

Harford County Public Schools
Citizen Advisory Committee Family Life
April 9, 2019

Members in Attendance:

Joe Harbert, Deborah Basler, Karly Chancy (Student Representative), Barbara Winfield

Agenda:

- Follow up from the February 5th day meeting. Citizen Advisory Committee was cancelled due to snow.
- Family Life for Life Skills and Future Link Students
- Updated contraception cards
- Starting contraception in the 7th grade
- Need for sexting lessons in 7th and 8th grade

Action Steps:

Review of February 5th day meeting

1. The Health Department presented the current statistics on STI's in Harford County. Data was broken down by area. There was a concern that there is a disconnect between the curriculum and what is actually happening. Several committee members expressed the need to get parents involved through information nights, providing a survey monkey to parents to get more input on the family life curriculum and the need to move forward or through presenting a Family Health Fair that would include information on a variety of topics. (sex education, vaping, opioids, social media, mental health and dating safety.
2. Feedback was provided on the MSDE Sexual Assault Training that was attended by several health teachers and guidance counselors across all three levels. Teaching strategies, lesson ideas and ways to create a safe environment to discuss sensitive topics was discussed.
3. The Committee reviewed the content of the Board Presentation powerpoint so it could be updated to reflect the current direction and practice.

Family Life for Life Skills and Future Link Students

1. Situations surrounding the students in the Future Links program prompted some concern that these students (ages 18-22) were not receiving developmentally appropriate instruction on Family Life topics. The concern is these students were opted out of the Family Life units when they were going through school and now that they are adults they are finding themselves in sexual situations that they don't understand.
2. Discussed modification to our current curriculum to meet the needs of our Special Education students.
3. Members expressed an interest in being involved with the writing of the new lessons.

Contraception

1. New cards showing pictures of the different contraceptive methods (middle and high school students) were provided for feedback. Group members made minor suggestions that will be implemented prior to use.

2. The group discussed moving contraception from 8th grade to 7th grade and providing visuals of contraceptive items in 7th grade instruction. No concerns were expressed.
3. Sexting and the importance of including this in the curriculum was mentioned. Members were in agreement that lessons on this topic are needed.