



Prince George's County

TRUANCY STUDY WORKGROUP

Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, March 19, 2025

3:00 PM

Virtual Meeting

Minutes

- CM Oriadha opened the meeting at 3:05 PM and reminded the group of the purpose of the Workgroup and the expectation for final recommendations from all stakeholders.
- Workgroup members approved the minutes from the prior meeting.
- Workgroup members discussed some of the recommendations that were proffered prior to the meeting:
 1. Trauma-Informed School Practices
 2. School-Based mental Health Services
 3. Social-Emotional Learning (SEL) Programs
 4. Family & Caregiver Mental Health Support
 5. Peer-Led Support Groups & Mentorships
 6. Alternative Learning & Flexible Attendance Policies
- Each recommendation has an associated timeframe for implementation, cost estimate, impact, and description.
- Discussion on 'Trauma-Informed School Practices'
 - Donna Christy noted that there are no systemic requirements for training; however, classes are offered through professional enrichment and electives for teachers. There are no specific requirements for continuing education courses, only the number of hours.
- Discussion on 'School-Based Mental Health Services'
 - CM Oriadha asked for further information on Hazel Health.

- Dr. Faison explained that they receive regular data and information on the program and the services offered and requested. Every school has access to the program. Hazel Health is available for all students – mental health coverage for staff is provided through their medical insurance coverage.
 - Dr. Faison noted that mental health workers are in all community schools and PGCPS is working to expand to other schools as well with available funds.
 - Donna Christy explained that PGCPS does not have nearly enough social workers as they would like, and counselors have a 1:250 ratio, but this may not be the case due to a lack of staff.
- Discussion on ‘Social-Emotional Learning (SEL) Programs’
 - Dr. Faison discussed some of the programs available for SEL instruction. Some programs provide sample lessons for teachers to do with students.
 - She also noted that a third cohort has been certified in SEL training, and PGCPS has a 5-year plan for SEL saturation in the system.
 - Donna Christy brought up ongoing concerns about high turnover making it difficult to train so many new teachers that may not stay in their position for an extended period.
- Discussion on ‘Family & Caregiver Mental Health Support’
 - Dr. Faison discussed the support available for PGCPS students and families through the institution and through community partnerships. She also noted a move within PGCPS to allow community schools to hire social workers through school funding.
 - Donna Christy noted that a student’s behavior tends to be the symptom of another problem at home.
 - Donna Christy explained that counselors are the first line of intervention – hence the high ratio 1:250. Social workers are next in line, and finally, school psychologists.
- Discussion on ‘Peer-Led Support Groups & Mentorships’
 - CM Oriadha asked whether any such group or program already exists within PGCPS.
 - Donna Christy that peer-led support groups can take many forms and could lead to restorative justice cultures in schools.
 - Members noted groups such as ‘Sources of Strength’ that are mental health support groups.
- Discussion on ‘Alternative Learning & Flexible Attendance Policies’
 - Arian Albear provided information on PGCPS’s Online Campus based on a prior meeting request for information.
 - CM Oriadha asked Mr. Albear to research for the next meeting whether online formats have been shown to improve student achievement.
 - Dr. Faison and the representative for the organization Judge Me Now talked about available non-traditional school options, such as night school.
- The meeting adjourned shortly after 4:00 PM.