

Office of Deputy Mayor Jennifer C. Niles

John A. Wilson Building | 1350 Pennsylvania Ave, NW, Suite 307 | Washington, DC 20004

To: LEA Leaders

From: Jennie Niles, Deputy Mayor for Education 

Date: June 7, 2016

Re: Update on the SY2016-17 School Health Services Program rollout

You are receiving this memorandum to inform you of recent developments in the planning for next year's School Health Services Program ('SHSP'). As you know, the Department of Health (DOH) has been working towards updating the current model for SBHS for the next school year. For more information regarding this work to date, please review my April 13, 2016 memorandum to all LEA leaders, titled "New DC School Health Services Program" at www.dme.dc.gov.

On May 15, 2016, DOH, DMHHS, and DME held a meeting in an effort to ensure that all LEAs are appraised of the process and timeline which was attended by over 20 LEAs. During this meeting and subsequent to it, LEAs provided needed input regarding challenges posed by the current timeline and process. **Based on this input, a decision to postpone the new SBHSP has been made, namely, that all changes to the current SHSP will not take place until January 1, 2017. Instead, the existing contract will be extended through December 31, 2016.** For additional information, please see the June 7, 2016 DOH letter attached to this memorandum.

Between now and December 31, 2016, DOH, OSSE, DCPS, and PCSB will be working together to insure that the interests and concerns of our LEAs inform the planning process and thereby the final outcome of this work. While DME and DMHHS will track the development of and transition to the new SHS Program closely, additional information on progress and details regarding direct LEA participation will be provided to LEAs by these agencies.

As always, thank you for your support of this important work. As I have emphasized throughout this process, I believe in the need for improved school based health services and am excited for us to work together in insuring improved health services to all District of Columbia public school and public charter school students. I look forward to working together in achieving this goal.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Donna Anthony, Assistant Superintendent of Health and Wellness at OSSE (donna.anthony@dc.gov), or Yair Inspektor, Policy Advisor at the DME (yair.inspektor@dc.gov).



**Government of the District of Columbia
Department of Health**



Office of the Director

June 7, 2016

Kaya Henderson
Chancellor
District of Columbia Public Schools

Scott Pearson
Executive Director
District of Columbia Public Charter School Board

Dear Chancellor Henderson and Executive Director Pearson,

A decision has been made to delay full implementation of the Whole School, Whole Community, Whole Child (WSSC) model for the District of Columbia School Health Services Program until January 2017. Current nursing services will remain unchanged; the Quality Assurance and Evaluation domain will be implemented at the beginning of School Year 2016-2017 (SY16-17).

As you are aware, DC Department of Health (DOH) is transitioning from a contractual services model with a single vendor that provides only nursing services to LEAs to a more comprehensive grant-based program. The WSSC model is family-centered and utilizes nurses to provide services onsite, as well as an array of allied health professionals and social support service providers to connect students and families to services, both onsite and within the community. This transition was previously scheduled to occur in June and July of 2016, with full implementation of the new WSSC model in August 2016. A transition phase was designed to allow the new vendors an opportunity to become familiar with school administrative staff, facilities, and other resources before accepting full responsibility for service delivery.

As a result of the decision to delay implementation, DOH will continue the current model, with the current vendor, through October 2016, at which time a transition of services will begin. When the transition begins in October, the new service providers will work with the current provider to facilitate a seamless transition for LEAs and students. We have been advised that this transition during the school year is a feasible course of action.

We have been in discussions with DCPS to gain more insight in to the challenges they perceive with implementing the model and have designed a path forward with providing examples of the staffing plan for their schools based on SY15-16 enrollment and Individualized Health Plans as the proxy for health needs/acuity. We have also discussed a plan for stabilizing Administrator of Medication rosters for each school, as well as protocols for emergency events, by tailoring training to the needs of the LEA. DOH will meet with DCPS in the coming days to review the findings of this analysis.

As a next step in ensuring timely implementation of WSCC in January 2017, DOH needs to fully understand from DC Public Charter School Board (PCSB) if a similar approach through a single point of contact is appropriate, and if so, who is the point of contact. If an alternative is proposed, solutions can be brought to the attention of Dr. Torey Mack at torey.mack@dc.gov or 202-442-9338.

While I believe we can all agree that the process of restructuring the School Health Services Program began with conversations in Spring 2015, with mutual agreement that the program in its current iteration was not meeting the needs of LEAs or our children, the work of staff and communication back to leadership was not sufficient to move the strategy forward in a manner that was clear and concise. To ensure successful implementation by January 2017, I respectfully request that we review the membership of the core team that participates in the monthly child health meetings between DOH, OSSE, DCPS, and PCSB. Moving forward, this core team will be responsible for meeting deadlines and effectively communicating opportunities, challenges and threats to the program's success. I make this suggestion in that it would be duplicative in nature for us to create an additional process or set of meetings specific to this initiative when the goal of that group is to ensure a successful school health program. DOH's liaison to that program is Dr. Torey Mack.

I look forward to working with you in making this program enhancement a collaborative success!

Sincerely,


LaQuandra S. Nesbitt, MD, MPH
Director

cc: Brenda Donald, Deputy Mayor for Health and Human Services
Jennifer Niles, Deputy Mayor for Education