

NDSNO Legislative/Executive Committee Meeting Minutes 5-23-06 in Jamestown

Participants present: Kim Senn, Becky Bailey, Linda Wright, Nancy Leith, Cindy Omdahl, Kathy Mack, Deb Watne, and Wanda Rose.

Guests: Tom Decker from DPI (Department of Public Instruction) in school finance and organization, Valerie Fischer from DPI with coordinated school health, and Lois Myran Coordinator with Roughrider Ed Services Program with Joint Powers Agreement. The guests were present for the first half of the meeting.

Purpose of meeting: To discuss and review strategies to sustain school nursing statewide.

Guests present helped provide insight and guidance related to the ND Joint Powers Agreement (JPA) and how to possibly format the legislation for school nursing funding.

Discussion:

1. JPA: The guests suggested that the local JPA's could be used to determine the health needs of their areas. Each JPA region has a school board member from each school district in the region. They meet on a monthly basis. Their suggestion was to focus school nursing services statewide not individual sections. A defined core set of school nursing functions would need to be developed to provide to school districts in the region, if requested. A possible source to help with defining the role would be the American Academy of Pediatrics November 5, 2001 issue. It is envisioned that these core services would be covered under the grant program. The money would go to the NDDH (North Dakota Department of Health) and be made available to local public health units who in turn would work with their JPA. It was recommended to not have a match for the individual school districts at this time. If some schools want additional services, above the core services, then they could contract for increased services and pay for that service. The discussion took place on using the DPI state foundation formula, the MCH funding formula or the tobacco funding formula for determining the amount of funding to each health unit. Valerie has spoken with School Board Association, North Dakota Education Association and Council for Education Leaders and all have indicated a support for school health services. For additional information on JPA the following websites are useful.

<http://www.dpi.state.nd.us/finacne/jpa/faq.pdf>

frequently asked question about JPA

<http://www.dpi.state.nd.us/finance/jpa/JPAdir.pdf>

JPA directory listing of information

<http://www.ndjpa.org>

JPA site with more information

2. Draft bill: Wanda had developed a bill draft. The group worked on adjusting the wording of the bill to include "school health and wellness services in schools". The bill could also include the USDA wellness policy requirement for the next school year. Discussion took place on the funding and it was overall recommended that the money go through NDDH and then to the local public health units. Discussion also took place about the need to hire a person, probably through the NDDH to oversee the grant process. This person would also monitor the data collected and grant reporting. Deb had spoken with Tom Fischer and he had suggested that the focus for services include alcohol and meth. Other areas for services would be to provide front line defense for health issues, medication administration, immunization review, provide information on health insurance coverage, and pandemic flu situations. The ratio to strive for would be 1 nurse to 1000 students. Wanda will make changes to the draft and then send the bill out to the legislative committee and Tom Fischer for further discussion.

3. Legislative contacts: Wanda provided a listing of senator/representatives for the state and how they previously voted on nursing legislation. Many voted against due to the involvement of previous legislation with use of tobacco taxing. Discussion took place on the need for the nurses to meet with their local legislators to discuss the school health legislation. Her suggestion was for two nurses to visit with the even numbered districts (districts not up for reelection) to discuss the legislation. The odd numbered districts (district up for election) Wanda suggested having a group meeting with the various legislators. The script for meeting with them was handed out along with general tips for contacting your legislators. The handout of frequently asked question regarding school health/nursing services, tips for meeting with the legislators, tips for telephoning/writing, a sample letter and the school nursing brochure will be reviewed by Kim and Becky. When the frequently asked questions are revised it could also be used at the NDEA conference at the school nursing booth. Another handout with various school nurse case scenarios was also provided that could be helpful when meeting with the legislators. Kathy Mack will send in her information about an incident with a student that she was involved with. The overall consensus was to wait until the handouts were done before meeting with the legislators, possibly meet with them sometime in August.

4. Nursing Data: Deb provided a handout on the current school nursing services available in the state. The information is somewhat vague at times; this information was collected by an intern in their office. He contacted the local public health units.

5. Letter to governor: Cindy Omdahl will send out the draft letter to the group and we can review. Kim will get the mailing information of the recipients and NDSNO letterhead to her. The letter will go to Governor Hooven; Dr. Sanstead, Dr. Dwelle and Arvy Smith. Kim will also visit with Dr. Sanstead, Dr., Dwelle and Arvy Smith regarding the current plan for legislation.

6. Cool list serve: Discussion took place on if this site was needed for legislation. Both the NDDH and local public health sites can not be in charge of maintaining this site do to lobbying issues. Wanda has agreed to be in charge of the cool list serve if we can add a link to the tripod website. Kim will check to see if this would be possible to send info to the website, or if that would be considered lobbying.

7. Other: The group agreed to contribute \$1500.00 to the First District Health Unit to help defray expenses for the NASN conference for Linda. Reminder that the next upcoming NDSNO IVN will be August 17, 2006. Nancy will check with Jane Prather about the cost of selling individual door hangers at the NASN conference. She will let Linda know the amount.

8. Next Meeting: July 18, 2006 from 10 to 3 in Jamestown.

Submitted per Nancy Leith, RN 6-2-06