

Montgomery County School Health Council

September 27, 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
Stephanie Iszard	MCPS OSFSE	Liz Elliott	MCDHHS School Health Services
Peter Park	MCPS Systemwide Safety	Hannah Donart	MCCPTA Health & Wellness
Teresa Shatzer	MCPS Health Education	Joanie Glick	Senior Administrator, SHS
Kirsten Andersen	Linkages to Learning	Jessica Hasson	Community Member
Guest Speakers:	Kyle Potter, Jessica Colon, Yvette Cocozzella, Heather Dublinske		
Guests:	Nancy Austin, Ryan Conlon, Amy Millar		

- The meeting was called to order by Gail Warner. Minutes from the May 2021 meeting were approved.
- New SHC members were introduced.
- Kyle Potter, School Psychologist, Crisis Response & Mental Health Programs, Student and Family Support and Engagement of MCPS briefed members on tiered mental health supports in MCPS. Support for staff mental health needs are also provided. Services are provided that all students benefit from; while other supports are needed only by some students. The tiered continuum includes Tier 1, universal support; Tier 2, targeted support; and Tier 3, intensive support.
- Eva Cocozzella, a Behavioral Health Resource Specialist with the Watkins Mill Cluster Project and Jessica Colon, a Behavioral Health Resource Specialist with the Paint Branch-Springbrook & Kennedy Cluster Projects shared information on Mental Health in the Time of COVID. Concerns; was shared on ways to improve family stability outside of the school system, such as promoting COVID rent relief program funding and connecting students with mental health needs to community resources. Gaps in services and challenges for clients include barriers to access programming due to technology access and paperwork concerns; a lack of privacy in the home; and waitlists for services especially for providers fluent in Spanish.
- Heather Dublinske, Coordinator Student Welfare & Compliance and MCPS Systemwide COVID-19 contact shared an update. In recent weeks, there has been a slight shift downward in COVID cases. Recent improvements include additional contact tracers who are deployed by cluster to assist with contacting families of students identified as close contacts; Rapid Testing for symptomatic students on site in schools; a mandate for all MCPS staff to be vaccinated as of October 29th; and the formation of a Health Advisory Committee to start meeting next week; and an updated MCPS COVID-19 Dashboard with real-time data. Discussions are underway about Test-to-Stay; and the Random Screening program is operational in partnership with CIAN labs. Currently, 45% of families have consented to testing in schools; the goal is that 100% of families participate in the program.
- Joanie Glick shared School Health Services updates. A busy start to the school year is complicated by a larger number of vacancies. Agency nurses are now in place as a stopgap measure. School Health Services staff are doing Rapid Antigen Testing in triage rooms in schools, which helps to more quickly identify students who are COVID positive; families are also encouraged to seek PCR testing. Due to the impact of COVID on the workload, other routine process such as immunization review are delayed. Plans are underway for seasonal flu clinics in November.
- Discussion topics of interest to members for upcoming SHC meetings include COVID pediatric vaccinations; 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 Meeting Schedule for SY 2021-2022
 - December 6, 2021; March 21, 2022; May 9, 2022
- Meeting adjourned.