# Record of Discussion

**School Health Coordinators’ Committee Meeting**

**February 9 2021**

**Co-Chairs: Sterling Carruthers (PE), Cassandra Sullivan (BC)**
**Participants:**

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| **Jurisdiction** | **Representative** |
|  BC  | Cassandra Sullivan (Health) |
|  AB  | Pat Martz (Health and Education) |
|  SK | Anna Grumbly (Education)Helen Flengeris (Health) |
|  MB  | Jennifer Wood (Health) |
|  ON  | Sana Javed, Adam Ladak (Health)Gianoula Korinis, Stace Lum-Yip (Education) |
|  NB | Aisha Khedheri (Health) |
|  PE | Sterling Carruthers (Education) |
|  NS |  |
|  NL  |  |
|  NU | Shara Bernstein (Education) |
|  NT | Stephanie Lovatt (Education) |
|  YT |  |
|  PHAC  | Suzy Wong, Edna Tehranzadeh |
|  Secretariat | Susan Hornby |
|  Secretariat | Craig Watson |

Record of Discussion

1. Welcome and Roll Call
Sterling welcomed all to the meeting.
2. Review and Approval of Agenda
The agenda was approved as written.
3. January 2021 Presentations Meeting
This was the first SHCC presentations meeting that was split into two full hour-long presentations, with guests from outside the SHCC table invited to join as well. The presentations were as follow:

1) *Nurturing Social and Emotional Learning (SEL) for Policy Makers, Principals and Teachers (preparing for system change)* - Ellen Coady (NL)
 *2) Update and Key findings from the HBSC* - Dr. Will Pickett and Dr. Wendy Craig, Principal Investigators for Health Behaviour in School-aged Children Canada, World Health Organization Collaborative Cross-National Study

Following the January presentations meeting, short surveys were sent to the SHCC via Survey Monkey, in an effort to garner feedback on the presentations, and ensure they are meeting the needs of the group. Some of the future meeting topic suggestions included: presentations from students and youth / youth voice, health and wellbeing in Indigenous populations, two-spirit daily physical activity, a systems approach to health and well-being in the school setting, CIHR / school community research, school food programs, and the unintended consequences of school closures.
4. JCSH Annual Work Plan: Update

● Intersection of Health and Education Ministries
Since the Covid-19 pandemic begun, Health and Education Ministries have been essentially collaborating in different areas. Given that, has the work of the JCSH been the vehicle through which these collaborations happen, or are the collaborations happening separate of any mention of the JCSH?

*Discussion*:

- In BC, within both the Ministry of Health and Ministry of Education, the Covid response has been structured in such a way that Covid-specific divisions have been created. These divisions are outside of the typical Public Health division, and it doesn’t appear that the JCSH is on the radar of those working within these Covid-specific divisions

- Similar to BC, Manitoba has specific tables that are dedicated to the Covid response, and the Healthy Schools Division is not involved with these tables.
- In PEI, the focus on approaching a topic area through a Comprehensive School Health lens continues to be front and center. For example, the workplan for the new school food initiative that was developed as a result of Covid implications is framed around CSH.

● Completed Actions: Collaboration with CMEC

 As per the JCSH 2020-2021 Work Plan priorities, a letter of invitation has been sent to Chantal Beaulieu - Executive Director of Council of Ministers of Education, Canada (CMEC). The intent of the letter is to advise CMEC of JCSH priorities for the new mandate, suggest collaboration on overlapping priority areas and, invite a representative to sit at the JCSH table(s) in some capacity. In addition, Susan and Craig will be meeting with members of CMEC’s Secretariat to discuss collaboration potential, and determine how best to align the work that they are currently doing, with JCSH priorities.

● Environmental Scans: Update

A new/updated environmental scan on school-based mental health plans and guidelines for students has been completed by several jurisdictions. These environmental scans may well be taking on a more significant role, given that we have invited CMEC to the Management Committee table, and that body is specifically interested in our work on environmental scans.
5. SHCC Task Groups
Susan updated the group on the current work to date that has been done by the Priorities and Implementation Task Group, the Healthy School Planner Task Group, and the Substance Use Knowledge Summaries Task Group. Meetings and work are underway for all 3 of the groups, and key takeaways from all meetings can be found on the private side of the JCSH website. In addition, a call-out has been issued to Management Committee and SHCC members, seeking those who are interested in being a part of two new Task Groups. The first is the JCSH Evaluation Task Group that will oversee an evaluation framework for a monitoring evaluation discussed in previous Management Committee meetings. This evaluation is to be conducted at the end of Year Two (March, 2022). The second is a new HBSC (Health Behavior in School-aged Children) Advisory Committee. The HBSC Canada team requires the support of this committee to review / decide on national questions, as the upcoming survey round (2021-2022) approaches.
6. Emerging Trends and Opportunities / SHCC Check-in
Susan updated the group on the recent [presentation](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fTH9vjS9ogU&feature=youtu.be) from the Canadian School Health Alliance to the 2021 Shaping the Future Conference. The Alliance discusses in the presentation a focus on national certification and national standards for healthy schools, and a plan for national competencies. As well, they are looking to mobilize research in the area of Comprehensive School Health and Healthy Schools, and are advocating for supportive policy change.

 *Discussion*:

- With the Alliance creating these standards, certifications and competencies, and with the JCSH moving forward in our work (ie- creating tools and resources such as the Healthy School Planner), will schools become overwhelmed with the various resources being presented to them? Will we be duplicating work?

- What kind of equity focus comes along with these standards and competencies?

- Some standards may not be attainable for all schools.

ON
Issues that are currently top of mind for the Ministry of Education are lack of physical activity, sedentary behavior, mental health issues related to an overabundance of screen time, addictive behaviors, and human trafficking. The Ministry is currently trying to determine how best to address these issues, and support students, teachers, and administrators. The Ministry of Health continues to support the school-focused nurses’ initiative. A Covid-19 roll clarification resource has been released, and it has been shared with school health managers. The resource is intended to provide a general overview of the roll and scope of supports that the additional Covid-19 school public health nurses can provide, and to help distinguish their work from the roles of other nurses that are already in place to support school communities. It is the hope that this resource will support continued communications between public health units and local school communities, increase understanding of public health nursing, and facilitate ongoing planning and prioritization of school health nursing supports. The province has taken a regional approach to the resumption of in-person learning, with enhanced health and safety measures being put in place. Some of these measures include: province-wide access to targeted testing in consultation with local health units, mandatory masking requirements for students in grades 1-3, and mandatory masking requirements for grades 1-12 in outdoor spaces where physical distancing cannot be maintained.

BC
The Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Education have just released the updated guidelines for Covid-19 protocols in the K-12 setting, with masking guidelines becoming stricter. As well, the guidelines outline direction on how to more safely conduct physical activity and physical education classes. The province’s Public Health Advisory Council has directed all working groups and committees to propose projects to address some of unintended consequences related to the Covid-19 pandemic.

1. Action Items Table
The Action Items Table was reviewed.
2. Upcoming SHCC WebEx Meetings
	* March 9 2021
	(Presentations: 1) “Uptake of Canada’s Food Guide” (Jenna Granville and Krista Burns - Health Canada); 2) Public Safety presentation on Human Trafficking and Online Child Sexual Exploitation - Asha Clarke and Mark Schindel - Public Safety)
	* April 13 2021
	* May 11 2021 (Presentations)
	* June 8 2021

*All meetings begin at 1:00 Eastern Time.*

1. Adjournment