley Thomas, Maxim Ivlev, Dennis Ivlev, Nawaal Baker, Valentine Martinez, Noah Pittman-Johnson, Shabbir Hussain, Jasmine Jamed