



Technical Advisory Group (TAG) – School Health and Safety Meeting Notes

Date: July 30th, 2018
Time: 2-4pm
Location: WSU – Heritage Farm
Present: Joe Laxson (CCPH), Janis Koch(CCPH), Sara Schroeder (CCPH), Christine Harper (CCPH), Kathryn Bump (CCPH), Jessica Beehner (Camas PS), Nicole Daltoso (Vancouver PS), Susan Steinbrenner (Evergreen PS), Scott Labar (ESD112), Martin Madarita (Evergreen PS), and Scott Deutsch (Evergreen PS)

Time	Discussion Topic	Notes
2:00-2:15	Arrive, Welcome and Introductions	
2:15-2:20	Clark County Website – TAG webpage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CCPH showed how to get to the TAG webpage. Webpage shows TAG meeting information (Minutes, agenda, related documents). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> https://www.clark.wa.gov/public-health/school-health-and-safety-technical-advisory-group
2:20-2:55	Radon Mitigation Plan – presented by Evergreen Public Schools (Sue Steinbrenner, Scott Duetsch, Martin Madarieta, Scott Labar)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Evergreen Public Schools shared their radon mitigation procedure. Hand-outs were distributed.
2:55-3:45	Safety Inspections <ul style="list-style-type: none"> State Efforts Regulations & Local Consideration 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CCPH discussed school safety inspections. Discussed the WAC requirement language and statewide efforts to implement the code. Discussed focused approach and ideas for where to start - science labs, CTE and art were identified as a good place to focus initial safety inspections. Discussed “periodic” including the 3 year rotation with self-inspection similar to other Spokane Health District. Discussed capacity and needs – suggested smaller districts that do not have risk management may be a good place to focus. Districts requested a FAQ online for what we will be looking for and why. A Doodle Poll will be sent out for the next meeting.



3:45-4:00	Questions and Concerns	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Joe Laxson will be going to Washington Department of Health as the Director of Environmental Public Health as of August 1st. • Question asked about what Clark County Public Health can do or is doing with bullying and suicide prevention. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clark County Public Health works with other departments to try to cover as much as we can - ACES, PH Nurses, Green Schools, Food Safety • Also there is another County TAC that was addressing these issues.
4:00	Adjourn	<p>For Next Meeting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have draft inspection checklists ready. • Discuss fee update/state funding.



Clark County Public Health School Health and Safety Program Implementation of Periodic Routine School Inspections

Background

- WAC 246-366-040(2)(b): The health officer shall “(m)ake periodic inspections of each existing school within his jurisdiction, and forward to the board of education and the administrator of the inspected school a copy of his findings together with any required changes and recommendations.”
- These inspections will verify compliance with state health and safety regulations and guidelines (Chapter 246-366 WAC) including general areas such as lighting, heating, ventilation and sanitation, in addition to technical areas such as playgrounds, arts and crafts, science labs and career/technical education.

Examples of inspection programs in other WA counties

- **Spokane Regional Health District**
 - SRHD has been conducting health and safety inspections without major interruption since the WAC was developed.
 - In maintaining a consistent inspection program, SRHD has been able to create a 3 year inspection cycle:
 - Year 1: Routine Inspection by health department with a focus on high risk areas (playgrounds, science labs, art, etc). Schools and health department staff work together to identify priorities
 - Year 2: Re-inspection by school with status report submitted to health department
 - Year 3: Self-inspection occurs by school facility staff
- **Walla Walla County Department of Community Health**
 - Walla Walla recently began reinstating their program with the help of a CDC fellowship grant employee.
 - Started with a focused inspection approach, beginning with elementary schools.
 - Clark County staff shadowed an inspection of an elementary school (less than 5 years old)
 - Examples of observations of public health concerns:
 - Exposed concrete footing under playground equipment
 - Moldy food stored in classroom under sink
 - Fish tank registering over the max allowed dBA
 - Fragrance in several classrooms
 - Household cleaners without SDS available



- Heavy items stored above eye level
- Toxic art supplies not approved for use by children
- Classroom sinks exceeding the maximum water temperature causing a burn risk
- **Wahkiakum County Health and Human Services**
 - Act as generalists within the county.
 - Recently conducted a science room clean-up in which:
 - Several chemicals of concern including uranium were found.
 - Staff assisted with disposal of hazardous materials
 - The school district received a major discount for the chemical disposal
- **Clark County Public Health**
 - The last routine inspection was conducted in 2009.
 - Focus on collaboration over regulation with the inspections
 - We are a resource and able to help prioritize risks/hazards
 - Not punitive
 - Using existing and creating additional resources to help educate various school staff

Benefits to schools

- Unique perspective
 - Public health lens
 - Focus on children (versus L&I)
 - Up-to-date safety information
- Shared goals
 - Goal of healthy students present and ready/able to learn
 - Improved air quality and reduction of asthma triggers in the schools
 - Moving toward “greener” products
 - Injury prevention
- Third party influence
 - Aid in staff behavior changes
 - A resource for the school/district with messaging for concerns from the public
 - Assistance in tracking playground equipment and recalls
- Financial
 - Possible lower insurance rates