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**VP of Advocacy Officer Report**

**March 2022**

**Officer: Laura Mitchell**

**MCCPTA e-mail :** [**VPAdvocacy@MCCPTA.org**](mailto:VPAdvocacy@MCCPTA.org)

**Oversight:**

**Committee/Subcommittee: Advocacy Committee**

**Chair: Lima Abdullah**

**MCCPTA e-mail : AdvocacyChair@MCCPTA.org**

The Advocacy Committee and VP have been working to support school-based vaccination clinics arranged by our MCPS and MC DHHS partners. The effort is funded by a $15,000 grant from National PTA to help respond to MCPS parents’ & guardians’ questions and share information in multiple languages via zoom #VaxFacts, sessions, and to help make the vaccination experience a positive memory for those who choose to get the Covid-19 vaccination at a school clinic with our #VaxFactsPlus supports. We have supported schools over the last 3 weeks and early feedback has been great and MCPS reports 703 vaccinations delivered, 60% of which were to children ages 5-11, the target population of our grant. The grantor has provided additional funding and the Board has an amended plan of work with a request to increase the budget by another $7,500.

**We need all hands on deck for this effort, please contact Lima or Laura to help with this short term project as we shift to cluster based events.** Event and logistics planners wanted!

**Committee/Subcommittee: Health & Wellness Committee**

**Chair: Hannah Donart**

**MCCPTA e-mail : healthandwellness@mccpta.org**

The Health & Wellness submitted a letter for the Board’s consideration which was adopted unanimously and sent to the County Executive & Council, the Board of Education, and Dr. McKnight. The letter conveyed the Covid-19 mitigation minimums the committee’s experts and members requests of MCPS, including indoor air quality, mask standards, testing, transparency, and early planning for the return to school from Spring Break.

The ***Mental Health Subcommittee*** Chair, Claire Matzzio hit the ground running and continues to move at the swift pace our urgent circumstances demand. There are several work groups for building resources maps, scheduling Youth Mental Health First Aid classes, and beginning work on an Emergency Response Guide for PT(S)As.

The ***Substance Use Prevention Subcommittee*** is working with several schools to create pre-prom forums, tobacco free/smoking cessation programs, and substance use awareness & prevention programing in every school and countywide. AODAAC will present the ABCs of Addiction, a three-part education and resource event continuing in March and April. AODAAC, MHAC, and the Overdose Fatality Review Committee are planning the Spring Forum, an annual collaborative event that brings forward relevant speakers. The consensus thus far, is to focus on youth mental health and substance use prevention and treatment. Look for information on the listservs and social media soon. The full committee report is also available in the February folder. The Chair is working to help schools host a nationally known speaker of substance use, recovery, and resilience to our schools. We continue to see overdoses, some fatal, among our student population and substance use is reported to be high by students, staff and parents.

**Committee/Subcommittee: CIP**

**Chair: Laura Stewart**

**MCCPTA e-mail : CIP@mccpta.org**

CIP testimony to the County Council occurred on 2/8 & 2/9/2022. Several MCCPTA representatives testified requesting funding for cluster specific projects and full funding of the MCPS requested FY2023-2029 CIP Budget. The full committee report is also available in the February folder.