 

**HEaLth and Wellness**

**District Health and Wellness Leadership Council (DHWLC) Meeting Minutes**

**November 13, 2020**

**Attendees:**

**Tenecia Williams Misty Dobynes Teron Sharp**

**Sarah Drayton Deandre Davis Margaret Leanne White**

**Debra Irons-El Rose Howard Jeffrey Rhone**

**Nicholas Collins Althea Albert-Santiago Surilla Shaw**

The virtual meeting opened via TEAMS at 10:05 a.m. with introductions. A welcome was extended by Surilla Shaw.

Departmental Updates: “How are you and your department being impacted by COVID 19”?

**Sarah Drayton** (Dietitian, Southwest Foodservice Excellence) – Programs for Food and Nutrition were described such as Breakfast in the Classroom, Lunch in the classroom, in house snack and supper, meal kits for virtual students, grab ‘n go breakfast carts. The goal is for every student to have meals even if late for in person learning.

**Tenecia Williams** (Food and Nutrition Services: Fruit and Vegetables program, Parent representative)-The program is approved in 44 elementary schools (Kennard and Mallinckrodt are not included). Provides fresh fruit and vegetables to students.

**Debra Irons-El** (Family and Community Engagement)- Support to elementary schools is occurring. Support to parents via call centers and technical assistance is being offered.

**Nicholas Collins** (United Healthcare)- In person wellness events are limited due to COVID 19. Participants are receiving a “virtual passport to wellness”. The passport was sent to employees with 15 actions to complete. The participation has been good. There will be drawings. Two flu clinics were set up with about 165-170 attendees. The Mammogram events were full. Grants were received. One funded oral health, providing oral health kits and water bottles for 4 schools. The installation of a water bottle filling station at the 801 Board of Education building will take place soon. Funding from the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services for a lactation room has been received. The room will be complete soon at the 801 Board of Education building. Lactation rooms will be placed in other schools, as well. Saint Louis Public Schools is the only school district in Missouri to get gold level for the Workplace Health Achievement Index Award from the American Heart Association.

 2

**Teron Sharp** (Athletics) – The department is busy assuring that all athletes are getting their COVID 19 testing. The next COVID 19 tests will be on November 21. Food and Nutrition Services is providing snacks and supper for winter sports practices.

**DeAndre Davis** (Safety and Security)- The department has been going hard since March 23. Virtual learning has impacted workers. Some feared returning, and coverage was impacted. The biggest impact was on officers who are parents of little children. They were glad schools were out. Mental strain is present in some instances. Professional Development centered on courses around trauma and finding effective ways to be effective at home. Some officers contracted the virus, and this caused fear in many. However, no one has been lost to the virus. The department is hiring and staffing numbers are returning to normal. Support has been offered at food distribution sites, ACT testing sites, board meetings, IPAD distribution.

**Surilla Shaw** (Health Services/Nurses)- Nurses are impacted. About 5 Nurses are either quarantined or isolated. Nurses will participate in the state program for antigen testing.

**Leanne White** (Healthy Schools/Healthy Communities)- The program has been approved for a two-year extension and is now referred to as the Healthy Schools Movement. National recognition has been received for all 11 schools. There is 1 gold level, 9 silver levels, and 1 bronze level. Four schools were recognized by the Kohl’s Care with the American Heart Association and the Alliance for a Healthier Generation in the area of Family Engagement Distinction. The schools were Hickey, Mullanphy, Gateway Elementary and Gateway Michael. A total of 1250 opening of schools kits were given to students. Saint Louis Public Schools was honored to be asked by the Alliance for a Healthier Generation to participate in the Tobacco Free Campuses Campaign. We will look at our current policies and practices in the district. We are 1 of 3 in the nation asked to participate.

**Althea Albert-Santiago** (Food and Nutrition Services)- Assessments of the Health and Wellness policy have to be done every 3 years. We have been looking at the policy yearly. We will be assessing all 8 categories. The leader of each area will receive the questions December 7. Questions are to be completed by December 21. On a date to be determined in January, the data will be entered. The material will be reviewed in February. Leanne gave examples of how the assessment will work. Once data is entered, we will get results from the Alliance. We will learn how we can strengthen the areas that are in need of improvement.

**Square Watson** (Operations)- Square is the new building commissioner for the district. Operations has been making sure students and staff are safe entering schools, keeping building clean, working closely with employee relations to get spaces sanitized. Equipment obtained through the CARES fund is being used. Some workers have COVID 19 cases or exposure. The department is being impacted by rumors, especially when someone has been absent. Schools, classrooms, spaces are being cleaned promptly. PPEs are being issued to staff as needed. Quarantines are impacting staffing. Operations is doing a good job addressing issues. A connection has been made with the Environmental Company to establish infections waste protocol for the district antigen testing.

**Check ins**

All attendees expressed how they are doing. Sarah shared that today is “World Kindness Day”.

 3

Closing remarks by Leanne White who recognized Jeffrey Rhone for being instrumental in the gold award the district received. She also thanks Althea and Surilla for the work we are doing together on the Leadership Committee.

Meeting adjourned at 11:10 a.m.

**Discussion topics and future considerations:**

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| * Assessment of Health and Wellness Policy
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**Next meeting date : TBD**

Surilla Shaw, DHWLC Secretary