

School Nurse Advisory Council Meeting

Date: 10/29/2013

Minutes

Council Membership Attendance: Donna Kosioroski, Gary Brochu, Gary Maynard, Gayle Pagoni, Leah Hendriks, Marie Burlette, Steve Updegrove, Suzanne Couture, Theresa Kane, Verna Bernard-Jones

Absent: Ann Milanese, Stephanie Knutson

Location: 25 Industrial Park Road, Middletown, CT 06457. MCR 4.

Item 1.

Sign in

The meeting was called to order at 8:37 a.m.

Item 2: School Nurse Qualifications/Certification

Discussion

Donna Kosiorowski presented on licensing and certification available for school nurses (there are no mandatory requirements for school nurses to be certified in CT)

1. National School Nurse Certification (sit for exam).
2. Certification through Connecticut State Department of Education (CSDE) School/nurse teacher.
3. Licensure through State Department of Public Health (DPH).

The 1982 regulations re: School Nurse Qualifications are open to interpretation?

- What are the regulations?
- Are districts following regulations? If not, how are regulations enforced?
- Are requirements adequate?
- What are our recommendations?

What will changing the requirements solve?

- Clarify vague regulations;
- Determine minimal competency level of nurses;
- Would reflect current school nurse practice.

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Item 3: Would superintendents' support increasing the entry level?

Discussion

Concern of superintendents:

- Raising the qualifications too high will significantly decreased applicant pool; and
- Unfunded mandate.

Concerns were raised by SNAC members about decreasing candidate pool; there is already some difficulty in recruiting SNs.

For consideration:

Is there a way to incentivize districts to hire BSN nurses?

Is there a way to use alliance district grants towards improving staffing?

Item 4: What are surrounding states doing?

Discussion

Theresa Kane presented an overview Massachusetts School Nurse licensing standards for consideration and history of grandfathering.

Two types of licensure are Initial and Professional licensure:

Initial License:

- Entry level BSN;
- Minimum 2 years' experience as an RN in child health, community health, or other relevant clinical setting;
- 4 days of orientation program based on requirements for delivery of school health services; and
- Passing score on MA communication and literacy skills test.

Professional license:

- Possession of initial license;
- 3 years employment as a school nurse; and
- National certification (choice of several types) or Master's degree (with coursework in community health, PH, nursing or Health Ed.).

Extensive discussion took place on all topics. It was agreed that the council needs to first define what school nurses are doing and work backwards to determine how to best prepare them for these duties.

Votes:
None

Next Steps:

1. Marie Burlette to send out links to SDE School Health Survey, and NASN staffing levels document prior to next meeting.
2. Suzanne Couture, Verna Bernard and Donna Kosiorowski will identify the role/responsibilities of CT school nurses.
3. All will review the current CT regulations on Qualifications of School Nurses, CSDE School Health Services Information Survey document, National Association of School Nurses staffing levels document and the Massachusetts licensure document.

Meeting adjourned at 10:07 a.m.
Next meeting: 11/26/13