

WORKGROUP ON CHILD AND ADOLESCENT HEALTH
August 2, 2023
MEETING MINUTES

THOSE PRESENT

Heather Hanline, GC Dove Center	John Hummel, GCPS	Robin McGill
Randa Rumer, GC Head Start	Fred Polce, Jr., GCHD	Heather Cooper, GCHD
Jennifer Brenneman, GCHD	Jennifer VanPelt, GCHD	Jessica Carey, GCHD
Jennifer Lee-Steckman, GCHD	John Corbin, GCHD	Katie Welch, GCHD
Susan Mills, GCHD	Laura Robinson	Dr. Karl Schwalm
Kimi Scott-McGreevy, GRMC	Logan Hinebaugh	Amy Ritchie, GCHD

Jennifer Lee-Steckman called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m. Child vaccine and lead testing requirements have been added to the agenda.

Randa Rumer is in charge of health and safety compliance for Garrett County Health Start and Early Head Start. The main goals are to get children ready to enter public school, which includes getting them up to date on their well-child check, vaccines, and lead and hemoglobin screenings. They were seeing deficits prior to the pandemic, but there has definitely been a drop in the up to date status for vaccines, particularly the vaccines that are given at the 12 and 15 months.

VACCINE - Jessica Carey reported that this is a national trend, that when children get to be 3-4 years old, particularly Medicaid patients, we do see a decline in well-child visits and vaccines. Jessica presented a Powerpoint that reiterates why we back school immunizations. She stated that our goal is to connect these kids with care and increase the post 36 month wellness visits and get them into compliance with vaccines. (see attached Powerpoint)

LEAD TESTING - Katie Welch reported that many times transportation is an issue. They get an order to go to the hospital for the lead level blood work, but they are unable to get there. COMAR states that children 12 and 24 months need vaccines and lead testing. All zip codes in Garrett County are considered at-risk and no level of lead is considered safe.

The Health Department now has a lead analyzer and they are able to offer testing to the little ones coming in for their vaccines. Later this month they will be available at the registration fairs for Early Head Start and Head Start to provide extra education and test kits for families to take home.

The Workgroup on Child and Adolescent Health is a subcommittee of the Health Planning Council and was formed to address the low numbers of Garrett County children receiving wellness visits. One of the things that has been discussed is that if the Health Department offers these vaccine and testing services, it impacts child visits to their PCP. To fill the gaps, the State requires the Health Department to offer back to school vaccine clinics. We want to continue to help children be ready for Head Start and Kindergarten, but we also need to be mindful of the PCP well visits. We need to brainstorm how we can fix these challenges.

A grant has been applied for and if we receive it, a needs assessment will be done that will include local care providers, teachers, parents, community members, etc. to get their perspective on what is needed and how to move forward as a community and not as single entities.

So as it stands right now, the Health Department will provide vaccine and testing services with the understanding that we need to try to continue our efforts to ensure that children are linked to the appropriate healthcare providers.

DEFINE THIS GROUPS PURPOSE AND GOALS

In order to have a consensus from all 30+/- members of this group, it was decided to create a survey. It can contain, What do you believe is the purpose of this committee? Do you feel it is a duplication of another meeting, and if so, which one? If the group continues, how often should we meet?

Jen and Beth will meet to create a survey and it will be forwarded to a couple other people for review. It will then be sent out to all members of this committee.

The meeting adjourned at 9:31. The next meeting will be in September to discuss the results of the survey.

Respectfully Submitted,

Beth A. Brenneman