

Health and Wellness Advisory Committee
Friday, January 24, 2020
8:30 am
BHHS Dance Studio
Minutes

Introductions -

Scott Saunders, Dorren Cohen, Jennie Croke, Donna Devaney, Melinda Hamilton, Angelina Burke, Dave Mack, Jared Christian, Dan Santora, Colleen O'Connor, Julie Suchman, Keara Hunt, Cole Picca, Kate Klein, Julie Gallagher, Doug Carpenter, Doreen Cohen, Rob Castagna

Discussed the evolution of committee from 2006 - promotes wellness - broad topic - PE and Health Curriculum.

6 Headings - Health Enhancing Behaviors, Food Service Program, Sequential Health Education Curriculum, Sequential Physical Education Curriculum, School Health Services Program- health care, Counseling Programing

Task of evaluating the policy - How are we doing? How are we meeting the needs of our student population? Update and provide programs - 2016 committee- overuse injuries- night time seminars with Orthopedic doctors on the panel.

The agenda will be emailed in advance.

This school year we had students develop skin infections - concerns were addressed with athletes and parents. We reflected on how we addressed the situations. How did we do? Did we eliminate the spread of infections? We responded to a need immediately and reflected on the process.

Dan Santora reached out to some athletic training colleagues and gathered information. The athlete in the Fall presented with staph and Dan cleaned wound, sent to doctor (later admitted to hospital). Isolated student, called parents, called school physician, Julie and Dan did a full body scan of all football players after obtaining clearance from parents. Dan and Rob contacted maintenance staff: fitness center, locker room, etc sprayed. Then provided education for identification to the team.

Skin infection detected on wrestlers; shut down wrestling room, skin check, and treatment. Rob noted our wrestling program is a merged program - so prompt

communication was very important. Making sure our school physician contacted other school's physicians. We were satisfied with our response to this situation. .

Packets of skin infection information from Julie Gallagher were distributed to the group. She reviewed different types of skin infections. Ringworm is common, often mistaken for Lyme by lay people. Bacterial infections - staph or strep. Impetigo common with little children- strep invaded surfaces of the skin. Can be treated with antibiotics. Staph gets into break in skin causes infections, some easily treated with antibiotics some are resistant. MRSA is more tricky because it does not respond easily - more noteworthy. Open discharge, red area and yellow discharge. Students were screened, a few students did follow up with Julie to ask for other areas to be checked.

Colleen O'Connor asked if procedures would change if more than one student presented with symptoms. Rob responded that if there were many students, it would increase communication of the problem, but not to over alarm anyone that it is an outbreak. More students infected, more complicated. It might increase the number of doctors that would need to be contacted.

Scott Saunders discussed his experience with a staph infection at Clarkstown South Football program and the procedures they used. 16 out of 18 players eventually cleared.

Jared Christian asked about the facilities cleaning procedures after identification of staph.

Dan Santora helped Mark from the custodial staff to clean football equipment- all pieces, new mouth guards given out. Use of spray with disinfectant to clean equipment and areas.

Donna Devaney commented that the response protocol seems great. Do we have a protocol for all populations, teams and education of these issues?

Rob responded, he and Dan were brainstorm ideas on this subject.

Dan Sanotra proposed that we might ask on our pre-season athletic form for consent for body scan if this arises. Dan has asked for football and wrestling coaches to emphasize cleanliness.

Rob asked the parents in the room for their feedback. Angelina expressed that she would want to be notified if her children were to be checked, but would sign off on the

athletic consent form. Julie S. agreed, it should be on the consent form and she would also like to know if her child would be checked. Posters for education were discussed.

Cole P. said he was on the football team and conveyed his experience in the fall and concurred to put on form.

Jared C. mentioned that 10 years ago they started teaching about MRSA in health class at HCC. Rob asked for teachers to further discuss MRSA information in the future.

Julie G. asked for education to help to try and prevent it. She suggested showering immediately after practice, games to prevent the spread.

Doug C. expressed interest in some of his players wanting to shower after practice, but there was only one functional shower in the Fall. Rob said they had been fixed and all four showers are now functioning.

Angelina B. asked how showering helps with the pads, etc. Doug C. said they might institute cleaning pads and equipment throughout the season. Dan S. said there are wipes to use to prevent this and some athletes presently use them.

Rob said that wrestlers use these body wipes now before and when leaving practice/meets. We are investing in getting more for the school.

Rob wrapped up discussion on Staph protocol. Said in the future deeper dives into nutrition, physical activity, emotional health - why does wellness matter? Minutes, wellness policy will be sent via email. Agenda items welcomed. Feel free to share or email and ask questions.

- End -