DISTRICT ACCOUNTABILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

January 11, 2021
6:00 – 7:30 PM
Virtual Meeting held via Zoom due to COVID-19

Minutes

I. 6:00 Welcome and Introductions

The following individuals were present:
Presenters: Jessica O'Muireadhaigh

Members: Lori Stack, DJ Loerzel, Mardi Boin, Ilena Agustin, Tim and Amy Hill, Tarro McCray, Bridget Allison, Valerie Richmond, Billie Day, Omar Montgomery

II. 6:05 Mental Health, Jessica O'Muireadhaigh, Director

Supports provided: How these have changed during the pandemic, what we’re looking toward in the future

Last year, with the mill levy override, APS hired 100+ mental health care professionals - started in elementary schools/preschools where they only had mental health professionals for students with disability services on their IEPs. They now all have one fulltime provider dedicated to the entire population in addition to one servicing students on IEPs.

We also hired 1 person for each Middle School and 1 for each High School in order to decrease ratios. The goal was to get to 1 MH professional for every 250 students. This year, we hired more in order to get to a 1:250 ratio.

We also increased services for school based providers - Aurora Mental Health or Health One - in every school unless school turns down the position. We added two intake providers - when students are in crisis, used to be handed a list of resources and navigate it on their own. Now, we have a referral system, Aurora Mental Health, Health One, Children’s Mental Health, plus some others so a professional from one of these places can support the family in completing the referral. Then the community partner calls the family.

Needed more support with Aurora Mental Health Connected Care clinic - families go there but families were struggling with waiting and struggling to access that resources. Now we have 1.5 intake providers from Aurora Mental Health. These people go to where the student is to fill out the intake form with the family.

We have coaches to help the providers stay in our schools so they can maintain the relationships with the kids for continuity of support.

We are supporting Brain-based - neurosequential model - training.
Due to the pandemic, services have been moved virtually. Found a group of kids across grades and across the district who accessed support better virtually than they did in person. Also found that some kids struggle with virtual supports. Hard to get communication in another way. Providers now have a dedicated number from their phone (Granite Phone Solutions). Text support and phone support has helped. Group work was harder, but we were able to do Social-Emotional learning groups.
We also offered online curriculum. Has helped older kids who were reluctant to access people.

**DAAC Questions:**
Services just for district students, not charter? Yes, charters got a chunk of money from the mill levy and had a choice about how they spent their money. Charter school member - used funds for 2 mental health people. DO support all schools with crisis team events.

*When we received the Mill Levy money, and decisions were made, looking back, would you have changed anything, or if we get more funds, would you use it differently? Are there specific areas of need that you still have?* Yes, there are always ways we can strengthen our system. Glad we used most of the funds to get more providers in the schools.
Goal is to continue to increase school-based staff. Now, kids have access - to what? We want to make sure everyone stays trained, up to date, is ready to do their job. One thing we’ve run across is curriculum for Social Emotional Learning. Hard to find Culturally Responsive Social Emotional Learning Curriculum. Putting effort and resources into reaching out to our community. Working with RISE, churches, other community groups, to build groups in each learning community to work on what does social emotional learning mean in that community? What teaching strategies mean in that community? What will sustain social emotional learning in that community?

*Our last meeting - Damon talked about retention, for your department, are the people you’ve hired, do they tend to stay a long time, or do they burn out?* The retention has grown over the past 6 years. When they leave it’s because of commute, move out of state. Before it was because of pay, less support. etc. We now have systems across the district to support staff in Mental Health and are trying to recruit Mental Health providers of color as well.

*When will you be reaching out to communities?* February
*How long will you be collecting information?* We hope within the month of February. We need a solid representation within the community. Once we have that, we’ll do up to a month of compiling all of the data. Will report back to each community partner, get clarification, start to meet with committee who would support long term the development of the plan.

### III. 6:40 Upcoming Meetings

Lori explained the data presentations to the Board of Education being part of the DAAC meetings for the rest of the year. Current changes also include moving the presentation originally scheduled for February to May and adding Charter school application presentations to February.

*Are you going to update the agenda on the website?* Yes as soon as presenters are confirmed.

*Have we had a presentation on the current state of SROs in the district?* We have had security do that in the past. I can reach out to Greg and see if he can present to us before the end of the year.

*Asking about the board survey - listening sessions.* DJ: Lori can you reach out to Claudia.

### IV. 6:45 Meeting Adjourned