

Whole Child Advisory Group

Sept. 21, 2022

Minutes

Welcome and Today's Agenda

The Director of the Office of Whole Child Supports, Jennifer Vargo, welcomed Whole Child Advisory Group members and introduced new members, which included two student representatives. She also introduced Hilary Stoll, the Whole Child Program Administrator in the Office of Whole Child Supports. An overview of the day's agenda was presented to all.

Members participated in an icebreaker activity. Members shared something that has gone well and a success as it relates to the Whole Child Advisory Group and a wish for the future. Members posted their responses on the wall and partook in a gallery walk to view what was shared.

Whole Child Implementation Supports

Whole Child Network Updates

The Whole Child Program Administrator, Hilary Stoll, shared updates on the Whole Child Network. The Office of Whole Child Supports is partnering with the Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development (ASCD) to administer and expand the Whole Child framework.

The Whole Child Network was launched earlier this year with 150 members in the pilot group. New members were recently accepted in the Network, which has now doubled to 300 members. Next school year, the plan is to include another 150 members which would bring the total to 450. Of the 300 current members, two-thirds are school staff and one-third is community members. Network members were chosen so there would be an equitable distribution and diversity of roles spread across the regions of the state.

Benefits of being in the Network include participation in monthly webinars, sharing of best practices, engaging in a community of practice, networking with other members and having access to ASCD's professional development library of resources.

With the support of ASCD, the Whole Child Network is also conducting pilot projects with schools and districts. Participating sites will use the School Improvement Tool (SIT) to see where to best focus their efforts with the goal for the conclusion of the project being to develop a sustainable action plan.

As part of the Network, the aim is fostering a community of practice with the help of ASCD, which includes creating different cohorts of similar role groupings. The first cohort will consist of student support services. The goal is to have 35 representatives from around the state participate. The purpose is to foster intentional learning.

Whole Child Communications: Policy and Funding

The Office of Whole Child Supports will have various means of sharing whole child initiatives statewide. Information and resources will be shared on the Department's webpages, through EdConnection and through quarterly podcasts and newsletters. The focus for the podcasts and newsletters will be on the whole child tenets with the first focusing on safety. Members were given the opportunity to share state policy and funding updates for the newsletter. Members also shared ideas for dissemination of the newsletter.

Whole Child Knowledge and Skills

Hilary introduced Matthew Bowen, Superintendent of Campbell City School District, and Lisa Young, K-6 Principal. Members received a handout of the district's focus on building a strong foundation to ensure students are healthy, safe, engaged, supported and challenged. Campbell City Schools is made up of a diverse ethnic population and high poverty level (99% in poverty). The district needed to address the need for year-round school-based counseling and family engagement.

Eight to nine years before the whole child initiative was even established, the district worked to identify student barriers. Initial barriers found included a lack of access to recreational facilities and nutritious meals. Community members also needed easier access to quality healthcare and the public library. Discussions were held initially with United Way and Mahoning County to discuss the possibility of leasing space from the district if they could make that happen.

The Superintendent and Principal went on to discuss the ways they addressed the barriers and the creation of the Community Literacy Workforce and Cultural Center, a 7200 square foot building funded by public and private partners. Phase three is currently in progress, in partnership with Athens Children's Hospital, focusing on pediatric care and mental health. There were no urgent care facilities nearby. There is now a health center located on their campus. Phase four will provide additional wellness space with a financial literacy partner coming on board.

The building also houses a library and gym. They offer free community events, like movies, and provide free haircuts for students (before the start of the school year and holidays) in addition to summer home visits to ensure Kindergarten students attend the first day of school. All after-school and weekend programs are free. Costs are generally covered through community support and generous alumni. Attendance at community events is anywhere from 600 – 800 attendees. School has become the fabric of the community and employs both English and Spanish speaking adults.

There has been an uptick in enrollment. An eight-minute video is available for more information on their district and community collaboration project.

Whole Child Tools and Resources

Vanessa Kessler from Region 8 provided an update on the *Whole Child Problem of Practice*. Launched in spring of 2021, they identified barriers to school-based health. Two key barriers were identified: 1) a lack of communication about why school-based health matters and 2) the lack of a process or system to easily share information among school-based health providers, community partners, parents and children. A tool was needed to assist in this process.

The workgroup is preparing a podcast on the healthy tenet of Ohio's Whole Child Framework to be used by school leaders when sharing why school-based health matters. The workgroup is also developing a standardized medication form to streamline the process.

Whole Child Collaboration

SWOT Analysis

Members were given to opportunity to participate in a SWOT analysis. A SWOT analysis is a way to analyze strengths and weaknesses, opportunities and threats. Members completed the analysis in groups and then reported out to the full group.

Closing and Next Steps

Jennifer Vargo thanked members for coming and stated that they will be summarizing the results of the SWOT analysis to determine how to address some of the challenges presented. If you have any policy and funding updates, they will be shared in the Whole Child newsletter.

The next meeting of the Whole Child Advisory Group is scheduled for Dec. 8.

The meeting was adjourned.