

**GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
DEPARTMENT OF BEHAVIORAL HEALTH**



**Coordinating Council on School Mental Health Meeting  
September 24, 2018  
64 New York Avenue, NE – Room 284  
3:30pm-5:30pm**

**Facilitator:**

**Coordinating Council Members**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Affiliation/Designation</b>	<b>Attendance</b>	<b>Designee</b>	<b>Attendance</b>
Ms. Maureen Akunwafor	DC Public School Teacher	Not Present		
Ms. Erica Barnes	Department of Behavioral Health	Present		
Dr. Lee Beers	Children’s National Health System	Present via phone		
Dr. Deitra Bryant-Mallory	District of Columbia Public Schools	Not Present		
Ms. Alyssa Conti	District of Columbia Public Charter School Teacher	Not Present	Ms. Nancy Meakem	Present
Dr. Kafui Doe	Department of Health	Present		
Ms. Denise Dunbar	Department of Behavioral Health	Present		
Councilmember Vincent Gray	DC Council-Committee on Health	Not Present		
Ms. Sharra Greer	Children’s Law Center	Present	Mr. Michael Villafranca	Present
Councilmember David Grosso	DC Council-Committee on Education	Not Present	Ms. Katrina Forrest	Present
Ms. Chalon Jones	Office of the Deputy Mayor of Education	Present		
Ms. Sarah Koreishi	Child and Family Services Administration	Not Present		
Mr. Michael Lamb	Non-Core Services Agency Provider	Present via phone		

Mr. Mark LeVota	DC Behavioral Health Association	Not Present		
Dr. Taiwan Lovelace	Department of Behavioral Health	Present		
Mr. Nathan Luecking	Department of Behavioral Health	Present		
Mr. Michael Musante	Friends of Choice in Urban Schools (FOCUS)	Present		
Mr. Javon Oliver	Department of Health Care Finance	Not Present		
Dr. Chioma Oruh	DC Public School Parent	Not Present		
Ms. Michelle Palmer	Non-Core Services Agency	Not Present		
Ms. Marisa Parrella	Core Services Agency	Present		
Mr. Scott Pearson	DC Public Charter School Board	Not Present	Ms. Audrey Williams	Present
Ms. Juanita Price	Core Services Agency	Not Present		
Dr. Olga Acosta Price	Milken Institute School of Public Health, GWU	Present		
Ms. Shanica Raiford	Youth Representative	Present		
Mr. Justin Ralston	DC Public School Principal	Not Present		
Dr. Tanya A. Royster	Department of Behavioral Health	Present		
Dr. Heidi Schumacher	Office of the State Superintendent of Education	Present	Ms. Tia Marie Brumsted	Present
Dr. Charneta Scott	Department of Behavioral Health	Present		
Ms. Colleen Sonosky	Department of Health Care Finance	Not Present		
Ms. Sakina Thompson	Office of the Deputy Mayor for Health and Human Services	Present		
Mr. Raymond Weeden	DC Public Charter School Principal Representative	Present		
Ms. Molly Whalen	DC Public Charter School Parent	Present		

**Additional District Government or DCPCSB Staff Present**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Role</b>	<b>Office or Agency</b>
Ms. Cemone Bynum	Staff	DBH
Mr. Orin Howard	Staff	DCPS
Ms. Kerriann Peart (on phone)	Staff	OSSE
Ms. Monica Hammock	Staff	DBH
Ms. Renee Evans	Staff	DBH
Mr. Luis Morales	Staff	DBH

**Public Attendees**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Agency/Position</b>	<b>Phone</b>	<b>E-Mail</b>
Ms. Shereece Savoy Simpkins	MBI		
Ms. Siobhan Gavins	MBI		

**AGENDA**

- I. **Welcome & Introductions**  
Members of council and the public introduced themselves.
  
- II. **Review of Agenda and Acknowledgement of Changes**  
Dr. Royster presented the agenda and acknowledged that since the last meeting there have been some staffing changes within the government and she reinforced and echoed that the work of expanding school mental health in the District is a Mayoral priority. The Mayor is committed and expects great things from the investment that she has placed in this area of school mental health. And, Dr. Royster further stated that regardless of who is working here on any given day, our job is to set a system in place that lives beyond the people who sit in these seats. Dr. Royster provided the high level commitment and then opened an opportunity for any questions or comments. Ms. Thompson provided the acknowledgement that Ms. Barbara Parks was a big part of this Coordinating Council and was doing great work with us and we appreciate that. Ms. Thompson further acknowledged that the Deputy Mayor’s office has had a change and is in transition. And, that office has the same commitment from the Mayor and the Chief of Staff remains the same and will be instrumental in carrying this work forward during the transition. Opportunity was given if anyone wanted to comment. Seeing none, the group moved forward with the agenda. Ms. Thompson also reiterated that the meeting of the Coordinating Council is not only to give information. It is also to obtain input and any areas that members desire to address are welcomed to be provided to Ms. Thompson.
  
- III. **Updates**
  - A. **Project AWARE**  
The District of Columbia was awarded an \$8.8 million grant from the federal Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA). It is a five year grant and the press release is currently being released. Dr. Schumacher thanked the government and non-government individuals in the room who helped with the grant application. It was a team effort to present a successful package. Through the Coordinating Council’s work and the Mayor’s investment, the application was able to

speak to the commitment of collaboration and building of a network across sectors and across the landscape to support students and to have additional funds to deepen and expand the implementation of the Coordinating Council's work. Dr. Schumacher spoke briefly to the model and noted that the goals of the grant are consistent with the conversations already occurring within the Coordinating Council. There is a deepening of the investment with funding of approximately \$1.75 million per year that includes a combination of personnel and non-personnel across OSSE, DBH, and the LEAs. The LEAs are KIPP, Friendship, and DCPS with a combination of schools coming in within what is referred to as Phase 1. And, a second set of schools coming in within Phase 2. The non-personnel funds will be blended with the local investment to support the Community of Practice and the Data and Evaluation. Funding includes a full-time FTE at OSSE; a full-time FTE at DBH; and a number of FTEs across the LEAs depending on how the LEAs wrote their components of the grant application. The grant will layer on some screening requirements and training supports – some of which will be specific to the schools participating in the grant and much of which will deepen the commitment to funding the Community of Practice for the whole District. Ms. Brumsted described the next steps which include receiving grant materials on October 1 and first meetings with LEAs and DBH on October 5<sup>th</sup>. Work has begun on job descriptions so those will be posted. The Coordinating Council will be kept informed and work will be done within the committees to build out the infrastructure to support both the local and grant sides. There will be continued work especially with the LEA partners to plan for sustainability.

There are 15 schools in Phase 1 of the grant. Five of the 15 schools are in the top 25% of highest need. The other 10 were schools that the LEAs identified as having significant mental health need and that could benefit from the infrastructure. The second phase which will come on board in Year 3 will expand into approximately 37 schools. Ms. Thompson noted that we will create a space where at a glance one can see how the schools from the Coordinating Council for the first year align with Project Aware. It was amplified that the Project Aware application compliments and builds on the same efforts of the Coordinating Council.

**B. Status of RFPs**

Dr. Scott reported that the Community of Practice and Technical Assistance Request for Proposal (RFP) was released on 9/14/18; closing date is October 5, 2018 at 2:00pm (EST). The Evaluation Request for Proposal (RFP) was released on 9/10/18; solicitation will close on October 1, 2018 at 3:00pm (EST). The solicitations are viewable at the OCP Solicitation Listings page under the electronic business opportunities.

**C. School/Provider Matching**

Opportunities have been provided for the schools and CBOs to meet each other and to learn about each other. On 9/6/18, DCPS hosted the Kick-off event where DCPS and DCPS leadership joined the CBOs for the event and the CBOs also had information tables. The kick-off had a more structured format than the way that we are conducting the Forums. At the Kick-off, participants heard what School Mental Health is, the vision of Dr. Royster, Frequently Ask Questions related to the nuts and bolts of implementation, and CBOs providing information about their organization and services. There was an effort to obtain and share survey responses prior to the events to facilitate communications during and outside of the events. The Kick-off was well received. The plan was to have CBO/School Forums on 9/11<sup>th</sup> and 9/13<sup>th</sup>. The 9/11<sup>th</sup> Forum was held and it was without school representation. The time was used to speak about the implementation and work of school mental health, a youth shared his perspectives regarding services, and Ms. Brumsted shared her experience as a Coordinator at E.L. Haynes and the components of effective partnerships. The 9/13<sup>th</sup> Forum was postponed due to the forecast for severe weather. The rescheduled date for the final School and Community Based Organization Forum is 9/28/18 9:30am-11:30am at DBH.

#### **IV. Committee Reports**

##### **A. School and Provider Readiness**

Ms. Barnes reported that the committee met on last Friday. The committee put the final touches on the **Agreement to Proceed** document that CBOs can use when entering a school partnership. Final changes will be made and sent out on tomorrow afternoon. Preliminary work was done on trainings that can be conducted before the Community of Practice is initiated. There will be separate trainings for the clinicians, supervisors, and the school's designated School Mental Health Coordinators. Ms. Barnes will also create the checklist for the Role of the School Mental Health Coordinator to serve as a resource for the school administrator regarding what to expect from the School Mental Health Coordinator. Ms. Thompson noted that the School Mental Health Coordinator was a key recommendation for the model that was identified by the School Mental Health Task Force. The **Agreement to Proceed** document will also have the School Mental Health Coordinator identified within the document. Ms. Thompson also inquired if it would be desired to have a list of the proposed trainings that folks can see. She also noted that a lesson learned that has come up in terms of the agreements and the partnerships is that DCPS has its own vetting process and we knew that we would have to understand how that works alongside the over-arching process. One thing that was not stated in the RFA and that we would do going forward is to alert providers that there is this parallel process with DCPS so that we are clear about expectations. DCPS is working very aggressively to work through their vetting process in a timely manner to complete the panel interviews. DBH is still working on the methodology for the grant funding.

##### **B. Implementation**

Ms. Brumsted gave thanks and kudos to Dr. Lovelace and Mr. Luecking for piloting the School Strengthening Tool (selected modules from the School Health Index from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention). The committee will receive a report out from Dr. Lovelace and Mr. Luecking at the upcoming 3hr committee work session on Thursday. The committee will discuss any needed modifications and how best to roll out the use of the tool. Ms. Brumsted stated that the successes from the pilot will inform the packet that will be created for best practices for using the tool and completing the process. An additional agenda item for Thursday is to flush out overlaps between the Implementation committee and the School and Provider Readiness Committee so that concrete work plans may be created moving forward. The committee will build out through January what the committee's plan will be. Ms. Barnes stated that she will send the list of trainings to the Implementation committee.

##### **C. Family and Youth Committee**

Ms. Raiford stated that the committee finalized the 1-pager of best practices for partnering with parents. The parent letter has been translated and is to be sent to parents through the schools. DBH will obtain a status from the school partners regarding distribution. Ms. Thompson spoke about the Communications Working Group which was developed in response to feedback from the Family and Youth Committee. The Working Group has representation of the Communication Directors from our lead agencies – OSSE, DCPS, DBH, DME, DMHH, and Family and Youth Committee members Karla Reid-Witt and Molly Whalen.

Two meetings have been conducted and a draft communications plan was developed. The recommendation was to have a communications person present the plan to the Coordinating Council and Mr. Sean Barry will be the presenter at an upcoming meeting. It will be important to think about where does the Communication Plan reside and how does the Coordinating Council help to guide it without being stuck with work that we are not resourced to do.

A question is where does the Communications Working Group reside within the committee. Does it reside within the Family and Youth Committee or is it a stand-alone committee or does it serve to bless communications and move on? Ms. Whalen noted that the communications work layers across all of the committees and she amplified the various contexts for communicating the work as well as connecting to the Project AWARE communication.

The continued gaps in communications and awareness around the expansion were noted and the need to explore such areas as web presence for various audiences (parent, school, teacher, provider and additional stakeholders and appropriate resources and guidelines and standards. Ms. Thompson proposed that the Coordinating Council creates the vision for the strategy for the communications plan and helps to guide it. Feedback and guidance is welcomed in the meantime as DMHH takes a temporary lead role. It was noted during the discussion that the Community of Practice may be a place where the communication work later resides in part. Visual cues, branding, standards of practice are important and so consistent messaging about the work. The first year of implementation will likely involve doing the best with what we can with what we have and identifying what our needs are around communications and who will do what within timelines. Ms. Dunbar suggested that communication be placed as a standing agenda item for each committee so that as areas that need to be communicated arise those areas can be incorporated into the plan from the committee's perspective. Additionally, it will be good for the communications plan to be circulated to committees for review and feedback.

V. Additional Business/Discussion:

Dr. Acosta Price spoke of the work with the Bainum Foundation and GW's research in school mental health. There is an opportunity to review and use an available *readiness rubric*. Dr. Acosta Price will follow-up with the Implementation committee and the School and Provider Readiness committee to discuss possible ways to incorporate the use of the rubric and explore how the *readiness rubric* might benefit the broader body as it relates to alignment, matching, the School Strengthening Tool, and/or identifying Year 2 schools.

Ms. Raiford spoke of modeling what it looks like for an organization to be healthy in the workplace and noted that the health trickles down to the people with whom the organization serves. She posed for consideration the importance of how we as a committee can model health so that it shows in the work that we are doing and in the productivity of the work – subsequently, fostering families and youth to be more receptive. Members joined the discussion with exploring the question of how do we show families and youth that organizations are rooted in their mission... Model what we tell are clients and consumers. A recommendation was given to bring this message, thoughts, and discussion to the Community of Practice. It is important to connect with families and it is important to pay attention to how we are with each other and be attuned to how we are in the group. Engaging, listening, and being attuned are involved in building relationships - pay attention to how we are in the committees. Within the Community of Practice, there is an opportunity for developing a community of shared experiences between schools and providers. Resources are developed for weathering the bumps; developing shared language and promoting consistency and dependability. Within the Coordinating Council, we are able to be mindful of how we use our time together and not just using it to report out but to be learners together. Developing what we do through the reality of what we do and not just words on the page. We want the reality to match what we hold as important and essential. The members thanked Ms. Raiford for leveraging the youth voice and inviting the important reminder and discussion.

Dr. Lovelace noted that Employee Wellness is a module within the School Strengthening Tool and amplifies the impact of adult wellness on the students and environment. Ms. Parrella reminded the Coordinating Council of her invitation to attend an upcoming Provider Wellness Event. She also stated the value of bringing the CBO providers together to set the tone.

Ms. Whalen posed the question - What do we do with the schools who have not responded to the interviews and surveys?

The discussion yielded such points as:

- If the school leadership is not willing to engage with us or designate a knowledgeable designee, it is not likely that there is readiness to effectively utilize a school mental health resource
- Schools are in a different stage of readiness.
- We work with each school with an understanding that the path of some schools may be slower and the next step of a given school is different from another.
- It will be important for DBH and the school partners to further define and communicate the status and what the next step and strategies are.

Mr. Weeden reminded the group that some school leaders are cautious about jumping on board when we don't have a track record of keeping resources in place such that resources are given and taken away. These experiences are likely influencing the slowness to engage and respond.