



MEETING MINUTES

MINUTES UNANIMOUSLY ADOPTED AT THE COMMISSION MEETING ON FEB. 17, 2021.

AUDIO IS AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST (CAITLIN.SHAUCK@DC.GOV)

AGENDA

Healthy Youth and Schools Commission Meeting

Nov. 18, 2020

3-5 p.m.

Welcome and Introductions

Recap of the Previous Commission Meeting

Approval of Minutes

General Updates from OSSE

General Announcements

Nutrition Team Updates

COVID-19 Response and Recovery Updates

Continuous Education and Recovery Plans

Health and Safety Guidance

Immunizations Enforcement

Meal Service

Mental and Behavioral Health Support

Child and Family Services Agency Presentation

Comments from Commissioners on Current Work

Updates from Strategic Plan Working Groups

Final Discussions, Closeout, and Priorities for Next Meeting

2021 Meeting Dates

Healthy Youth and Schools Commission Meeting

Nov. 18, 2020

3-5 p.m.

Meeting Summary

This meeting summary serves as a review of the Nov. 18, 2020 Healthy Youth and Schools Commission Meeting held virtually. A recording is available upon request (Caitlin.Shauck@dc.gov). The purpose of the Healthy Youth and Schools Commission is to advise the Mayor and DC Council on health, wellness, and nutritional issues concerning youth and schools in the District of Columbia.

Commissioners in attendance: Jeff Travers, Heidi Schumacher, Audrey Williams, Kristy McCarron, Akeem Anderson, Charneta Scott, Taryn Morrissey, William Dietz, Danielle Dooley

Welcome and Introductions

- Chairman Jeff Travers opened the meeting at 3:04 p.m.

Recap of the Previous Commission Meeting

- Chairman Travers asked commissioners to review the minutes from the Aug. 26 meeting.
- Commissioner William Dietz motioned to approve the minutes, Commissioner Taryn Morrissey seconded, and the minutes were unanimously approved by the commissioners.

General Updates from OSSE

- Commissioner Heidi Schumacher provided updates from OSSE.
 - OSSE has a new Interim Superintendent, Shana Young.
 - OSSE was [awarded](#) the Comprehensive Literacy State Development (CLSD) grant by the US Department of Education to improve literacy.
 - Additional information is available in the slides.
 - Commissioner Dietz asked the proportion of students who are reading at grade level.
 - Commissioner Schumacher responded that there are significant discrepancies across demographic groups, and the students who are prioritized with this grant are less likely to be reading on grade level.
 - Additional data from statewide assessments is available on the [OSSE website](#).
 - OSSE released continuation grants for the following: Environmental Literacy Advancement Grant, National School Lunch Program Equipment Assistance Grant, Healthy Tots Wellness Grant, and School Garden Grant.

- Elizabeth Leach, manager of school programs, provided updates from the nutrition team.
 - OSSE released the application for the National School Lunch Program Equipment Assistance Grant.
 - [Register](#) to receive the Sprout it Out newsletter for the District school garden programs.
 - OSSE has been awarded a USDA farm to school grant.
 - Additional information is available in the slides.

COVID-19 Response and Recovery Updates

- Commissioner Schumacher provided an overview of the school landscape.
 - Information about DCPS's reopening plans is available at: dcpsreopenstrong.com/school-plans/
 - Information about public charter schools' reopening plans is available at: dcpcsb.org/public-charter-schools-reopening-update.
- Commissioner Schumacher provided an overview of OSSE's work to respond to COVID-19.
 - OSSE has a [landing page](#) on its website with guidance and resources.
 - Every local education agency submitted continuous education plans, which are available on the OSSE website: <https://osse.dc.gov/publication/lea-continuous-education-plans>.
- David Esquith, director of policy, planning, and strategic initiatives at OSSE, provided an update on the Health and Safety Guidance for Schools: COVID-19 Recovery Period as well as findings from the Office of the Deputy Mayor for Education's interviews with schools that are open for in-person learning.
 - Additional information is available in the slides.
 - Commissioner Morrissey asked whether the DME interviews asked about the cohort sizes that children were in and how they maintained cohorts and if the interview asked about where children were when they were not in school.
 - David Esquith responded that his understanding is that they did not address those topics. The survey was intended to ask about lessons learned from having students in-person.
 - Commissioner Dietz asked whether there has been an outbreak at any of the LEAs conducting in-person learning.
 - David Esquith responded that OSSE does not know if anyone has made a connection between schools where there have been cases and schools that participated in the survey.
 - Commissioner Schumacher added that this is something that OSSE has been thinking about how to better connect the dots

on trends. Generally, the Health Department at this point is not reporting cases at the school level.

- Chairman Travers asked to what degree OSSE is collaborating with other large school districts and how much federal money was received to implement these procedures.
 - David Esquith responded that OSSE is always looking to see what other school systems and state plans are doing.
 - There was funding available to schools to implement various protocols for health and safety.
 - Commissioner Schumacher added that many schools and LEAs are using federal Title funds to support this work, and there has been a significant local investment, including by standing up programs to support schools to ensure the safest environment.
 - Commissioner Audrey Williams commented that the Public Charter School Board hired two health consultants to work with schools directly to implement the guidance.
- Kyle Flood, manager of policy and compliance at OSSE, provided an overview of the technical assistance that OSSE is offering for child care providers.
 - Additional information is available in the slides.
- Kyle Flood provided an update on immunizations enforcement.
 - OSSE is reminding schools that part of health and safety is immunizations enforcement.
 - For the most part, since most schools have been in a remote learning posture, there has been a lot of work to remind families that even though students are learning from home, they still need to be up to date on their immunizations.
 - There is still a lot of catching up to do for children who were not getting their well child visits or their visits to get their immunizations.
 - Commissioner Morrissey asked if there is any update on getting the health forms electronic.
 - Kyle Flood responded that OSSE is making clear that telework is acceptable for completing visits and partially completed Universal Health Certificates can be accepted by child care and schools during this time.
 - DC Health is leading the charge on digitizing health certificates.
 - Commissioner Schumacher added that DC Health had made nice progress, but COVID has appropriately changed priorities.
 - OSSE did offer flexibility, with families having a couple of extra months to submit the Universal Health Certificate and Oral Health Assessment.

- The Department of Healthcare Finance has statistics on the explosion of telehealth in the District, which is an opportunity to expand access to healthcare in the future.
- Elizabeth Leach provided an update on meal service.
 - Additional information is available in the slides.
- Lindsey Palmer, director of nutrition programs, provided an update on Pandemic EBT.
 - Additional information is available in the slides.
- Robyn Douglas, manager of nutrition, compliance, and partnerships at DCPS, provided an update on DCPS's meal service.
 - DCPS has 47 open meal sites.
 - Participation remains lower than over the summer.
 - Twenty of the 47 meal sites will be open during the holiday breaks.
- Tia Brumsted, Deputy Assistant Superintendent of Health and Wellness at OSSE, provided an update on mental and behavioral health recovery efforts.
 - Additional information is available in the slides.

Child and Family Services Agency Presentation

- Samira Haaker, program manager, CPS hotline and support services administration at the Child and Family Services Agency (CFSA), presented about CFSA's response to concerns regarding child welfare in the District.
 - Additional information is available in the slides.
 - Commissioner Morrissey asked whether we know anything about students who are not enrolling in schools and where they are.
 - Samira Haaker responded that for the majority of September, the reports they were receiving were for kids who either were not registered for the school year or were registered and never showed.
 - What they found in those cases a lot of times is that families doubled up outside of the District.
 - They are able to use non-public information systems to contact families even when schools cannot get in touch with them.
 - The majority of reports they received were kids who ended up in Maryland.
 - They are struggling with families that have decided to homeschool because parents do not understand that they need to go through OSSE to homeschool their children.
 - There were very few cases where they were unable to find a family at all.

- An audience member asked about the change in guidance regarding connecting with the Metropolitan Police Department (MPD) for welfare checks.
 - Samira Haaker responded that the MPD welfare check is suggested as an intervention before contacting CFSA.
 - It is being used quite a bit by school staff, and that is an unintended consequence.
 - Because school staff are remote, they are not doing home visits, so they are utilizing MPD more to check on kids if they are not participating.
 - This can obviously negatively impact the relationship between the school and the family because the family may feel uneasy about the police showing up because their child is not participating in school.
 - The goal is to review the guidance to frame for schools that MPD welfare checks are something they can utilize, but that should be given significant consideration.
 - CFSA social workers are still out in the field.
- An audience member asked about whether they should call the hotline for preschool and pre-K families.
 - Samira Haaker responded that there is a balance of what concerns the school has.
 - If the child is not of school-age, there is nothing legally CFSA can do just because the child is not attending.
 - She does want school staff to be comfortable calling if they have specific concerns; for example, if during the last contact they had with the family, there were some concerns about the parent's house or mental health.

Comments from Commissioners on Current Work

- Commissioner Dietz introduced work he has been doing to analyze meal patterns and the nutrition of school meals during the pandemic.
 - Sydney Pryor, doctoral student at GW University, presented the findings on the extent to which the Healthy, Hunger Free Kids Act dietary guidelines are being followed in SFSP meals.
 - They looked primarily at November breakfast and lunch menus in DCPS.
 - Both vendors are meeting milk and fruit and vegetable requirements.
 - Sydney Pryor also presented on specific nutrient requirements.
 - Commissioner Dietz is reassured by the findings, but is still concerned because of more foods being served that are ultra-processed.

- Commissioner Dietz presented an update from the physical activity subcommittee.
 - It continued to be a challenge for physical educators to meet requirements.
 - Chairman Travers noted that his daughter is completing physical education during remote learning.
 - There are challenges with providing equipment, and an idea was to have a lending library of physical education equipment.
 - Committee will be pushing to have physical education included as a core class, as opposed to a special.
- Commissioner Williams reported that the Public Charter School Board received two grants from the EPA to support their lead project.
 - The first was a two-year grant for testing, and the second was to do replacement of lead filters in charter schools.
- Commissioner Charneta Scott reported that DBH offers Wellness Wednesday to support parents.

Updates from Strategic Plan Working Groups

- There were no updates from the strategic plan working groups.

Final Discussions, Closeout, and Priorities for Next Meeting

- Chairman Travers announced the meeting dates for 2021.
 - Feb 24, 2021
 - May 19, 2021
 - Aug. 18, 2021
 - Nov. 17, 2021
- Chairman Travers asked for topic ideas for 2021 meetings to be sent to himself or to Caitlin Shauck.
- Chairman Travers asked for a motion to close the meeting at 4:56 p.m.
 - Commissioner Dietz so moved, and Commissioner Williams seconded.