

Agency of Education
219 North Main Street, Suite 312
June 3, 2019

Present: Tim Vincent, VSBIT; Mara Iverson, Outright VT; Jeff Francis, VSA; Henri Sparks, Burlington Schools; Melissa Horwitz, Human Rights Commission; Daniel M. French, Agency of Education

Others: Kristen Murray, Vermont Department of Health; Joanne Crawford, Abenaki Nation of Missisquoi

AOE: Suzanne Sprague

Agenda:

1. Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS) Update – Kristen Murray, Department of Health
2. Work-group session on Council's goals
 - a. HHB model policies to one pager
 - b. Listening Tours
3. Legislative Report – update
4. Other?

The meeting convened at 2:35 p.m. Chair Vincent asked for introductions.

Chair Vincent invited Kristen Murray, Department of Health, to present the results from the 2017 Vermont Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS). Murray said that the survey is given every other year and that both public and private middle and high school students participate in this survey. She added that the survey is supported by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and that the 2019 report should be available at the end of this year. Murray explained the types of questions that are included on the survey and the difference between the middle and high school survey questions. She shared highlights from the middle school and high school statewide results. Discussion followed regarding bullying on school property, bullying online at school, definitions being part of the questions, frequency in the questions and the CDC bullying definition being different than the definition in the Vermont model policy.

Murray described the differences between the 2017 and the 2019 survey which mainly focus on sexual dating violence. Additionally, a transgender question was added to the 2019 middle school survey. Discussion followed regarding the tension of using the Vermont definition of bullying and not the federal definition, LGB identification being optional and that there were no harassment questions included in the survey. Murray explained the number of Vermont specific

questions which can be added to the survey. She added that next summer the Department of Health will receive the new batch of questions from the CDC and then will begin the process of developing the Vermont questions for the survey. The HHB Prevention Advisory Council could be used as an asset during the process. Further discussion followed regarding the School Climate Survey, LGB and LGBT and the Vermont School Health Profile survey. Murray will take feedback to the CDC.

Chair Vincent began discussion on the listening tours. Discussion followed on hearing directly from students, additional data gathering, school climate survey, state data portal, educational impact and youth interaction. The listening tours are tentatively scheduled for October 2019. Questions will be previously determined. The plan is to visit 10-12 schools including elementary, middle, junior/senior and high schools. Discussion followed regarding including alternative schools, effective student engagement, pre and post planning meetings and what to do with collected information. Joanne Crawford, Abenaki Nation of Missisquoi, raised serious concerns about bullying in Swanton schools. She wondered if the questions asked on the listening tours will be public information and asked for clarification on the process to decide which schools to visit. The information requested will be available at the July 29th meeting. Crawford asked if the results from the first tour were available. A report was produced at that time. Chair Vincent suggested looking at the prior meeting minutes.

Chair Vincent asked for feedback on the legislative report. Discussion followed regarding the statute that reads "review and coordinate school and statewide activities...", advising the Secretary and making recommendations. Secretary French read the statute which created the HHB Prevention Advisory Council. Discussion followed on interpreting the statute and final edits to the report.

Chair Vincent asked for feedback on the HHB model policies one-page document. He will send an e-mail to the Council and give a week deadline so the document can be finalized. The document will be handed to Secretary French for his consideration.

The remaining meetings are below.

July 29th
September 30th
November 25th

The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, July 29th, 2019. Chair Vincent said agenda items include finalizing listening tours, Act 1, H.3 update and finalizing the HHB model policies one-page document.

Adjourn:

The meeting adjourned at 3:58 p.m.

Minutes recorded and prepared by Suzanne Sprague.