



MINUTES TO BE ADOPTED AT NEXT FULL COMMISSION MEETING
AUDIO IS AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST (KYLE.FLOOD@DC.GOV)
UPDATE: MEETING MINUTES ADOPTED APRIL 25, 2018 BY FULL COMMISSION

Agenda

Healthy Youth and Schools Commission Meeting

Wednesday, Jan. 24, 2018

3-5p.m.

3-3:10 Welcome and Introductions

3:10-3:20 Recap the Previous Commission Meeting

Approval of Minutes

3:20-3:30 Update from OSSE

General Announcements
Grant Reviewers
Healthy Students Amendment Act of 2017

3:30-3:35 Update from the Physical Activity Subcommittee

3:35-4 DCEOW Data Dashboard Presentation

Venita Embry, public health research analyst
RTI International

4-4:25 OSSE Attendance Report Presentation

Cailyn Torpie, management analyst
Office of the State Superintendent of Education

4:25-4:55 Every Day Counts! Taskforce Presentation

Aurora Steinle, director, strategic initiatives and performance
Office of the Deputy Mayor for Education

4:55-5 Closeout and Priorities for Next Meeting



Healthy Youth and Schools Commission Meeting

Wednesday, Jan. 24, 2018

3-5p.m.

Meeting Summary

This meeting summary serves as a review of the Jan. 18, 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, Danielle Dooley, Laureen Polite, Charneta Scott, Heidi Schumacher, Jeff Travers, and Beverley Wheeler.

Commissioners in attendance via phone: Robin Diggs and Taryn Morrissey

Welcome and Introductions

- Chairman Jeff Travers opened the meeting by welcoming meeting attendees and welcoming Heidi Schumacher back to the commission, who had been on maternity leave.

Recap the Previous Commission Meeting

- Chairman Jeff Travers asked to jump ahead in the agenda to the “Updates from OSSE” in order to allow commissioners additional time to review the minutes from the October Healthy Youth and Schools Commission meeting.

Update from OSSE

- Kyle Flood, Policy Analyst, introduced several OSSE Health & Wellness staff members who provided updates on various projects, grants, and pending legislation.
- Carolina Arango, Nutrition Education Specialist, provided an update on the OSSE Nutrition Education Plan. Ms. Arango reminded the commission that several meetings with stakeholders have taken place in the creation of the plan and that the plan is currently in the graphic design phase. Ms. Arango indicated OSSE hopes to have the plan available soon and that the plan will help with the promotion of National Nutrition Month. (More information: Carolina.Arango@dc.gov)
- Aimee McLaughlin, Health Education Specialist, provided an update on the 2017 Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS). The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention have



released the survey data to OSSE and OSSE is finalizing the 2017 YRBS Report. The report is expected to be available in February. Ms. McLaughlin reminded the commission that the 2017 YRBS data files are also available on the OSSE website. (More information: Aimee.Mclaughlin@dc.gov)

- Elizabeth Leach, School Programs Manager, provided an update on proposed school meal pattern flexibility from the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA). The proposed flexibilities are open for public comment through Monday, January 29, 2018. The flexibilities are to (1) maintain the sodium level one target line item, (2) continue to allow State Education Agencies (SEAs) to grant exemption waivers to schools from meeting whole grain rich requirements, and (3) allow one percent flavored milk in schools. OSSE has submitted a public comment against the proposed one percent flavored milk flexibility. OSSE did not object to the whole grain rich exemption because schools in the District are already meeting this requirement and no school has requested a waiver. OSSE is in agreement with the sodium target levels due to feedback heard from food vendors that have stated they are not ready to meet the higher standard that would drastically change the meals. OSSE audits meals to ensure schools are meeting nutrition standards. (More information: Elizabeth.Leach@dc.gov)
- Yair Inspektor, Director of Policy and Planning, provided an update on the Healthy Students Amendment Act of 2017. Mr. Inspektor indicated the DC Council hearing for the legislation went well. He mentioned there is no date scheduled for red line revisions to the legislation but it might be several months before there is any movement. Constituents can still reach out to DC Councilmembers if they have concerns or comments about the legislation. (More information: Yair.Inspektor@dc.gov)
- Patrilie Hernandez, Management Analyst, provided an update on the Healthy Tots Wellness Grant. OSSE is seeking practitioners, community members, and graduate students to serve as volunteer peer reviewers for the Healthy Tots Wellness Grant. OSSE has released a competitive grant application that will be awarded to District of Columbia non-profit organizations. Individuals who meet required qualifications to serve as grant application reviewers are encouraged to apply by Friday, January 26, 2018. (More information: Patrilie.Hernandez@dc.gov)
- Elysia DiCamillo, Program Specialist, provided an update on the National School Lunch Program Equipment Grant. The purpose of this grant is to award funds to schools to purchase equipment that will improve their food service programs. The grant focuses on equipment to serve healthier meals, meet nutritional standards with an emphasis on serving more fruits and vegetables, improve food safety, and expand accessibility to food services. The grant will be released on February 9, 2018 and close on March 7, 2018. In the weeks prior to closing, OSSE will be seeking grant reviewers to help with



determining sites to award funds. The grant review period will be in mid-March. (More information: Elysia.DiCamillo@dc.gov)

- Charles Rominiyi, Health Education Specialist, provided an update on the Nutrition Education and Physical Activity (NEPA) Grant. On December 22, 2017, OSSE released the NEPA grant and the application phase will close on February 9, 2018. The grant review process will be February 10 – February 28, 2018 with awards being announced in the beginning of March 2018. The total award for this fiscal year is \$550,000. There are no additional grant reviewers needed for this grant. (More information: Charles.Rominiyi@dc.gov)
- Elizabeth Leach provided an update on the Farm Field Trip Grant and the School Garden Grant. The Farm Field Trip Grant was redesigned this year for community based organizations, but the grant was not awarded because the applications were not strong. OSSE is looking for feedback on how to make the grant more successful in the future. Interested individuals can reach out to Ms. Leach with thoughts on how to strengthen the Farm Field Trip Grant. The School Garden Grants received 40 applications and OSSE awarded 11 sites with the grant. These funds will run through Fiscal Year 2019. (More information: Elizabeth.Leach@dc.gov)
- Chairman Jeff Travers encouraged fellow commissioners to participate in the grant review process for the Healthy Tots Wellness Grant and the National School Lunch Program Equipment Grant.

Recap the Previous Commission Meeting

- Chairman Jeff Travers returned to the minutes from October 18, 2017 meeting. After asking if anyone had any questions, the minutes were unanimously approved by all commissioners in attendance.

Update from the Physical Activity Subcommittee

- Commissioner Bill Dietz, Chairman of the Physical Activity Subcommittee, provided an update on recent topics covered by the subcommittee. Dr. Dietz reminded the room that the subcommittee has been involved in providing recommendations and testimony to DC Council regarding physical education and activity aspects of the Healthy Students Amendment Act of 2017. Dr. Dietz also mentioned that DC Council is considering “shared-use” legislation that will allow greater access to public facilities and public space (such as schools) for physical activity and community groups. Dr. Dietz mentioned that District school principals have been skeptical of the concept of sharing space, with issues such as toilet paper consumption, custodial services, and other costs being a burden on schools. The subcommittee has also considered, “out of school time,” including standards and how to better fund this area to maximize the reach to students. The



Physical Activity Subcommittee meets regularly and meetings are open to the public. Interested individuals are encouraged to attend. (More information: william.dietz@dcbc.dc.gov or bdietz@email.gwu.edu)

- Commissioner Diana Bruce asked about the cost incurred on schools for “shared-use.” Ms. Bruce understands these costs are largely due to custodial or security expenses. It was raised by those in attendance that some programs have paid to use school parking lots, but no security or custodial services were made available. Those in attendance recommended that external space should potentially cost less depending on the level of access to the facilities inside the school. Dr. Dietz indicated that the city is looking into these types of questions through an Advisory Group. Ms. Bruce asked if access to school based health centers have come up at the Advisory Group meetings, but they have not.
- Commissioner Danielle Dooley echoed the importance of “out of school time” and mentioned how students and families that are food insecure can benefit from these programs.
- On the subject of food insecurity, Commissioner Beverley Wheeler mentioned that Food Research & Action Center (FRAC) has released new materials she had them available for those who were interested.

DCEOW Data Dashboard Presentation

- Venita Embry, Public Health Research Analyst with RTI International, provided a presentation on the DC Epidemiological Outcomes Workgroup (DCEOW) data dashboard. The DCEOW is funded through grants from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) to the District of Columbia Department of Behavioral Health.
- Ms. Embry provided a walk-through of the purpose of dashboard, the data used to build the dashboard, and the features of the dashboard. Ms. Embry encouraged those in attendance to reach out to her with questions or ideas for the dashboard in an effort to make it more useful to a larger audience. Ms. Embry provided materials and a demonstration on how to access and use the dashboard. The dashboard is available at: <https://dcspfsig.rti.org/dashboard/index.html>.
- Commissioners raised questions on the data available on the dashboard, including whether discipline data is available. Ms. Embry encouraged those with ideas for adding data to reach out to her so she can learn more. Commissioners also asked about the use of the dashboard. Ms. Embry indicated the dashboard has primarily been used by the workgroup members during the data intake phase of the grant, but RTI International hopes in the later phases of the grant that a larger audience will begin to use the



dashboard. The audience asked whether the raw data is available to download on the dashboard and Ms. Embry said she hopes to incorporate that function in the next update to the dashboard. (More information: vembry@rti.org)

- *The PowerPoint and materials used for this presentation is available on the Open-DC website, located at: <https://www.open-dc.gov/meeting/healthy-youth-and-schools-commission-meeting-0>*

OSSE Attendance Report Presentation

- Cailyn Torpie, Management Analyst, provided a presentation on the key findings and figures from the OSSE Attendance Report. The presentation exhibited that both absenteeism and truancy increased between school year 2015-16 and school year 2016-17. Absenteeism continues to be most severe among high school students, students considered to be at-risk, students with disabilities, and mobile students who enrolled in more than one school within the school year. Race and ethnicity, along with grade level, were the highest predictors of absenteeism and truancy. Students who were chronically absent in school year 2015-16 were ten times as likely to be chronically absent in school year 2016-17. Throughout the 2016-17 school year, spikes of absenteeism were observed on days leading up to a holidays and school breaks, as well as days of inclement weather. (More information: Cailyn.Torpie@dc.gov)
- *The PowerPoint and materials used for this presentation is available on the Open-DC website, located at: <https://www.open-dc.gov/meeting/healthy-youth-and-schools-commission-meeting-0>*

Every Day Counts! Taskforce Presentation

- Aurora Steinle, Director of Strategic Initiatives and Performance, Office of the Deputy Mayor for Education, provided a presentation on the city's initiative Every Day Counts! Ms. Steinle specified that the initiative is aware of the problem with absenteeism and truancy, so the taskforce is tackling the question of "why" students become chronically absent and "how" the city can get more useful information to approach and solve the problem. The initiative has been engaging students, families, and community members on the barriers for getting to school. The campaign is about spreading the message, setting a culture of going to school, and recognizing that everyone can make a difference. The initiative has also undertaken direct outreach, offered attendance rewards, and conducted media campaigns based on data collected in the OSSE Attendance Report. The initiative works with several District agencies and stakeholders directly affected by school attendance. (More information: Aurora.Steinle@dc.gov)
- Commissioner Diana Bruce raised that it's important to educate schools and families on the health absences and that families do not have to keep a child out of school in many



instances. Ms. Bruce said that families may not realize students do not need to be pulled from school due to lice or bed bugs. Ms. Steinle indicated the initiative is working on identifying the top student health issues and then training and engaging with schools, health practitioners, and families.

- The audience raised concerns regarding school facilities and whether chemical or cleaning practices have been raised as part of the taskforce. Schools with poor air quality may lead to increased health risk and absenteeism, especially for students with asthma. Ms. Steinle indicated they have discussed asthma, but facilities have not specifically been raised yet. Ms. Steinle indicated she'd be interested in getting more information and specific ideas around asthma and school facilities.
- *The PowerPoint and materials used for this presentation is available on the Open-DC website, located at: <https://www.open-dc.gov/meeting/healthy-youth-and-schools-commission-meeting-0>*

Closeout and Priorities for Next Meeting

- Chairman Jeff Travers encouraged commissioners to contact him or Kyle Flood with ideas or topics to be covered at the next meeting in April 2018 and then concluded the meeting. The date, time, and location of the next meeting will be posted on the open-dc.gov website.

Meeting adjourned at 5:02p.m.