

SCHOOL NURSE ADVISORY COUNCIL MINUTES DATE: 1/23/18

Members present: Verna Bernard-Jones, Gary Brochu, Sharlene Cedrone, Donna Kosiorowski, Gary Maynard, Christine Mahoney

Conference phone: Leah Hendriks, Barbara Ziogas

Guest: Brendan Finley, Fran Rabinowitz, Executive Director CAPSS

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

Meeting called to order at 8:40 am. Minutes accepted and seconded.

No public comments.

Item 1: Fran stated that as the former School Superintendent for Bridgeport and Hamden she knew the value of having a school nurse. She viewed the school nurse as an important part of the school team. When she started in Bridgeport not every school had a nurse so she fought long and hard to have a nurse in every school. Bridgeport has since rolled this back.

Fran suggested SNAC meet with legislators but be aware that money is the driving issue. SNAC needs to be strategic. Be more specific on what SNAC really wants from legislators. To get legislators to endorse school nurse legislation push issues that are big concerns now such as Opioid and Socio-Emotional issues.

Discussion:

- **There are approximately 196 mandates for school nurses. Most are unfunded**

Item 2: Topic: Need for Orientation of New School Nurses

Discussion/Solutions:

- **Need broader support from organizations on SNAC such as council members giving testimony when SNAC Bill comes up.**
- **Brain storm about ways to get Professional Development for School Nurses such as doing PD as part of normal school calendar as is often done for teachers.**
- **Present paper with rationale for training to the Board of Regency**
- **Need to develop On-Line Modules. (The 2-day new school nurse orientation by CSDE was taped this year).**

- Possibility of getting Grants to defray cost of orientation program
- Enforce 10 hours/year Continuing Ed regulations (? SDE)
- ASNC now offers monthly on-line webinars and a summer PD

Item 3: Topic: School Nurse Certification: **Regulations for School Nurses were written in 1982**

Discussion/Solutions:

- Trying to get legislation for School Nurse Certification is not going to be good right now. Possibility of placing responsibility on the individual to get their own.
- Certification is complicated by different entry levels for nurses and based on the employer. School Nurses may be employed under the Board of Education, VNA or Health Department.
- There are also “Domain issues”. Health and Education may not communicate or collaborate with each other.
- Start with state Nursing Colleges such as Central, Southern and Western Connecticut State College.
- Tap School Superintendents who may have connection to colleges.

Next Agenda:

- AFT to research School Nurse legislation for the last 10 years- DONE?
- SNAC Recommendations- Bill update
- Invite speaker from Colleges/ University. (? Cheryl Resha-SCSU)

Next meeting March 27, 2018 2017 (no February meeting)

Meeting adjourned at 10:00 am

Submitted by Verna Bernard-Jones, RN