



Health Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes
February 8th, 2023, 12:00 PM, Google Meet

RUCD Mission Statement

**To create an environment of opportunities where
Head Start & Early Head Start children and
families are empowered to change their lives.**

Health Advisory Committee Members in Attendance:

Kaycee Asay, Nursing Director TriCounty Health
Katherine Barrington, Department of Workforce Services
Cynthia Mattinson, Epidemiology Coordinator, TriCounty Health

Staff Members in Attendance:

Laneeza Cowley, Misty Valdez

Call to Order:

Laneeza Cowley called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone.

Agency Updates

RUCD Enrollment

Laneeza Cowley gave an update that RUCD is currently under-enrolled. She explained that a recruitment incentive plan had been implemented to bring enrollment numbers up..

Reportable Incidents Training

Laneeza shared that there was a program-wide training in January about reportable incidents and how to move forward with reporting them to the office of Head Start.

Discussion Items

COVID-19 Mitigation Policy

Laneeza explained that as of January 6th, 2023, the Office of Head Start requires programs to have an evidence-based COVID-19 mitigation policy. The policy needs to be implemented by March 7th. Laneeza further explained that universal masking is optional for preventing the spread of COVID-19, but it is not required. The Office of Head Start requires staff vaccinations. Laneeza opened up the floor for discussion about the mitigation policy that was sent as read-ahead

material. Cynthia Mattinson shared that the federal government is expected to end its emergency responses to COVID in May. She suggested updating the statement about President Biden's action plan. She also suggested referencing RUCD's internal vaccination policy when discussing the COVID vaccination policy. Kaycee shared that health departments are no longer investigating COVID infections unless patients are hospitalized or in a long-term care facility. In all other cases, they are using the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) guidelines. Laneea asked for suggestions about enforcement of the recommendation to isolate for five days and then wear a mask for five days if someone is infected. Kaycee clarified that the CDC is not enforcing masking after infection; it is just a recommendation. She suggested using wording that RUCD guidance will follow CDC guidelines to allow for flexibility if the guidelines change. Laneea asked about their experience with making parents understand the importance of guidelines. Cynthia suggested an open dialogue so that parents understand their information will be kept private but stressed the importance of sharing diagnosed conditions so other families can be informed if they need to watch for symptoms. Laneea thanked the members for their suggestions and input and will present the mitigation plan to the Policy Council and Board of Directors for approval.

Adjournment:

Laneea Cowley adjourned the meeting.