

South Hadley Public Schools
Health and Wellness Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

Date: Monday, March 11, 2019

Present: Kathy Watkins, Eileen Garvey, Shauna Flynn, Matt Hoagland, Dr Abrams, Tighe Dudeck, Greg Petrosky, Dr Rosen and Davi Guiel

Absent/Excused: Jessica Carey, Tad Desautels, Cheryl Pelland-Lak, Sarah Smith and Elizabeth Winfield

Guests: School Resource Officers (SRO) Steve Fleming and Doug Percy

Past Minutes:

The minutes from January 14, 2019 were passed

Vaping, Social Media and Sexting: SROs Fleming and Percy talked about these issues that they come across in mainly the high school and middle school and the laws behind them. SROs try to resolve issues with the families and administration before they become criminal issues but parents can pursue charges.

New juvenile laws in Massachusetts have made it harder for the SROs and police on the streets to arrest first offenders. Juveniles can still be charged with larceny, malicious damage and assault and battery for first offense but cannot be charged for possessing alcohol or disrupting a school assembly on first offense. There are diversion programs that keep the kids out of courts and are used as a sort of rehabilitation or second chance.

Criminal harassment: Threat by text is a chargeable misdemeanor.

The SROs do document all offenses in house, they do not appear on student's record.

Vaping: SRO Percy passed around paraphernalia that he had confiscated from kids in school. They hide it in beef jerky containers and empty marker containers. SROs need a warrant to search a kid but teachers can ask students to turn out their pockets. Having these materials results in a 5 -day

internal suspension. Students are getting materials from their parents, siblings or internet There are detectors for vaping mists that are coming onto the market these days. SRO Fleming expressed concern about edibles.

PROM: The SROs are again holding an impaired driving simulation experience for seniors before the PROM. They have golf carts with set courses and impaired vision goggles from both alcohol and marijuana. The fire department and driving school are involved and there is usually media coverage.

SBIRT: This was done in 7th and 9th grades at the end of January and has been completed. There were a few in school referrals but none out of the school district.

CONDOM PROGRAM: Dr Abrams said that they have this program in Holyoke. They started it about 10 years ago. They held an informational meeting and 1 parent came. It reduced the STIs (sexually transmitted infections) but not the pregnancy rate. Greg Petrosky was curious on the numbers of pregnancies and STDs in South Hadley. Those numbers were not readily available. Eileen Garvey pointed out that 40% of students are on free and reduced lunches and may not be able to afford condoms. This will be further discussed at the next meeting.

FLOURIDE PROGRAM: We are still waiting for final approval from School Committee. They got worried because it said that if people are not using their dental insurance, the fluoride program may bill the insurance. Dr Rosen suggested showing the committee the paperwork that shows how they bill. The family is not billed if the insurance rejects the claim. We are hoping to implement this in the fall.

OPEN DISCUSSION : Greg Petrosky asked what the order was for food presentation in the schools. He said research shows that they are more likely to take the first three items.

EPI-PENS: There is a shortage of Epipen JR and the schools have not been able to get it in stock. We purchased the ampules from Mass Surgical provided it to us in ampule form to be drawn up.

ADHD MEDS: Dr Rosen said there is a new DNA test that determines the compatibility of particular drugs with a particular person. This has not been widely implemented.

NEXT MEETING:

May 20, 2019