



Office of the Deputy Mayor for Health and Human Services

Task Force on School Mental Health Meeting

DATE: Tuesday, February 27, 2018
 LOCATION: Department of Human Services
 64 New York Avenue NE – 6th Floor Hoteling Suite
 TIME: 10:00 am – 11:30 am

Task Force Members

Appointee	Task Force Seat Designation	Attendance	Designee	Attendance
Deitra Bryant-Mallory	District of Columbia Public Schools	Present		
Councilmember Vincent Gray	DC Council - Committee on Health	Not Present	Osazee Imadojemu	Present
Councilmember David Grosso	DC Council - Committee on Education	Not Present	Katrina Forrest	Present
Michael Lamb	Non-Core Service Agency Provider Representative	Present		
Nathan Luecking	Department of Behavioral Health School Mental Health Program (SMHP) Clinician	Present		
Taiwan Lovelace	Department of Behavioral Health Mental Health Program Clinician	Present		
Dr. LaQuandra Nesbitt	Deputy Mayor for Health and Human Services Designee	Not Present		
Chioma Oruh	DCPS Parent Member	Present		
Michelle Palmer	Non-Core Service Agency Provider Representative	Not Present		
Marisa Parrella	Core Service Agency Provider Representative	Present		
Scott Pearson	Public Charter School Board	Not Present	Audrey Williams	Present
Juanita Price	Core Service Agency Provider Representative	Not Present		
Dr. Olga Price	School Mental Health Expert	Present		



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Appointee	Task Force Seat Designation	Attendance	Designee	Attendance
Dr. Tanya Royster	Department of Behavioral Health	Present		
Dr. Heidi Schumacher	Office of the State Superintendent of Schools	Not Present		
Chalon Jones	Deputy Mayor for Education (DME) Designee	Present		
Molly Whalen	Public Charter School Parent Member	Not Present		

Additional District Government or DCPCSB Staff Present

Name	Role	Office or Agency
Jay Melder	Facilitator	Office of the Deputy Mayor for Health & Human Services
Charneta Scott	Staff	Department of Behavioral Health
Erica Barnes	Staff	Department of Behavioral Health
Denise Dunbar	Staff	Department of Behavioral Health
Sakina Thompson	Staff	Office of the Deputy Mayor for Health & Human Services
Barbara Parks	Staff	Department of Behavioral Health
Jocelyn Route	Staff	Department of Behavioral Health
Alexis Alston	Staff	Department of Behavioral Health
Miesha Hegwood	Intern	Department of Behavioral Health

Public Attendees

Name	Role	Organization
Michael Musante	Public	FOCUS
Michael Villafranca	Public	Children's Law Center
Mark LeVota	Public	DC Behavioral Health Association



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AGENDA

I. Welcome & Introduction (10 minutes)

Facilitator, Jay Melder, opened the meeting by noting that there is no formal agenda for today, except to get Task Force member feedback on the Final Draft of the Report of the Task Force on School Mental Health. Jay then had Task Force members introduce themselves.

II. Review Final Task Force Report-Sent to Task Force members Monday, February 26, 2018 in the afternoon.

Jay asked Task Force members to give a show of hands for those who feel the Final Report reflects the deliberations and recommendations of the Task Force and if you are ready to support moving it forward to submit to the Mayor and the Council.

1. Text clarifications:

Chioma Oruh:

- Question on the text, top of page 8 – is the DBH clinician’s role changing in year one, or is the Report saying that the Coordinator role could be added? Needs to be clarified that it is the latter.
- I don’t see the recommendation on addressing the need for more mobile crisis services in the recommendations.

Sakina Thompson: While mobile crisis was mentioned and there was some discussion, there was not a full discussion or a consensus. But to keep it open, we added language to the governance body that they have a role in identifying resource gaps, which would include mobile crisis, if that is a gap.

Dr. Tanya Royster: We should add under recommendation #2 a bullet that says we should make a concerted effort to make all schools aware of available resources, even as we focus implementation on the highest need schools.

Michael Lamb: Sometimes we use “Comprehensive Plan” and “Plan” as our shorthand. We should choose one.



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2. Discussion on the Role of DBH Clinician

Taiwan Lovelace: If the Plan doesn't lay out what happens after year 1 with the DBH clinicians there will be a lot of anxiety.

Dr. Tanya Royster: Schools will each have a different array of resources and can decide what works best for them.

Michael Lamb: Schools will need to build capacity to be able to decide what they need.

Dr. Deitra Bryant-Mallory: Schools don't want to spend a lot of time coordinating the behavioral health services in their school. They want experts to lead those decisions.

Nathan Luecking: What about the view of the school and whether they want the change to happen? Do they have a voice in losing a service they value?

Marissa: Recommends considering a period of transition where a DBH clinician would provide intensive treatment services while on-boarding and transitioning to a CBO.

Jay Melder: We added that future years the governance body would advise on whether and when the DBH clinician role would change, and we note in the body of the report that decisions on whether and when to change should be informed by an evaluation of the impact of such change.

Dr. Olga Price: Can the governance body play a substantive role in deciding on the role of the DBH clinician in year 2 and in the future?

Jay Melder: The governance body would play an advisory role.

3. Implementation

Dr. Olga Price: We shouldn't build the Plan dependent on individual cases. How do we standardize the model and process to achieve a model across the District? We should consider:

- Governance body should include school leader representatives
- Creating minimal standards for external providers



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Marisa Parrella: We also need to include guidelines to help schools build the capacity that supports providers.

Chioma Oruh: Should a school have to submit a transition plan that requires approval before they can begin implementation? So schools and staff are prepared?

Audrey Williams: Yes, we need a baseline to tell school what they should have and they can build on it. We need to establish the baseline of mental health supports that is needed in all schools.

Osa Imadojemu: From our perspective, this Report still doesn't provide the level of specificity that we were looking for, including who will provide the services, which schools, how much will it cost? We don't see a budget ask in the Report. Should it be 15/20 million dollars? Should it be 5/10 million dollars?

Jay Melder: The Comprehensive Plan submitted last May was budget neutral. Based on the Task Force recommendations, however, we know will have a budget impact. The reason is that the original plan would have used our existing resources to expand Tier 1 services to all schools. The Task Force recommends full implementation in the highest need schools. Based on these recommendations, we expect the Mayor will have a budget request.

Dr. Olga Price: The goal for the Task Force was to complete the Report before the Mayor's budget was due; that is the reason for our aggressive timeline. Considering the budget was not necessarily on the plate for the Task Force.

Chalon Jones: What was the legislation asking us to do? Come up with a budget or analyze the Plan in concept?

Katrina Forrest: In our minds, a Comprehensive Plan includes an Implementation Plan. We wanted the Task Force to deliberate on a budget, to say who would be in what schools.

Jay Melder: It is true that the details are not all fully fleshed out. These conversations need to continue, which is up to the BWG and the governance body. The work of the Task Force, which was to consider the high-level principles and big picture elements of the model was necessary, and we don't want to lose sight of the value of the hard work of the Task Force to get to this point. Can we memorialize the work to date in this Report?



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On the matter of the budget, we envision a budget that will include funds for the increased local Medicaid match to cover the additional students that will receive services, funds for technical assistance to schools and providers, and grants for non-profit providers to allow them to provide school-based services.

Dr. Olga Price: I am pleased with the Final Report and felt the discussions the Task Force had were important and necessary. I have some concerns, specifically I had provided more detailed information on implementation strategies and number of schools to target each year, but I also have faith in the role of the governing body to continue this work and inform implementation.

Jay Melder: We can have the budget discussion at the first meeting (mid-April). Council and others will be there. We can look at whether the budget ask is enough, or is it allocated for the right things. We can get their input during the budget process and let us more forward with the Report.

V. Next Steps

DMHHS will revise the Final Plan to include the budget impact of the recommendations, clarify language requested, and consider the additional comments provided.

VI. Adjourn

Having completed its discussion, the Task Force adjourned.

Any comments regarding these meeting minutes may be sent to Sakina B. Thompson at sakina.thompson@dc.gov.