

Healthy Youth & Schools Commission

Jan. 27, 2016

3-5 p.m.

Meeting Minutes

Commissioners in attendance: Jeff Travers, Diana Bruce, Audrey Williams, Lauren Shweder Biel, Cara Biddle (phone), Charnetta Scott, Shannon Foster (phone)

Commissioners not in attendance: Becky Levin, Honor Williams

Others in attendance: Laura Hansen, Erica Walther, Carolina Arango, Donna Anthony, Lindsey Palmer, Katie Lantuh, Kate Wobbekind, Kafui Doe, Laine Cidlowski, Amelia Peterson-Kosecki, Yair Inspektor, Beth Gingold, Melissa Roark, Patrilie Hernandez, Vvdaul Holloway, , Amy Schweitzer, Janet Gingold, Bill Deitz, Nancy Chapman, Sara Beckwith, Joni Eisenberg, Franciel Dawes, Amy Hollar. **Phone:** Susan Comfrot, Erin Watts, Cody Gillans, Ambrose, Cory Chimka.

Agenda:

1. Sub-Committee Update

a. Current Sub-Committees & their chair:

- i. Communications: Lauren Shweder Biel
- ii. Environment: VACANT
- iii. Health and Wellness: Cara Biddle
- iv. Nutrition: VACANT
- v. PE/PA: Bill Deitz

b. Conversation around the purpose of the Healthy Youth and Schools Commission (HYSC):

- i. A few questions were raised around what is the Commission's work? Are there goals and a purpose for the work? What do other commissioners see as the work?

1. Commissioners and stakeholders have seen the HYSC as "centennials of the act", "watchdogs of the work". Some feel the only work they do is writing the report each year and others feel the HYSC provides insight and a place for conversation around issues like the PE/PA minutes. Some feel they are a body that looks at the work directed by the HSA and present gaps to the Mayor. Informing the Mayor on the issues is also related to accountability of the act and supporting agenda setting for the Mayor.

- ii. Are the right people on the commission?

1. It is the mayor's responsibility to recruit and identify commissioners. Jeff Travers noted that it was an appreciate role of the Commission to self-examine and make suggestions to the Mayor about the type of person would add breadth and depth to the Commission.

- iii. Is the purpose of the HYSC to inform policy or drive policy, or both? Are our recommendations even being listened to?
- iv. The Food Policy Council (FPC) has a mission and working groups that are specific. The FPC would look to the HYSC as experts on school food issues, and invite them to come and actively participate on school and school-food related issues, and decide those policy recommendations.
- v. It's important to respond to the changing environment and adapt our mission and goals to align with the current issues.
- vi. What is the role of the HYSC in advocacy?
 - 1. Commissioners are not allowed to advocate as commissioners. No testifying or speaking on behalf of the commission.
- vii. If the HYSC is supposed to function as a team of advisors, OSSE should feel comfortable coming to us for advice, to bounce ideas off of, to ask for help.
- viii. As OSSE, we look at the commission as a way to take our expertise of school-based environments for children and align that with what is happening in the community for children.
 - 1. DCPS and DGS are also given tasks under the HSA.
- ix. A smaller working group of commissioners will be convened to ask these tough questions, create an agenda and then make a strategic plan.
 - 1. Commissioners will schedule a meeting to be hosted at GW for the beginning of March.
- c. Report out from the PA/PE Sub-Committee from Bill Deitz
 - i. Our next meeting will focus on shared agreements between organizations and agencies on using space and partnerships that help students get access to more PA.
 - ii. We really would like a goal for the committee – the boldest goal is “to increase the number of children meeting PA standards in DC.” To accomplish this goal, we will need to work with schools and Out of School Time providers. We would like to create a vetting process for CBOs that work on PA, improving access to programming for at-risk populations, and re-forming the DC SHAPE group.
 - iii. Next meeting is 2/16 at OSSE.
- 2. Organization of Health and Wellness at OSSE (Donna Anthony)
 - a. Currently teams are organized by funding, not by programmatic work
 - b. Goal is to minimize silos and get the work of the healthy schools act more spread out into the agency. Healthy Schools Act team will be spread across the division to accomplish this.
- 3. Update on the health education standards, health assessment, Child Trends HSA evaluation, and school health profiles (Donna)
 - a. Health Ed Standards were last update in 2007, so OSSE is working with the State Board of Education to do so. A draft was released on Jan. 7, 2016 and is open for comments. (access them here: <http://osse.dc.gov/healtheducationstandards>). Comment period closes on March 18. OSSE will also be doing community meetings, specifically with

educators who are being asked to field test these through the remainder of the year. Final version will go back to the State Board of Education in April for approval, with implementation in SY16-17.

- b. The Healthy Assessment will be released to schools at the end of March. Schools can either devise their own (must be approved by OSSE) or they can use OSSE's version. This year is a "pilot" year to see if LEA's actually opt in to writing their own or just default to using OSSE's. Will keep the commission up to date.
 - c. School Health Profiles were released in January for LEA's and the deadline is mid-February to submit to OSSE. The questions on the profile were consolidated to minimize the burden on LEAs – decreased length to 50% of what it was before.
 - i. The commissioners really want to read the profile so a copy will be emailed out.
 - ii. Feedback from DCPS is that their principals struggle to use the Quickbase application. OSSE has received feedback from individual LEAs and schools around the application, the wording of the questions and the length of the profile. This year, the focus was on making it more concise and consolidating questions that provided data that OSSE was not currently using or could access elsewhere. Moving forward, OSSE will look at the process and the tool itself.
 - iii. Certain sections of the profile would benefit from feedback from other HSA stakeholders and agencies, like DGS for the environment section.
 - iv. The question was raised whether the data from the profiles is being compiled into a user-friendly excel version for CBO's and LEA's to use for data.
 - 1. Several commissioners suggested that later in the year, the Commission begin a conversation about this with potential users of this data. What would this look like? What format would be most meaningful? How do we make this available?
 - d. Child Trends HSA Evaluation is in process and will run through the rest of this fiscal year. Final results will be available in the winter of SY 16-17. We will keep people abreast as to how this is going.
4. FY15 Finance Review
- a. Moving forward, OSSE will give a financial update at each commission meeting to ensure transparency.
 - b. Healthy Schools Act Spending FY15:
 - i. Just under \$850K on personnel (7 FTEs, plus partial smaller chargers)
 - ii. \$2.5 million in grants
 - iii. \$1.7 million in meal reimbursements
 - iv. \$1 million in contractual services, 75% of which was development of DC CAS for Health.
 - c. Questions:
 - i. HSA funds that go to DGS do not go through OSSE. Beth Gingold believes the amount is about \$125,000/year.
 - ii. Do any other agencies receive HSA funding?

- iii. What's the process of OSSE finding out how much money they are working with each year?
 - iv. Donna will consult with the Executive Office of the Mayor to get this information.
- 5. External Healthy Schools Act website
 - a. [This website](#) was established by DC Hunger Solutions when the HSA was passed but has not been updated in the past few years. DC Hunger Solutions manages the website and does not have the capacity to keep it at its full capacity. However, DC Hunger Solutions agreed to maintain a basic "evergreen" site with the following pages and update it periodically:
 - i. Landing page
 - ii. What's in the Act page
 - iii. Why the Act is Needed page
 - iv. What the Act Means for page
 - v. Resources page
 - vi. Contacts page
- 6. Other topics & Announcements
 - a. National School Breakfast Week: March 7-11, 2016! Celebrates free school breakfast in all schools, so keep your eyes peeled for emails about how you can support this week.

Meeting adjourned at 4:35 pm.