



MINTUTES

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**Healthy Youth and Schools Commission Meeting
April 25, 2018
3-5 p.m.**

Welcome and Introductions

Recap the Previous Commission Meeting

Approval of Minutes

Update from OSSE

General Announcements
Mayor's Budget; Healthy Students Amendment Act
Health and Wellness Personnel Update

Update from the Physical Activity Subcommittee

Electronic Universal Health Certificates

Kafui Doe, Division Chief
Community Health Administration, Family Health Bureau
District of Columbia Department of Health

Safer, Stronger DC Presentation

John Mein, Deputy Director of Operations
Office of Neighborhood Safety and Engagement
Executive Office of the Mayor

Final Discussions, Closeout, and Priorities for Next Meeting



Healthy Youth and Schools Commission Meeting

Wednesday, April 25, 2018

3-5 p.m.

Meeting Summary

This meeting summary serves as a review of the April 25, 2018 Healthy Youth and Schools Commission Meeting held at the Office of the State Superintendent of Education (OSSE, 1050 First Street NE, First Floor, Washington, DC 20002). An audio recording is available upon request (Kyle.Flood@dc.gov). The purpose of the Healthy Youth and Schools Commission is to advise the Mayor and the DC Council on health, wellness, and nutritional issues concerning youth and schools in the District of Columbia.

Commissioners in attendance: Diana Bruce, William Dietz, Charneta Scott, Heidi Schumacher, Jeff Travers, Audrey Williams, and Beverley Wheeler.

Commissioners in attendance via phone: Robin Diggs and Taryn Morrissey

Welcome and Introductions

- Chairman Jeff Travers opened the meeting at 3:10 p.m. by welcoming everyone and thanking OSSE for helping to arrange the meeting.

Recap the Previous Commission Meeting

- Chairman Jeff Travers asked commissioners whether they had a chance to review the minutes. Commissioners agreed they had reviewed the minutes. Commissioner Bill Dietz motioned to approve the minutes and the motion was seconded by Commissioner Heidi Schumacher. The minutes were unanimously approved by the commission.
- Chairman Jeff Travers reminded the room that the minutes are publicly available on the open-dc.gov website.

Update from OSSE

- Commissioner Heidi Schumacher gave an update on staffing in the OSSE Division of Health and Wellness. The Division is currently seeking a Director of Policy and Planning and a Deputy Assistant Superintendent of Health and Wellness. The vacancy announcements will be posted publicly on the DCHR website in coming weeks. (More information: Heidi.Schumacher@dc.gov)
- Kyle Flood, OSSE Policy Analyst, gave an update on Mayor Bower's Fiscal Year 2019 Budget Proposal and the OSSE Budget Oversight Hearing (held on April 24, 2018, DC Council Committee on Education). The proposed budget does not alter the Healthy Schools Act Fund. The OSSE Budget Oversight Hearing focused primarily on topics outside the health and wellness portfolio. The Mayor's budget is available publicly online. (More information: Kyle.Flood@dc.gov)



- Lindsey Palmer, OSSE Director of Nutrition Programs, provided an update on the National School Lunch Program Equipment Grant, a grant supported by both Federal USDA and local Healthy Schools Act funds to support the purchasing of school kitchen equipment. Grant recipients will be notified of their awards and Ms. Palmer indicated all applicants will be awarded. The recipients are comprised of both public and public charter schools covering elementary, middle, and high schools, including some new and some returning grant recipients. (More information: Lindsey.Palmer@dc.gov)
- Ms. Palmer also provided an update on the OSSE Cafeteria Staff Training grant, which is funded locally by the Healthy Schools Act. OSSE anticipates to have an RFA posted by the end of FY2018 and to award grants in early FY2019. OSSE anticipates to award a total of \$100,000 for cafeteria staff training. (More information: Lindsey.Palmer@dc.gov)
- Ms. Palmer also provided an update on the Healthy Tots Wellness Grant, a grant funded locally by the Healthy Tots Act. OSSE was able to award nearly \$500,000 to six recipients that each work with 10-15 early child development centers. The grant will last part of FY2018 and all of FY2019. Grant recipients included American University, child development centers, and non-profits. The quality of the applications were very strong. (More information: Lindsey.Palmer@dc.gov)
- Sam Ullery, OSSE School Garden Specialist, provided an update on the School Garden Grant, a grant funded locally by the Healthy Schools Act. The grant will be available to applicants beginning June 1, 2018 with an award date of October 1, 2018. The School Garden Grant is a two year grant with most of the funds going toward school garden staffing. OSSE anticipates to award up to \$35,000 each to 11 grant recipients. (More information: Sam.Ullery@dc.gov)
 - Chairman Jeff Travers asked about school garden staffing. Mr. Ullery indicated that approximately half of the 128 District school gardens were staffed in school year 2016-2017 (data is still being compiled for school year 2017-2018). There were very few school gardens with full-time dedicated staff. Most school garden staff have 2-3 gardens under their portfolio. The garden staff focus curriculum engagement primarily around science and the environment, but OSSE is working with staff and school teachers to expand garden curriculum into other subjects.
 - Commissioner Bill Dietz asked what happens to school gardens when they lose funding. Mr. Ullery indicated that some gardens fold after losing funding, but OSSE works with schools to prevent that from happening. The intention of having the School Garden Grant be a two year grant is so that schools can work with OSSE on sustainability plans to keep the garden operating after funding is complete. Some schools dedicate their own funds or partner with community based organizations to continue the gardens after OSSE funding is complete.
 - Commissioner Bill Dietz asked if vegetables grown in the school gardens can be sold and eaten in the school cafeteria. Mr. Ullery indicated that the vegetables can be sold or served in the cafeteria, but revenue from those sales have not been at a scale large enough to cover total garden operating costs. However, selling or serving school garden vegetables provides valuable educational



opportunities for students. Students are more connected to the garden-based curriculum when they are able to sell, serve, and taste the produce. Gardens can also be more sustainable when teachers feel more comfortable to use the gardens as part of an outdoor classroom. The School Garden Grants also help schools with getting teachers comfortable to use gardens as part of the school day.

- Member of the public asked how much OSSE works with FoodCorps. Mr. Ullery answered that OSSE works directly with FoodCorps, including supporting a FoodCorps Coordinator at OSSE headquarters. There are 15 FoodCorps schools in the District.
- Member of the public asked where school gardens are located on school grounds. Mr. Ullery answered that school gardens are located in many places on school grounds, including on roofs and greenhouses.
- Member of the public asked if partnerships between schools and community based organizations are essential to continuing gardens after funding is complete. Mr. Ullery indicated that the grant requires partnerships between schools and community based organizations because the partnerships are so important to the success of school garden programs.
- Member of the public asked about mentorship for principals and teachers for using school gardens as part of the curriculum. Mr. Ullery answered that FoodCorps schools work on the development of mentoring and linking school garden programs. It works well, but it is expensive. This summer OSSE will be partnering with Washington Youth Garden for a four day school garden institute training for teachers. Teachers will continue to receive support and assistance following their participation in the summer institute training.
- Mr. Ullery also informed the commission that the 2018 Strawberries and Salad Greens Day will take place on June 6, 2018. OSSE is seeking volunteers to go into District cafeterias to support eating locally-sourced fruits and vegetables. (More information: Sam.Ullery@dc.gov)
- Carolina Arango Martinez, OSSE Nutrition Education Specialist, provided an update on the Nutrition Education and Activity Grant. The grant launched in December 2017 and was open to non-profits that partner with 7-10 District schools. There were no awards made in FY2018 because the applications did not fully meet quality requirements. OSSE will be releasing an online survey and will hold a public stakeholder engagement focus group on April 30, 2018 (9:30 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. at OSSE) to hear feedback from the community on how to improve the grant before rereleasing later in early FY2019. The money will carry over to be awarded in FY2019. (More information: Carolina.Arango@dc.gov)
- Aimee McLaughlin, OSSE Health Education Specialist, provided an update on the Health and Physical Education Assessment (HPEA). The HPEA is an online assessment that is currently live and most schools are planning to administer the assessment in May or June. (More information: Aimee.Mclaughlin@dc.gov)



- Ms. McLaughlin also provided an update on the 2017 Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS) Report. The report was released in February 2018 and is available on the OSSE website. YRBS data files are also available on the OSSE website. OSSE is working on a YRBS mental health factsheet. OSSE will also begin the “YRBS road show” to go to different agencies and organizations that want to learn more about the YRBS. The School Health Data Workgroup is another way for people to get more involved with the YRBS. The next workgroup meeting will be in May or June 2018 (More information: Aimee.Mclaughlin@dc.gov)
 - Commissioner Diana Bruce mentioned that OSSE has more than 10 years’ worth of YRBS data, dating back to when DCPS administered the survey before OSSE became the District’s state education agency (SEA).
 - Commissioner Audrey Williams asked what will be included on the YRBS mental health factsheet. Ms. McLaughlin indicated that OSSE will pull data from YRBS related to suicide ideation, bullying, violence, depression, and feelings or safety and fear, then compare it to attendance and other known risk factors. The factsheet is still in the early development stage.
 - Member of the public asked about marijuana usage and synthetic marijuana usage. Ms. McLaughlin answered that marijuana usage is higher, but other drug and tobacco usage is the same or lower. More information about YRBS trends can be found in the YRBS report and on the OSSE website.

Update from the Physical Activity Subcommittee

- Commissioner Bill Dietz spoke about the recommendations made by the Physical Activity Subcommittee to the Healthy Students Amendment Act, including adding Pre-K physical activity requirements, adjusting physical education minute requirements for grades K-8, and adding OSSE as a resource for schools not meeting physical education requirements. Commissioner Dietz also mentioned that he urged the DC Council to make the one-time \$400,000 for nutrition education and cafeteria grants permanent in the Healthy Schools Act Fund. Commissioner Dietz also indicated he supports the Student Fair Access to School Act of 2017 and mentioned recent work done with the DCPS School Design Lab, Ludlow-Taylor Elementary School, with a focus on developing a health and wellness program.

Electronic Universal Health Certificates

- Kafui Doe, Division Chief of Community Health Administration, Family Health Bureau District of Columbia Department of Health, provided an update on work done regarding electronic Universal Health Certificates in the District. Dr. Doe first walked through the current process for the Universal Health Certificate and then talked about larger efforts in the District for electronic health records that share across different providers. The District of Columbia Office of Healthcare Finance (DHCF) is leading the healthcare exchange effort across providers. Health Office Anywhere currently allows public and public charter schools to share health data with each other. DC Health is working with



schools to increase the number of Universal Health Certificates that are submitted to schools. (More information: Kafui.Doe@dc.gov)

Safer, Stronger DC Presentation

- John Mein, Deputy Director at the Office of Neighborhood Safety and Engagement (ONSE) Executive Office of the Mayor, provided a presentation on Safer Stronger DC. Mr. Mein provided a walk-through of the creation and mission of the ONSE and a walk through of the core functions, including: Pathways Program, Violence Intervention and Prevention, Community Stabilization Program, and Street Outreach and Case Managers. More details can be found on the presentation deck available on open-dc.gov. (More information: John.Mein@dc.gov)
 - Chairman Jeff Travers asked about how families are tracked after violence occurs and whether additional violence occurs in communities. Mr. Mein indicated they have an entire database for tracking purposes. For instance, they look at the victim's family members' contacts with law enforcement, either as suspect or a witness, as a measure of success or to track whether there were retaliation efforts or were involved in further violence (especially with non-fatal shootings). ONSE does a one-month follow-up with the family of the victim (or more frequently depending on the case) and they track whether the family's needs were met. Housing is the biggest hurdle with families, such as family relocation.
 - Chairman Jeff Travers asked for more information about community stabilization after violence occurs in the community. Mr. Mein said the office focuses on specific families, but community providers work with the broader community, such as working with other families in the neighborhood that experienced trauma.
 - Commissioner Diana Bruce asked about the needs of participants of the Pathways Program, such as completing GED, getting into community college or employment training, or childcare. Mr. Mein indicated his office connects participants with programs for completing GED, meeting literacy needs, securing vital records, and so on. The plan is to have most of these services located in one place so that participants do not have to be transferred across town for services, including looking into childcare resources. Commissioner Bruce also mentioned that Whitman-Walker Clinic would be a good resource for transgender participants if there's a need for assistance in name or gender change and the birth certificate process.
 - Member of the public asked about incentive to participate in the Pathways Program and whether ONSE thinks they will get 50 participants. Mr. Mein indicated that a big incentive is the stipend, workforce development, and job readiness training. ONSE feels confident they will get 50 participants. ONSE is working with Criminal Justice Coordinating Council (CJCC) and the Metropolitan Police Department (MPD) for recruitment and identifying participants.
 - Member of the public asked about the infusion of restorative justice in the Pathways Program. Mr. Mein indicated that restorative justice is a big component and goal of ONSE.



- Member of the public asked if ONSE captures data on adverse childhood experiences (ACEs). Mr. Mein indicates they use a risk assessment tool, but they do not collect on ACEs at the moment. ONSE is working with the DC Lab to build out greater data collection. Commissioner Bruce said it may be a good evaluation question and Commissioner Dietz indicated the Redstone Center would be willing to work with ONSE on ACEs.

Final Discussions, Closeout, and Priorities for Next Meeting

- Chairman Jeff Travers opened the floor for comments or suggestions from the commissioners or members of the public.
- Commissioner Audrey Williams announced that Public Charter School Board and DCPS are hosting a conference on sexual abuse in schools.
- Commissioner Beverley Wheeler reminded the room about the summer meal program and would like to hear more about the city's work at the next commission meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 4:30 p.m.

The next Healthy Youth and Schools Commission meeting will be held on Wednesday, July 25, 2018 at the Office of the State Superintendent of Education. More information is available on the open-dc.gov website.