



Prince George's County

TRUANCY STUDY WORKGROUP

Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, April 30, 2025

3:00 PM

Virtual Meeting

Minutes

Council Member Krystal Oriadha opened the meeting by reviewing its purpose and outlining the next steps. Dr. Donna Christy introduced herself as the Co-chair. CM Oriadha explained that the meeting would involve reviewing each recommendation category, inviting comments, and ultimately seeking collective approval.

The discussion began with intervention and incentives, focusing first on truancy reduction courts. CM Oriadha emphasized the need for additional resources beyond those currently provided by the State's Attorney's Office, a sentiment echoed by Ms. Lynn-Antonin. A follow-up action was noted regarding the truancy reduction court budget request.

Dr. Christy then addressed the issue of pupil personnel workload, advocating for a two-part approach involving early warning systems and post-truancy intervention. She raised concerns that students who fall behind due to truancy often struggle to catch up and recommended that pupil personnel workers have teaching or tutoring skills. CM Oriadha suggested piloting a program for attendance success coaches.

Truancy prevention workshops were proposed for students with five or more absences. CM Oriadha also recommended expanding the Student Advocacy (SA) Office program, with support from the State's Attorney's Office. The discussion touched on the issue of after-school detention, with Dr. Christy noting that its implementation depends on individual school resources. She also questioned the consequences for students who skip detention and emphasized that students are more engaged when they enjoy school.

Erica Turner brought attention to home-based causes of truancy, prompting CM Oriadha to acknowledge the need for individualized response strategies. Brannndon Jackson highlighted the importance of flexible education recovery options, with CM Oriadha noting that associated costs may vary and that online recovery options should be specified.

Transportation assistance was identified as a key barrier to attendance and an area needing staff-supported interventions. The conversation then turned to community-based navigators, focusing on improving coordination between nonprofit-linked navigators and interagency systems. Parents reportedly received inconsistent information from different agencies, underscoring the need for centralized access to services. Terri from PGCCRC asked about centralized hubs and Spanish-language support. The PGCPs Office of Translation was mentioned as a resource, and Brannndon Jackson committed to raising awareness of available services in Spanish-speaking communities.

Under family and school support, CM Oriadha proposed a centralized resource hub to consolidate access to family services and stressed the importance of superintendent involvement in normalizing parent-led support groups, describing it as a necessary cultural shift.

The meeting concluded with a category-by-category review led by CM Oriadha, during which members were encouraged to ask questions. Dr. Christy suggested consolidating overlapping recommendations, and Erica Turner noted a gap in recommendations related to reporting. She recommended evaluating how reporting works for community members outside the school system. An action item was created to identify and merge similar recommendations.

Dr. Christy made a motion to approve the recommendations, which was seconded by CM Oriadha and passed unanimously. CM Oriadha closed the meeting with final remarks, followed by closing statements from Co-chair Dr. Christy. The meeting adjourned shortly after 4:00 PM.