

Health and Safety DAC Minutes 11.15.21

Attendees: Rachel Bressler, Dr. Mark Kelly, Pat Nolan, Debbie Bernstein, Laila Taslimi, Dr. Rita Kachru, Debbie Novak, Linda Morazan, MHS

Approval of the minutes. Meeting was called to order by Dr. Kelly at 7:00pm. Pat Nolan moved to approve and Debbie Bernstein 2nd the motion

- [Minutes - 9/20/21](#)
- [Minutes - 10/18/21 - Special Meeting](#)
- [Minutes - 10/18/21 - Regular Meeting](#)

Public Comment: There were not any members of the public that signed up on the google doc to make public comment: [Public Comment Sign-Up](#)

Coordinating Nurse Rachel Bressler update:

LACDPH Telebriefing: 3% of 5-11-year-olds within our county have received the 1st dose. We have 55% fully vaccinated. Anyone can get a booster now. LA county does not have any intention of lifting masking requirement for indoor. They have strict criteria and they will lift the requirement if transmission goes down to moderate. The schools can not lift the masking unless the state lifts it 1st. 240 people quarantined as of today. 19 total positive cases as of today (several elementary schools, one middle school and one high school). We just updated the dashboard as of today. Right now people are excited to get vaccines (5-11 year-olds) It will probably level off. Our district is not enforcing exclusion of people if they have traveled, however the nurses are informing parents about best practice with travel and are advising parents regarding quarantine after travel.

Tara Brown, Director of Student Services Update:

We are going to be working on getting some vaccination clinics up and running for students 5-12. We are also continuing to work on health staffing. This is an ongoing effort due to a major shortage of school nurses across the United States. The positive news is that we do have registry nurses (RN's) that are filling in some of the gaps until we are able to hire permanent nurses. We also continue to work to identify and support students with mental health concerns. School sites are also currently working on updating their CSSP (Safety Plans) for 2021-2022 school year.

Dr. Mark Kelly, Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources Update:

We continue to work on staff vaccinations. We have a sizable number of staff that are fully vaccinated. We have a small number that are excluded from campus or on leave of absence. Dr. Mora is working with an organization to do staff support and support staff mental health and well-being. It has been a very difficult two years to be an educator.

The Board is busy and they will begin to look at the budget and how we stand going into next year. At the upcoming Board meeting they will hear a report on the 1st interim.

Linda Morazan, Student DAC member update:

Students are in the middle of college applications and early decision. Not many changes or updates. Students are adapting more to being back in person. Many of her friends also enjoy being back in person as well. Linda said the Covid testing has become a natural thing and that it goes by faster. Linda said students are very used to the daily screening, mask wearing indoors and outdoors, and weekly Covid Testing. It is now more a “way of life” on campus, which is encouraging. Linda discussed the wellness center. It is being very well advertised, but it is underutilized. The reasons why are something that is still a mystery....., but it isn’t a lack of the services not being there or not being advertised enough.

Dr. Mark Kelly: [Update on statement regarding student vaccination for COVID-19](#)

The Board said they are not opposed to going ahead of the governor, but we will wait until the vaccination has had “regular” status for 6 months, not emergency authorization. Our Health and Safety DAC statement did not become a part of public discourse. Public comment was pretty intense at the Board Meeting.

**Update on buses: They are running for MHS/MMS and Webster. They are not running for MES.

- Review of Health and Safety DAC Charges: [Review of charges](#)
- **Charges for 2020-21:**
 - Focus on anxiety and depression, including screening and treatment in school-aged children
 - Focus on best practices for handling outbreaks of communicable diseases: ***We are doing better at utilizing our in-house expertise. Dr. Rita has been advising our nurses. We have had Dr.’s from our community as well as Dr. Rita on parent question/answer panels a few different times on topics related to Covid. Our DAC members were also very helpful in helping research and pick companies for Covid-19 testing for SMMUSD. We were able to find two very qualified companies to help us.***
 - Focus on drug and alcohol treatment and addiction awareness: ***Tara mentioned that we have been utilizing CLARE for our drug and alcohol counseling for our students. They have really scaled back on their staffing and they are not able to support our secondary sites the way they used to. Help is needed from our***

DAC members in researching and finding alternate agencies to support students and families in this area. Debbie Bernstein mentioned the IMPACT program...we believe it is utilized in LAUSD. Debbie volunteered to look into IMPACT. Laila also volunteered to do some investigating with Boys and Girls Club to see what they might recommend. Pat volunteered to ask at UCLA to see if they have any recommendations of services that can be offered.

- Focus on the Wellness Policy: ***Invite Richard Marchini to a zoom meeting to see if we are in line with the requirements in regards to sending out a survey to get a feel for how well the wellness policy is being implemented.***
- (NEW) Focus on site emergency response to crisis situations
- Focus on any other issues, if directed by the board

Update submitted in writing from Shuli Lotan, District Mental Health Coordinator

I have been in conversations with Didi Hirsch, another agency that provides substance use services, to see if the city of SM can re-route the funding that CLARE isn't using and get them to send some therapists to see kids who need mandated hours. It's not so much the outreach/prevention we need but actual therapists who can assess and see the students. They may or may not be able to, more info coming in the next week I hope.

Referrals are low, not sure why. At the moment there are 2 students who were already assessed by Clare that one of my interns can do the counseling sessions with (she happens to have some past experience with drug and alcohol counseling), but 3 more students who need both assessment / determination of required # of sessions, and the actual counseling. I'm pretty sure more students are being caught than are being referred, but until we have a better plan in place I'm not going to "remind" admin about the referral protocols...

Shuli Lotan, LCSW, PPSC

Mental Health Counseling Coordinator

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*No December meeting

*Next meeting is January 24th at 7:00pm