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Student Health Advisory Group to the  
Connecticut State Board of Education  
Meeting Minutes  
November 24, 2014

**Present:** Sarah Bourque, Marie Burlette, Pamela Charland, Donna Heins, Celeste Jorge, Donna Kosiorowski, Marcia Millard, Terese Maineri, Don Romoser (for James Accomando), Kim Traverso and Steve Updegrave

**Guests Present:** Marie-Christine Bournaki, Sally Emma, Sarah Emma, Scott Newgass, Susan Radway, Jackie Schipke and Marne Usher

**Welcome and  
Introductions**

Donna Heins, Coordinated School Health Consultant at the Connecticut State Department of Education (CSDE) welcomed participants. Advisory Group members introduced themselves and the agency/organization they represented.

**Local School  
Wellness Policy**

Donna Heins reported on Local School Wellness Policy, which is a tool for evaluating, establishing and maintaining healthy school environments. In 2008 a review of Local Wellness Policy for all school districts participating in the National School Lunch Program was performed, it has not been repeated. Currently, the National School Lunch Program reviews the Local Wellness Policy as part of the School Nutrition Administrative Review. Jackie Schipke, a consultant from the CSDE Nutrition Unit, suggested that districts may be waiting for the USDA Final Rule “Nutrition Standards in the National School Lunch and School Breakfast Programs” before updating their current Local Wellness Policy.

**2013 Connecticut  
School Health  
Survey Findings**

Celeste Jorge, Epidemiologist at the Connecticut Department of Public Health, reported on the results of the 2013 Connecticut School Health Survey. The Connecticut School Health Survey is comprised of two components (Youth Risk Behavior Survey and Youth Tobacco Survey). The Connecticut School Health Survey is part of a national surveillance system that monitors health-risk behaviors that contribute to the leading causes of death and disability among youth and adults. The survey results included a decrease in teenage alcohol use and binge drinking, over-the-counter drug abuse, physical fighting, and some sexual behavior risk. The survey results continued to show an association between risky health behaviors and academic achievement.



- The School Asthma Surveillance Report for the years 2009-12** Marie-Christine Bournaki reported on the School Asthma Surveillance Report for the years of 2009-12. The State of Connecticut Department of Public Health Asthma Program has established a statewide School-based Asthma Surveillance System (SBASS) based on data in the School Health Assessment Record (HAR). HAR gathers information reported for children with asthma prior to public school entrance (Pre-Kindergarten [PK] or Kindergarten [K] for elementary schools); in grade 6 or 7 for middle schools; and in grade 9 or 10 for high schools. Outcomes of the School Asthma Surveillance Report emphasized that schools represent a crucial point of care for students with asthma and represent a potential hub for integrating and coordinating care, as well as communication among student with asthma, their families, health providers and school community.
- School Health Profiles** Donna Heins reported on current issues related to the administration of the 2014 School Health Profiles, a system of surveys assessing school health policies and practices in states, large urban school districts, territories and tribal governments. Profiles surveys are conducted every two years through the Connecticut State Department of Education. Results are weighted and representative of all regular secondary schools in the state having at least one of grades 6-12. During the 2014 administration of the School Health Profile it has been difficult getting enough schools to participate in the survey. At the time of this meeting, Connecticut has not reached the minimal responses from school principals or health education staff to meet the required sample size. Weighted data was not obtained in 2012. (Note: since this meeting, the CSDE has obtained the necessary responses to meet sample size requirements)
- School Nutrition** Jackie Schipke provided information regarding the School Breakfast Program. Approximately 875 of the 1090 Connecticut schools that offer lunch also offer breakfast. Despite the increase of schools participating in the School Breakfast Program, Connecticut remains the last in the nation in the numbers of schools participating in the School Breakfast Program that otherwise participate in the National School Lunch Program. The Connecticut Breakfast Expansion Team (CBET) is available to help schools establish or expand school breakfast programs.
- Partner Initiatives Supporting Student Health and Opportunities for Collaboration** Steve Updegrave stated that he would like to have the next agenda focus more on behavior health. Donna asked members to provide agenda items for discussion. Scott Newgass, consultant from the CSDE will collaborate with the Student Health Advisory Group to plan the agenda for the next meeting - date to be determined.

# Healthy ConneCTions

Connecticut's Coordinated Approach to School Health

