JCSH Equity Task Group Meeting #4

March 18 2022

Takeaway Points

Task Group members in attendance: Anna Grumbly (SK), Peggy Orbasli (NL), Erin Cusack, Melissa Munro-Bernard (PE), Susan Hornby and Craig Watson (Secretariat)

1. Welcome
2. Overview of the year in review.

* Review of Peggy’s year-end report.
* Discussion:
* Structural Determinants of Health: they are too broad - influenced by global factors - to be changed by schools, or by JCSH.
* However, JCSH could consider structural determinants when we support school food, for example. This places JCSH at Intermediary Determinants or Social Determinants level of impact.
* Reframing language to Social Determinants of Inequities may be helpful.
* Tasks for group: Accomplishments
  + Structural Determinants of Health: Overview
  + Scan of Structural, Social Determinants of Health, Inequities
* Outcome: TG recommends looking at how to address inequities in schools.

1. Recommendations for Equity TG for 2022-2023

(Full recommendations in Peggy’s report: couple of them listed here)

* + Have representatives of Indigenous governments / communities to join JCSH tables
  + Determine if JCSH can develop a school/student health equity impact assessment tool to support HiAP and align with school development plans.
* Determine if this tool, if created, could be part of new Healthy School Planner
* Use of this tool to reflect all topic areas, regardless of what they are – through impact assessment, also fit all ages, priority groups: LGBTQ youth and vaccine uses, for example
* Example: TDSB equity policy assessment tool: [Equity Policy Assessment (tdsb.on.ca)](https://www.tdsb.on.ca/About-Us/Policies-Procedures-Forms/Equity-Policy-Assessment) – can work with any population, any initiative
* Discussion from Recommendations:
  + Schools are not able to address structural determinants of health. But, they are responsible for the impacts: example: impacts of residential schools
  + At school level, CSH Framework used as a checklist in addressing an address, ensuring it covered from all conmponent areas. The equity impact assessment would also be a layer to apply over this. How to address health behaviours/ issues in holistic way
  + Develop a template / example as way to use an assessment to advance improvements on issues within schools / districts. Could be embedded in tool as a way this could be applied.
  + Would JCSH consider something similar to TDSB equity policy assessment tool?
  + Suggestion someone from TDSB using this to chat with TG
  + Administrators will not want a new tool in addition to, say the CSH Framework, they are already using to address issues. Important to embed this to what they are already doing.
  + Important to have MC support this – their support will assist schools in adopting it. It must meet their need.

1. Review of Year 1, considerations of group members re next year’s involvement

* Responses: members learned much, task group is applicable to their work. This year, the group discussed big issues, gained considerable knowledge in short amount of time. Useful to bring jurisdictional work to national level and take that back to jurisdiction. Potential development of assessment tool(s) is of interest to members.

1. Next Meeting: Next Steps:
   * Report to larger JCSH tables (Management Committee, School Health Coordinators’ Committee)
   * Invite TDSB representative to discuss the policy impact tool
   * Conduct a Scan of P/Ts using HiAP and Health Equity Impact Assessment, as well as School Development / Improvement Planning. (To try to improve uptake on scan request, Secretariat will draft template to provide background, use CSH components to assist in scan completion.)
   * However, for this scan request, process is more straightforward: we are trying to gather data: a) Health side: does your province/territory use a Health in All Policies approach? Are you using Health Equity Impact Assessments? b) Education side: What is your P/T’s school development / improvement plan: link to website, background information, plans, end-of-year reports.
   * Once these are back, Susan and Craig will send out doodle poll for next meeting – likely late April.
   * Scan request to be sent to SHCC as well as Melissa and Erin. On rethinking this, we will likely send the scan request also to Management Committee: they have asked to be informed of scan requests.