

Healthy Youth & Schools Commission

October 28, 2015

3:00 – 5:00 pm

Meeting Minutes

**Commissioners in attendance:** Jeff Travers (Interim Chair), Honor Williams, Audrey Williams, Charneta Scott, Lauren Biel, Diana Bruce, Cara Biddle, Shannon Foster (phone)

**Commissioners not in attendance:** Becky Levin, Kellye McKenzie

**Others in attendance:** Sam Ullery, Katie Lantuh, Nadja Agnew, Carolina Arango, Grace Manubay, Elizabeth Leach, Michael Posey, Heather Holaday, Miriam Kenyon, Lindsey Palmer, Katherine Maguad, Nichelle Johnson, Amanda Prince, Valentine Breitbarth, Tanihsa Douglas, Kafui Doe, Maddie Morales, Lea Howe, Kate Wobbekind, Beth Gingold, Beverley Wheeler, Patrilie Hernandez, Hugo Mogollon, Dalila Boclin, Cory Chimka, Yair Inspektor, Nazneen Ahmad, Mary Romanello, Donna Anthony, Megan Brown, Christine Darling-Churchill, Laura Hansen, Erin Watts, Erica Walther, Bill Deitz, Hanseul Kang, Michael Musante, Nia Bodrick, Bridget Kelly, Joni Eisenberg, Ambrose Lane, Tiffany Oates, Judy Berman, Erin Lumpkins.

**1. Update from the Superintendent:**

- a. Welcome to Donna Anthony, the new Assistant Superintendent for Health and Wellness at the Office of the State Superintendent of Education (OSSE).
- b. Healthy Tots Act
  - i. The staff and leadership from the Division of Early Learning and the Child and Adult Care Food Program Team in Health & Wellness have been working together to create a plan for implementing the Healthy Tots Act. They are phasing in implementation to reduce the burden on providers. There has been a focus on getting current providers access to the additional funds to support their meal programs. One of the goals is to figure out how to enroll additional providers in the Child and Adult Care Food Program and why certain providers do not or cannot participate. The team is drafting a “waiver for hardship” that providers can use to opt out for this year only. OSSE is creating a plan around how grants will be administered under the Healthy Tots Act and how the implementation will take place.
- c. Healthy Schools Act Evaluation
  - i. Child Trends has been awarded the grant to complete the Healthy Schools Act Evaluation and OSSE is working with them to develop an implementation plan.
- d. OSSE Communications Team:
  - i. Background: Jeff had met with the Superintendent and was informed that the following positions were vacant on OSSE’s communications team: Chief of Staff; Director of Communications; Director of Human Resources & Talent; Deputy Chief of Staff.

- ii. Update: OSSE hired a Deputy Chief of Staff and is working on filing the additional roles. OSSE is recruiting hard and has many good candidates. The positions should be filled within 3-4 months.
    - e. Growing Healthy Schools Month
      - i. There will be an awards ceremony at City Council on October 29, 2015 for the winners of the Best School Garden Award, Art & Essay Contest, Recycle Right competition and recognition for schools that participated in the Harvest of the Month Program. Beth Gingold mentioned that it was great for her agency (the Department of General Services) to partner with OSSE for the Recycle Right competition. Others agreed there should be more collaboration among District agencies. The Superintendent agreed and let the Commission know that this is part of the role for the newly filled Assistant Superintendent of Health and Wellness.
    - f. Remediation of Lead in Public Charter School buildings
      - i. Background: The Commission has been looking at the lead remediation in District of Columbia Public School buildings through the Department of General Services, but there is no agency responsible for conducting this testing in buildings used by Public Charter Schools. It has been unclear whether the testing is happening and the Commission is wondering if there is any funding from OSSE to cover the cost of testing and remediation.
      - ii. Michael Musante reports that FOCUS did a survey over the summer and received a response from one third of schools (18 of 63 LEAs). They asked:
        - 1. Who owns the building? Who is responsible for testing and changing filter? How often do you test your water or change your filters?
        - 2. Responses included that 17 LEAs test for lead; Almost all of these 17 test annually for lead; 3 of them test three times per year; 6 of 18 respondents were operating in district-controlled buildings
        - 3. Will keep asking and do the survey again to get more responses
    - g. Floor is open for questions for the Superintendent, but there are no questions
2. Healthy Youth and Schools Commission Annual Report is due on November 30, 2015 to City Council
  - a. Jeff will take the lead on drafting the report and asks if there other commissioners who will help. Lauren is interested in discussing how they can lessen the burden of this report and if this is a place where the Commission can call to light some of the amendments they would like to see. Jeff responded by saying this is a key priority for 2016 (to create working groups to work on amendments) and that they should foreshadow that in the report but not make the specific amendments yet because of time constraints. A goal is set to have amendments to the legislation ready by February. To lessen the burden of the report, it was suggested that each section have a template and each sub-committee chair should fill in their section. The idea of doing a “report card” for the report was also brought up and well-received.

- b. Megan Brown from Mary Cheh's office suggested that amendments be sent to Councilmember Cheh to bring to Council.
  - c. Ambrose Lane brought up the topic of whether amendments should be brought up around budgeting time, and whether amendments require fiscal obligations from council. Jeff responded that if while working on the report large amendments are brought up that requires fiscal obligations, they will begin working on those sooner.
  - d. The question was raised as to how much money is actually in the Healthy Schools Act budget versus what OSSE is given to spend each year. Commissioners feel this is important information for them to know. Jeff requested a brief and general report of the FY15 spending of the OSSE Healthy Schools Act Initiatives Team. The Commission also feels like they need a budgetary plan and official process for their spending.
3. Sub-Committees
- a. Communications: Needs Chair (Lauren volunteers)
  - b. Environmental: Needs Chair
  - c. Nutrition: Diana
  - d. PE/PA: Needs Chair (Bill volunteers)
  - e. Bill Deitz is awaiting approval to become a commissioner
  - f. Donna Anthony will most likely fill the vacant OSSE seat on the Commission
4. Update from Bill Deitz on the Diabetesity committee at the Department of Health
- a. The Diabetesity committee meets on the third Thursday of every month at the Department of Health. People should email Joni Eisenberg ([joni.eisenberg@dc.gov](mailto:joni.eisenberg@dc.gov)) if they are interested in getting meeting notices. These meetings are working meetings and are not intended for folks to just come and observe. The job of this committee is to set goals for diabetes care, healthy food, and physical activity in children. The last goal is the most pertinent to the Commission.
  - b. Altering the physical activity requirements so they can be met by after school programming and not just through a Physical Education class (requirement = 1 hour/day)
    - i. The commission has not taken an official stance on whether an amendment should be made to the Healthy Schools Act that decreases the minutes required in order to meet the deadline. 6 public charter schools and a select number of DCPS schools are meeting the minutes this year through support from an OSSE grant (charters) and DCPS pilot program. OSSE will be collecting data on their grantees through Fitnessgram data twice a year and other surveys
  - c. Child Obesity 180 (Tufts University model) has two programs that the Committee is interested in mimicking:
    - i. Billion Mile Challenge
    - ii. Three Themes: Drink more, snack smart, move right
5. Update from Erin Watts – American University evaluation of the Healthy Schools Act
- a. American University is writing their final report on the longitudinal effects of the Healthy Schools Act over the five year period. They have created a composite score to see if there is an effective formula for the schools that are able to best implement the

Healthy Schools Act and how can that be replicated for other schools. American University will not be releasing composite scores to the schools at this time. Data comes from the School Health Profile reported to OSSE. A report should be ready by the end of December, and then printed and distributed at the start of 2016 with some sort of formal release meeting taking place then as well.

6. Floor is open for other topics for discussion, but not questions or issues are brought up.

**Meeting adjourns at 4:50 pm.**