



Health Advisory Committee Meeting
Minutes from July 6, 2020
Virtual meeting

HAC MEMBERS:

Dr. Olayemi Osiyemi
Martha M. Rodriguez, M.D.
Anthony J. Terzo
Dr. Myriam Glemaud
Dr. Leslie Diaz
Commissioner Delvin M. Thomas
Dr. Alina Alonso
Brenda Galie
Dr. Masha Fishbane
Dr. Belma Andric

Dr. Jean Friedland Malecki
Thamarva Mitchell
Matt Willhite
Tommy Schechtman
Anthony Barbar
Stacy Volnick
Ginny Keller
Randy Scheid
David Summers
Seth Bernstein

STAFF:

Glenda Sheffield, Ed.D.
Keith Oswald
Ed Tierney
Mike Burke
Gonzalo LaCava
Wanda Paul
Jay Boggess
Michelle Fleming

Kevin McCormick
Merris Smith, M.D.
Ofelia B. Chacon, M.D., Ph.D.
Cleopatra Ortiz
Joelle Cody
Paula Triana
Kathleen Villavicencio

SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS:

Debra Robinson, M.D.

PRESENTERS

Paul Houchins
Mark Howard

ABSENT:

Dr. Olayemi Osiyemi
Dr. Myriam Glemaud
Dr. Leslie Diaz
Commissioner Delvin M. Thomas
Thamarva Mitchell
Michelle Fleming

PUBLIC NON-MEMBERS:

The public has live access by Phone Bridge

- 1.01 Commencement of Meeting – Jay Boggess, Assistant Superintendent, Choice & Innovation**
Welcoming back of members. For purpose of taking attendance, Mr. Boggess requested members to sign in using their chat box. (Notation of Dr. Alonso present, attending via cell phone.)
- 1.02 Opening Statements– Jay Boggess** – Shared meeting agenda with the Committee. Gave an overview of goals and purpose of the committee. Utilizing the expertise and perspective of the diverse group of professionals will provide a more comprehensive understanding of Covid-19. This information will be instrumental in decisions to determine processes that follow CDC guidelines to ensure the safety of all students, parents and staff.
- 1.03 Review of Parent and Teacher Survey Results – Paul Houchins Director Research and Evaluation** (It was noted that the survey was taken prior to the recent spike in COVID-19 cases.)

Re-cap of Parent Survey Results were as follows.

- Questions focused on:
 - o Preference for 3 main options – Full Return / Distance Learning / Blended Model
 - o Factors Influencing Stated Preferences
 - o Support for the Proposed Changes to the 2020-2021 SY
- Over 66,000 responses representing over 114,000 students
- Over half of the parents indicated they could support each of the reopening models.
- General distance learning preferences for schedule and instruction were similar amongst respondents with the exception of alternating day schedule, which had more support among Hispanic and Black respondents.
- Support for large-scale school activities and delaying the start beyond August 10 varied by race and region.
- Variable responses suggests that one-size-fits-all approach may not be appropriate.
- Sizeable proportions of “unsure” responses suggest an opportunity to share more information with parents.

Re-cap of Staff Survey Results were as follows.

- Questions focused on:
 - o Preference for 3 main options – Full Return / Telecommuting / Blended Model
 - o Factors Influencing Stated Preferences
 - o Support for the Proposed Changes to the 2020-2021 SY
- Over 16,000 responses collected.
- Most of the staff indicated they could support each of the three reopening models with telecommuting receiving the highest support (77%). Two-thirds indicated they could support both telecommuting and a blended model.
- More than 65% indicated they would support return under each of the reopening models, many indicating they could support two or more of the models. There was variability based on region and “high-risk” individuals.
- Vaccine availability and childcare were less important compared to enhanced cleaning, social distancing, risk at home, and ability to telecommute in determining preference. Importance did vary between region and if there was a high-risk individual in the household.

- Approximately 60% support reporting on alternating days and physically reporting after August 10.
- The large majority answered favorably regarding items about access to work remotely.
- The majority answered favorably to items about safely returning to the physical building with the exception of allowing public visitation as usual.

Dr. Alina Alonso, Director Florida Department of Health Palm Beach – Wished to make a statement regarding the recent Executive Order that stated reopening of schools would be based upon conversations with certain entities such as the Health Department. Dr. Alonso gave some general statistics. As to the number of cases after schools had closed, prior to the start of the reopening phases, numbers were down to 68 per day compared to the current number of over 400 per day. Miami-Dade's current number is 2,000 per day. The number of children tested in Palm Beach County is over 3,000 with 1,000 of those testing positive, and children have died. There have been deaths of children who were perfectly healthy prior to contracting COVID-19, two were 17 and one was younger. She feels the best thing would be to open remotely for a couple of months to see if it slows down. We really do not know at this point. There is still time before opening and maybe things will look different. Right now, it only appears things are only going to get worse until it burns out.

1.04 Reopening Task Force Discussion – Dr. Donald E. Fennoy II, Superintendent

Dr. Fennoy began the discussion updating the committee on the Governor's Executive Order and the work currently taking place working through the directives of the Order. Dr. Fennoy has been meeting with teams and specialized workgroups as well as holding one-on-one discussions with key individuals. The Academic Team is diligently working on the distance learning portion, which will look very different from what was put in place in the spring. Dr. Fennoy's focus for the task force was to discuss the metrics as it relates to the reopening of schools. What do we need to consider when bringing students back into schools?

Dr. Alonso – Metrics to look for when reopening Florida schools.

- A downward trajectory of influential illness (COVID cases)
- A downward trajectory of COVID-like symptoms such as cough, fever
- A downward trajectory of percentage of those tested and percentage testing positive

Matt Willhite – Florida House of State – State Representative

Has personally made the decision to keep his children home if there were a return to school decision at this time. He suggested the possibility of just having teachers return and teach remotely from their classrooms. It will give the student a little more sense of being in a classroom and teachers will have their resources, which should make it easier than teaching remotely. We just do not have the capability to social distance in classrooms, buses, etc. If one student gets sick who has seven classes, do we send the entire class home or everyone in all of their seven classes? How will we handle contact tracing? Mr. Willhite feels the best choice right now would be to open with teaching remotely.

Dr. Tommy Schechtman – Pediatric Partners – Pediatrician

Feels community spread is too great. We need to establish standardization on students return to school after being ill, are we going to prohibit the use of nebulizers in our schools? Indiana has put together a very specific plan on how they will handle each situation that may arise. (Link was shared with the group www.doe.in.gov/sites/default/files/news/june-5-class-document.pdf)

Dr. Fennoy – Dr. Schechtman are you aware of that work (Indiana’s) being done across the state? Dr. Schechtman stated he has been on a call every single week with the Department of Health. Discussions have centered on giving parents choices, focusing on hot spot schools that may be more prone to COVID and children with special needs.

Dr. Fennoy is looking for clarity - “Under what conditions do we start bringing people back to school?” He is working with the Board to push back the start date for school. Does anyone have any feedback on that subject?

Representative Willhite – What happens if we open schools and 60% of parents do not send their children to school, you now have to teach two different ways, what is our plan?

Dr. Fennoy – We cannot penalize parents for not sending their children to school. Regarding distance learning, it has been discussed that there should be a way for parents to view into a classroom, if teachers are going to be teaching from their classrooms. There would be cameras in the classroom so that students and parents could go into the classroom lesson. To further, there will not be a multitude of choices for parents and students, it would just not be feasible.

In response to Dr. Schechtman regarding standard procedures for a positive case in a classroom. Current protocol in schools at this time is to let the entire school know that there is a case, however, this more than likely will not be how we handle the situation due to legal repercussion. We are currently working with our Legal Department for guidance.

Dr. Alonso – What would be the purpose of pushing back the start of school?

Dr. Fennoy – The additional time would give us the opportunity to completely train our staff for the return of students. We are dealing with social unrest as it relates to race; teachers need to be trained on how to discuss these issues, social emotional learning, and further training for distance instruction. Dr. Alonso was in agreement with pushing the start date back as it gives us additional time to learn from other districts that have earlier start dates.

Representative Willhite – One of his concerns with distance learning was ensuring that all students have devices and the capability to get online for instruction. We need to be sure students are logging on.

Dr. Fennoy – We have data collection, which is continually being updated, as to where our kids are that are not accessing as well as their needs with regard to devices and internet service. We have purchased hot spots and have also utilized our bus drivers to deliver laptops when needed.

Jay Boggess – Recapped the discussion thus far and asked the committee, from a medical standpoint, for any additional input that we need to consider for determining when to reopen schools for normal instruction.

Dr. Fennoy – Our challenge is in trying to find the correct data point for reopening. Is there a number of cases, a number of weeks with specific numbers, etc?

Dr. Alonso – Recapped the numbers since March and the present rise in cases. With the current trajectory, she does not see reopening schools with students and staff returning. The one positive is the drop in death rates, which correlates to the increased number of young people contracting COVID-19.

Dr. Schechtman – Testing is key. He cannot get test kits. The State/Governor must know that we cannot reopen schools without having done proper testing. We cannot do contact tracing without timely testing. We also need to address socialization and wrap around services and how we can start providing these services to children.

Debra Robinson, M.D. School Board – Dr. Robinson is working with Dr. Malecki outlining some metrics for when it is safe to move from distance learning to hybrid and from hybrid to regular school and if necessary how to move reversely. They will continue to will work offline and gather some numbers to bring back to the committee. Dr. Robinson is also reviewing the data from the Indiana school system.

Dr. Fennoy – Posed the question “Do you feel the numbers will go down during the month of August?” All responses were “no”.

1.05 Closing Remarks – Jay Boggess

- We have gained valuable insight from the committee as to the metrics for reopening of schools
- There will be continued strategizing with Dr. Fennoy, the Board, District task force teams and sub-groups, as well as one on one discussions.

Dr. Fennoy - For those who were willing and able to put their opinion out in reference of not going back to school face-to-face on August 10, I would ask in the chatroom if you would be willing to give me permission to say that this is something that you will support. Dr. Fennoy will be presenting his recommendation to the Board on July 15. Based on their decision, if it is to start through distance learning, would the committee be willing to meet again in August to have further discussion on numbers and updated information from the committee members? Majority consensus was “yes”.

Dr. Fennoy stated the need for further discussion with the committee to address those children in our ESE population who are most in need of a return to school but sited that these were the children that were most vulnerable if we were to return too early. Dr. Fennoy to email committee members with updates after the Board Meeting.

Representative Willhite – His recommendation to the Board at this time is that you do not open school and continue with distance learning. Would like to meet again in July.

Dr. Fennoy – Committed to meet again after the Board Meeting on July 15.

1.06 Adjourn 5:59 pm

Comments Posted on the Meeting

Chat:

00:01:27.558,00:01:30.558

Anthony Terzo: Here

00:01:44.241,00:01:47.241

Wanda Paul: present

00:01:49.028,00:01:52.028

Kevin McCormick: Here

00:01:50.264,00:01:53.264

Paul Houchens: Here

00:01:54.616,00:01:57.616

Anthony Barbar: Anthony Barbar

00:01:54.749,00:01:57.749

Ofelia Barletta Chacon: Here

00:01:56.048,00:01:59.048

Glenda Sheffield: Glenda Sheffield

00:01:57.579,00:02:00.579

Wanda Paul: Wanda Paul- present

00:01:58.734,00:02:01.734

Debra Robinson: present

00:02:00.397,00:02:03.397

Margrit Schechtman: Tommy Schechtman

00:02:01.280,00:02:04.280

Ginny: Ginny Keller

00:02:03.799,00:02:06.799

Randy Scheid: Randy Scheid here

00:02:04.647,00:02:07.647

Dr. Martha Rodriguez: Here, Martha Rodriguez

00:02:06.166,00:02:09.166

Mark Howard: Mark Howard - Here

00:02:11.440,00:02:14.440

Stacy Volnick: here Stacy Volnick

00:02:14.212,00:02:17.212

Ofelia Barletta Chacon: Ofelia Barletta-Chacon

00:02:20.883,00:02:23.883

Merris Smith: Dr. Merris Smith

00:02:29.841,00:02:32.841
David Summers: David Summers. Trauma Agency HCDPBC Here

00:02:35.941,00:02:38.941
Jessica Cody: Joelle Cody-Contract Nursing Supervisor-present

00:03:09.112,00:03:12.112
Paula Triana: Paula Triana - Present

00:03:18.805,00:03:21.805
Cleopatra Ortiz: Cleopatra Ortiz MD. Child &adolescent psychiatrist. Indian Ridge School.

00:06:26.251,00:06:29.251
Mark Howard: Please make sure your Mic is on mute

00:06:35.508,00:06:38.508
Jay Boggess: Please mute if you are not speaking. Much appreciated!

00:22:05.251,00:22:08.251
Margrit Schechtman: Were parents asked what specific information they would want want / need to make educated family decisions on whether they feel it is safe to send their child to a specific school?

00:23:56.382,00:23:59.382
Debra Robinson: you want an answer or was that rhetorical?

00:26:09.856,00:26:12.856
Dr. Martha Rodriguez: I totally agree, until we see this going the right direction, not the wrong one, we can not proceed with schools opening.

00:26:26.583,00:26:29.583
Mark Howard: Not specifically, the questions were perceptions related to preferences related to school options.

00:27:22.074,00:27:25.074
Jay Boggess: Thank you Mr. Howard for Dr.Schechtman's question.

00:27:44.116,00:27:47.116
Dr. Martha Rodriguez: But doesn't that expose the teachers?

00:27:58.270,00:28:01.270
Dr. Martha Rodriguez: What happens if the teachers start to get sick due to exposure

00:31:24.657,00:31:27.657
Dr. Martha Rodriguez: AGREED

00:31:27.191,00:31:30.191
Debra Robinson: Dr Schechtman please share link for report from INdiana

00:32:32.793,00:32:35.793
Kevin McCormick: Indiana Link: <https://www.doe.in.gov/sites/default/files/news/june-5-class-document.pdf>

00:32:57.078,00:33:00.078
Seth Bernstein: Thanks, Kevin.



00:37:22.679,00:37:25.679
Dr. Martha Rodriguez: More time to see a down trend of cases

00:41:21.421,00:41:24.421
Margrit Schechtman: This is another great resource from CHOP's PolicyLab<https://policylab.chop.edu/reports-and-tools/policy-review-evidence-and-considerations-school-reopenings>

00:43:08.799,00:43:11.799
Dr. Martha Rodriguez: I think the first measure has to be a consistent decline in daily cases

00:44:37.139,00:44:40.139
Jean Friedland: Deborah Robinson: can't get my voice heard

00:46:51.227,00:46:54.227
Dr. Martha Rodriguez: We have up to 10 days in my practice

00:46:58.027,00:47:01.027
Dr. Martha Rodriguez: both from Quest and Labcorp

00:47:07.416,00:47:10.416
Debra Robinson: applause!applause!

00:48:05.310,00:48:08.310
Seth Bernstein: However school reopens, we need to (re)think about out of school programming.. conversations have started.

00:50:10.791,00:50:13.791
Dr. Martha Rodriguez: no

00:50:15.205,00:50:18.205
Ofelia Barletta Chacon: No

00:50:47.366,00:50:50.366
Jean Friedland: No!

00:51:02.939,00:51:05.939
Debra Robinson: no what Dr malecki?

00:51:28.513,00:51:31.513
Kathleen Villavicencio: No - rates probably will not decrease in August

00:51:34.781,00:51:37.781
Jean Friedland: Cases will not drop

00:51:44.624,00:51:47.624
Seth Bernstein: Agreed

00:51:44.768,00:51:47.768
Debra Robinson: oh! I thought I said something wrong;-)

00:52:37.250,00:52:40.250
Jean Friedland: Will get in touch later in the week

