

**Healthy Youth and Schools Commission Meeting**  
**July 29<sup>th</sup>, 2015**  
**Meeting Minutes (DRAFT)**

**Commissioners in attendance:** Jeff Travers, Alexandra Ashbrook, Nancy Brenowitz Katz, Audrey Williams, Shannon Foster (phone), Charneta Scott, Lauren Biel, Diana Bruce, Becky Levin

**Others in attendance:** Stacey Snelling (AU), Lindsey Palmer, Nichelle Johnson, Erica Walther, Brooke Wheeler, Katie Lantuh (OSSE), Maddie Morales (FoodCorps), Susan Comfort (Playworks), Beth Gingold (DGS), Nia Bodrick (Unity), Elizabeth Leach, Valentine Breitbarth, Tanisha Douglass, Yvette Deane (DCPS), Nazneen Ahmad, Sara Beckwith, Molly Powers, Robin Diggs, Joni Eisenberg (DOH), Ambrose Lane, Jr. (Ward 7 Health Alliance), Patrilie Hernandez and Melissa Roark (DC Hunger Solutions), Mary Romanello (Trinity Washington University), Brandon Stratford (Child Trends), Janet Gingold (Children's School Services), Miriam Sznycer-Taub (America's Tooth Fairy), Michael Musante (FOCUS), Joan Valentine (Chronic Disease), Marissa McKeever (Sibley), Yair Inspektor (Deputy Mayor of Education).

**1. Jeff Travers will serve as Interim-Chair of the Commission.**

**2. OSSE Update**

- Grants:
  - o **DC PAY** – 36 grants awarded
  - o **Farm Field Trip** – 7 grants awarded. The grant will reopen in the fall.
  - o **DC Physical Education & Health Education** – 6 grants awarded during the first cycle. The grant has been reopened, new deadline August 7, 2015.
  - o **USDA Farm to School** – OSSE is sponsoring free farm field trips for teachers. Email Erica at [Erica.walther@dc.gov](mailto:Erica.walther@dc.gov) for more information.
  - o **School Garden** – OSSE is tracking the schools that no longer have SGG.
- FoodCorps: Maddie will serve as the FoodCorps Fellow at OSSE for another year.
- Healthy Tots Act: The Act is funded. OSSE is working on hiring staff and developing grants.
- Health Schools Act Evaluation: The evaluation is sitting with procurement.
- Healthy Schools Act Booklist: The book list is complete! OSSE has been working with DC librarians on developing reading events to promote the book list.
- Environmental Literacy: OSSE hired Grace Manubay to fill the Environmental Literacy Specialist position on the HSA Initiatives team.
- Health Standards: Revisions have been submitted to SBOE.
- Growing Healthy Schools Month: Many activities scheduled for the month of October.
- Outdoor Classrooms: Three classrooms are being built at Hardy, Leckie, and Tubman.
- Teacher Wellness Symposium: Scheduled for August 10, 2015 at the Sumner School. It is a free event open to VA, MD, and DC teachers.
- YRBS: Scheduled to be conducted this fall.
- Health Assessment: Direct concerns about implementation to the Deputy Mayor of Education and the State Superintendent of Education.
- School Health Profile: 2015 data is not currently available to the public but should be uploaded to the OSSE website soon as it is public data.

**3. DCPS School Wellness Champion Update:** DCPS is in the process of developing of a school wellness guide, a DCPS wellness newsletter, and a school-based wellness council training for 30 schools. DCPS will provide targeted assistance to the 30 schools during SY 2015-2016. The tentative date for the training is September 16, 2015. Further information at next meeting.

#### 4. Subcommittee Updates

- *Communications:*
  - The HSA infographic for parents is ready and will be distributed.
  - Currently developing HSA posters for school cafeterias for October launch.
  - The committee is recruiting a new chair. Nancy Katz volunteered.
- *Environment:*
  - Lead testing may not be happening in charter schools. This is a major health and equity issue. Question about lead testing added to the School Health Profile.
- *Physical Education & Physical Activity*
  - Meeting held at Wilson Bldg to discuss the HSA physical education and health education requirements. Representatives from 8 CM offices and DME were present, along with 30 community members. Subcommittee will suggest legislation amendments and reach out to DME for feedback. The committee needs to provide concrete ideas to Council.
  - The committee is recruiting a new chair.
- *Health and Wellness:*
  - Discussed the South Capitol Memorial Act. There are web-based trainings available.
  - Working with the DC Collaborative of Mental Health Access in Pediatrics to provide screenings and develop a resource guide.
  - Other areas of focus: Universal Health Certificate, asthma action plan, and reportable disease policy.
  - Ambrose Lane can provide youth mental health first aid training.
- *Nutrition:*
  - Schools need more support around competitive foods. Schools also need equipment upgrades and breakfast in the classroom supplies.
    - Action items:
      - Work with OSSE to develop clear guidance for schools on the nutritional standards.
      - Looking to develop proactive, supportive, and positive ways to support healthy behaviors in schools.

#### 5. Ensuring continued compliance with the HSA among LEAs

- Chartwells is gearing up for SY 2015-2016, amid DCPS plans to issue an RFP for the next school year and beyond. Commissioners expressed concerns that DCPS stay in compliance with the nutrition provisions of the HSA when selecting a new vendor. Additionally, there was a discussion among the group about the centralized kitchen section of the HSA.
- Ideas for moving forward:
  - Commission should focus on school needs such as equipment and staff training
  - Convene a dream team to brainstorm options
  - Nutrition subcommittee will provide amendments for the HSA report by December 2015

**Next Meeting Date: Wednesday, October 28, 2015, 3:00-5:00pm, OSSE**