

SCHOOL NURSE ADVISORY COUNCIL MINUTES    DATE: 5/23/17

Members present: Verna Bernard-Jones (phone), Gary Brochu, Sharlene Cedrone, Leah Hendricks (phone), Donna Kosiorowski Fran Matkowski, Gary Maynard, Kathy Neelon, Barbara Ziogas (phone).

Absent: Stephanie Knutson, Sue Levasseur

Guest: Brendan Finley (phone)

Location: DPH Rocky Hill, Conference Call # 866-640-5414

Meeting called to order at 8:45 am

Item 1: Minutes accepted. No corrections. No public comments.

Item 2: SNAC Bill Update: SNAC Bill still alive. Language “VNA instead of CNA” may be revised later.

Item 3: Discussion about changes from 1982 to present. Gary Maynard said mostly health aides in his district (Bristol) if anyone at all. No nurses at that time. Students with special needs were isolated back then; now included. More diseases that were not in existence before- Blood Borne Pathogens, Ticks etc.

Gary Brochu- Mandate to educate every child.

Over the years requirements for teachers have increased to include coursework on Students with Special Needs, Reading requirements etc. Teachers have student experience, mentors, and on-site support. Social Workers and other “teachers” have access to programs tailored to school. Changes coming for teachers for more student experience- 1 year from open to close.

Nurses need pre-service, quality orientation, consistent and continuing support and ongoing professional development. Hospitals are hiring BSN’s; new BSN grads and Associate Degree nurses are having difficulty finding positions. For many nurses with Associate Degrees, they are found in Long Term Care or Home Health. In Hartford, due to low pay, RN’s did not apply resulting LPN’s in schools. Salary increase helped to attract RN’s.

Premies did not survive; now they do and are in school. 504, Life-Threatening Food Allergies etc.; complex syndromes, have increased exponentially since 1982. Students were isolated, outplaced, at home- now they are in school with typical peers.

Diverse families- multiple parents and step parents, grandparents, same sex families; non-English speaking, homeless, refugees

Item 4: Discussion on improving chances of getting SNAC Recommendations passed.

- Invite guest speakers who are experts in nursing education, school health and/ or legal aspect of education at the state and local level. Speakers invite for 9/26/17, 10/24/17 or 11/21/17. Schedule according to speakers calendar.
  - Donna to contact Cheryl Resha.
  - Gary Brochu to contact Fran Rabinowitz (incoming Superintendents' Group) and Patrice MCarthy (CABE).
  - Gary Maynard suggested CIAC Director.
  - Recommendations must be finalized by 12/1 in order for members to bring back to their group.

Item 5: Need data: What are the needs; what are the shortcomings. Refer to SDE found at:

<http://www.sde.ct.gov/sde/cwp/view.asp?a=2678&q=320768>

Scroll down and Look for School Health Services Survey for data and trends since 2004

Consider Risk Stratification List

Item 6: School Nurse Certification:

- School Nurse/ Teacher Certification (072) exists; limited utilization. There is no incentive to get certified. Districts do not require School Nurse Teacher; nurses and districts may not know it exists.
- All other school professionals are categorized as “teachers” including Social Workers, Psychologists, Guidance, Speech and Language.

Next Agenda: Prior to the September meeting, members are asked to review all attachments. All have been previously sent out and are resent now:

Included are documents from 2009 which clearly outlines the goal for school nurses preparation, qualifications and rationale for change.

- Input from Speakers regarding
  - Qualification
  - What can they support?

Next meeting September 26, 2017

Meeting adjourned at 10:00 am

Submitted by Donna Kosiorowski