



Healthy Youth and Schools Commission Meeting
February 21, 2024
3-4:30 p.m.

This meeting summary serves as a review of the February 21, 2024 Healthy Youth and Schools Commission Meeting. 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 who attended in person: Darien Thomas, Lori Garibay, Tia Brumsted, Charneta Scott, Audrey Williams, Jenn Mampara

Commissioners who attended virtually: Kristy McCarron, Danielle Dooley, Taryn Morrissey, Jessica Kirchner

Welcome and Introductions

- Chairperson Kristy McCarron called the meeting to order at 3:08 p.m.
- New Commissioner Introductions
 - Lori Garibay, Child, Adolescent and School Health Division Chief at the DC Department of Health (DC Health), provided an overview of her role within DC Health. Some of the programs they oversee include the School Health Services Program, School Based Health Centers, Pediatric Mental Healthcare Access, Rape Prevention Education, Teen Pregnancy Prevention, and the Youth Advisory Council.
 - Jess Kirchner, Senior Policy Analyst for the Children and Families Team at the National Governors Association, provided a brief introduction and indicated her work in 2024 focuses on youth mental health and childhood food security programs.
 - Darien Thomas, Program Manager at Grassroots Health, provided a brief introduction and overview of their work at Grassroots Health, a nonprofit that advances health equity in cities by using sports to re-imagine health education in middle schools and mobilizing college athletes as health educators and role models for youth.

Recap of the Previous Commission Meeting

- Approval of Minutes
 - July 12, 2023 meeting minutes were approved. Motion: Tia Brumsted. Seconded: Audrey Williams, all in favor.

Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS)

- Aimee McLaughlin, Data and Strategic Initiatives Manager at the Division of Health and Wellness within the Office of the State Superintendent of Education (OSSE), provided background information about the Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS), the distinctions in the DC YRBS, and preliminary national-level data released in February 2023.
- Aimee also discussed 2021 DC YRBS data including decreased trends in high school students' current substance use, mental health findings of concern, and the correlation between mental health and academic performance.
- Tasneem Islam, Management Analyst at the Division of Health and Wellness within OSSE, presented on 2021 DC YRBS data points that reflected the importance of having school-based, supportive staff on site and its correlation in enhancing student well-being, the positive impact of nutrition and meals on academic performance, the correlation between mental health and breakfast consumption, and highlighted findings related to students experiencing hunger.
- Tasneem also presented an overview of the 2023 YRBS data collection that recently closed including the new questions added in 2023, the success of reaching 100 percent school-level participation rate for the second consecutive cycle, and 2023 YRBS report approximate timeline.
- For more information on the DC YRBS visit: <https://osse.dc.gov/service/dc-youth-risk-behavior-survey-yrbs>

Commission Focus Areas for 2024

- Commissioners discussed possible focus areas in 2024 including identifying specific goals within the 2023 focus areas: student mental health and access to meals.
- Caitlin Shauck, Policy Analyst at OSSE, discussed the purpose and functions of the HYSC. For more information, visit: <https://code.dccouncil.gov/us/dc/council/code/titles/38/chapters/8A/subchapters/VII>

Final Discussions, Closeout and Priorities for Next Meeting

- Chairperson McCarron adjourned the meeting at 4:32 p.m.

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