



**June 7**

**2021**

## **REPORT OF THE HEALTH AND SAFETY COMMITTEE**

The Health and Safety Committee met on Monday, May 24, 2021 at 4:00 PM in LaunchED, Room 110, at the Cincinnati Public Schools Education Center.

The public viewed the meeting via Video Conference.

### **ATTENDEES**

#### Health and Safety Committee Members

Chairperson Melanie Bates, Pamela Bowers, Ryan Messer, *absent*

#### Administration/Staff

Laura Mitchell, Superintendent; Carrie Bungler, Susan Bunte, Assistant Superintendent; Casey Fisher, Community Schools Partnership Manager; Shauna Murphy, Assistant Superintendent; Sarah Trimble-Oliver, Chief Strategy Officer

#### CPS Government Liaisons

Eric Kearney, CEO, Kearney and Kearney

#### Guest Presenter

Courtney Calvin, Tobacco Free Living Coordinator

Thomas P. Sanford, Health Education (Interim), Cincinnati Health Department

### **INDEPTH (Intervention for Nicotine Dependence: Education, Prevention, Tobacco and Health)**

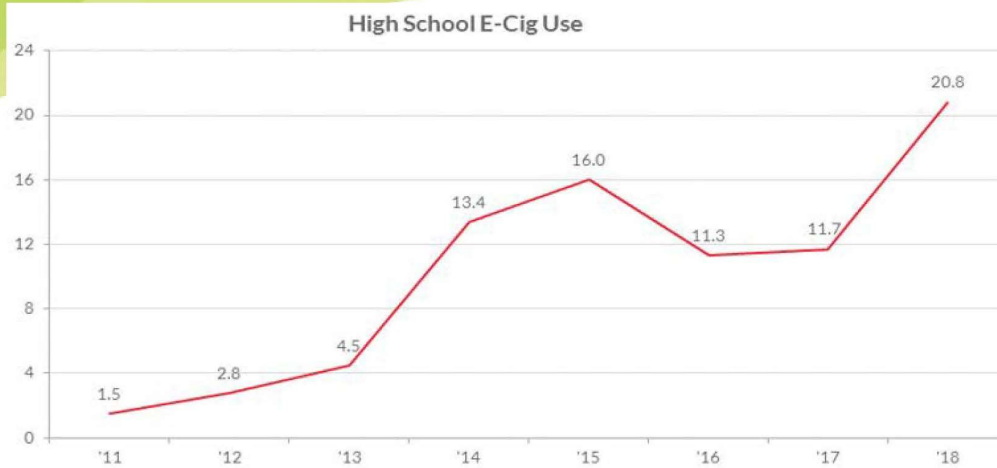
Mr. Sanford provided background about INDEPTH and reported that in 2018, the American Lung Association contracted with the original authors of the Alternative to Suspension program at West Virginia University to update the curriculum to incorporate e-cigarette language and revise the activities to make them more relevant for today's youth.

He stated that the program name was changed from Alternative to Suspension deliberately to reflect the intention of the program and focuses on education and intervention as an alternative to punitive measures for teens.

Ms. Calvin informed the Committee about the importance of implementing INDEPTH into CPS' programing. She stated the following facts:

- E-cigarette use among U.S. high school students increased by 78 percent in just ONE year (2017-2018), with over 3 million youth using these products in 2018 alone. -2018 National Youth Tobacco Survey, through the FDA and the CDC;
- 1 in 5 high school students and 1 in 20 middle school students currently use an e-cigarette
- More than 5,700 teens start vaping every day.

# Why is this program important?



Mr. Thomas informed the Committee about the below on how the program is taught.

- Taught by a trained adult who has been smoke-free for at least 12 months
- Four 50-minute sessions about Tobacco
  - **Session 1 Getting the Facts:** Breaks down the program for participants
  - **Session 2 Addiction:** Explains the harmful effects of nicotine and tobacco products
  - **Session 3 Alternatives:** Helps teens understand their urges and identify healthy alternatives to replace tobacco
  - **Session 4 Past, Present, Future:** Talks about next steps and how to avoid future tobacco-related problems
- Educates students about nicotine addiction and cravings and their own reasons
- Can be offered before, during, or after school as schedules allow
- Can be administered one on one but recommended in a group of 8-10 students in order for the facilitator to get more from the students

Mr. Thomas informed the Committee about the INDEPTH's Pilot program that took place in the Spring of 2019.

- The pilot involved 11 sites across the country.
- Sites included middle schools, high schools, alternative school and court system.
- Sites served urban, suburban and rural communities.
- Evaluation was developed by Public Health Management Corporation (PHMC) to survey participants, facilitators, and administrators.
- Pilot Summary and Infographic are available online. <https://www.lung.org/quit-smoking/helping-teens-quit/indepth>

Mr. Thomas reported the following outcomes from the Pilot.

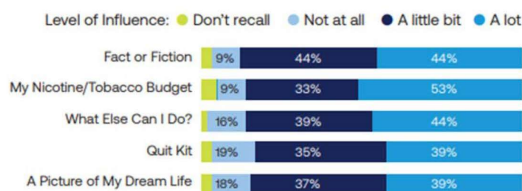
# INDEPTH Pilot Outcomes

## Increasing Quit Readiness

"INDEPTH offers students the chance to think about how they might like to change their relationship with tobacco to reduce risks and increase the chances that they will be able to achieve the goals they have for themselves."

— INDEPTH Facilitator

**Most students reported that INDEPTH activities influenced them to make a plan to stop using nicotine/tobacco products:**



# 60%

of student participants reported that they were **willing to quit using tobacco products, including e-cigarettes**, after completing the INDEPTH program.



A copy of the full report is available upon request and in the Board office.

Ms. Calvin informed the Committee about the following benefits for CPS.

- No cost to CPS or students
- Teach, model, and reinforce model behaviors.
- Intervene early to de-escalate inappropriate behaviors
- Support students' needs and use the needs to address the root causes of a student's misconduct.
- Prepares students for smoke free environments.

Ms. Bates and Ms. Bowers both liked the Intervention Program and recommended using this as a tool for prevention. They also recommended using the program in place of disciplining students when they are caught smoking.

**ACTION:** The Committee advised the Administration to review the program to determine if CPS students would benefit from the initiative.

### Governmental Liaison Report on State Legislative Topics

Mr. Kearney updated the Committee on his May 24, 2021 Monthly Report.

The Liaisons report also included the following information about the budget bill and articles pertinent to the District.

### Recent Issues

The Ohio Budget FY 2022-2023 can be found here: <https://tinyurl.com/2kn5oojg>.

Ohio Republicans want state to become second in U.S. to have universal school vouchers  
<https://www.cincinnati.com/story/news/2021/05/06/ohio-house-republicans-want-universal-eligibility-school-vouchers/7154944002/>

Ohio Public School Board Votes Students And Staff Can Quit Wearing Masks  
<https://www.stateneews.org/post/ohio-public-school-board-votes-students-and-staff-can-quit-wearing-masks>

Dayton Public School hopes \$17M contract will solve busing woes  
<https://www.daytondailynews.com/local/dayton-public-school-hopes-17m-contract-will-solve-busing-woes/W53KX2V5EVCZ5ECJHFXTQYWB5U/>

Mr. Kearney arranged for Superintendent Laura Mitchell to meet Vice President Kamala Harris when she was in town on April 30, 2021.

Mr. Kearney reported that Mr. Glover spoke with Senator Blessing about the budget. Mr. Kearney and Mr. Blessing will meet in order to review the funding formula and how it will impact CPS.

\* **H.B. 34 (Ingram)** Require schools to transmit certain student’s records within 5 days. Second Hearing on 2/16/21. Bill is of interest to CPS. May want to write a letter of support.

\***H.B. 73 (Manning, Crawley)** To require school districts to form work groups to evaluate the amount of time students spend on testing, and to eliminate retention under the Third Grade Reading Guarantee.

\***H.B. 200 (Jones, Robinson)** To repeal section 3302.12 of the Revised Code to revise the state report card and school accountability systems.

\***H.B. 205 (Ghanbari, Sheehy)** To enact Collin's Law: The "Ohio Anti-Bullying and Hazing Act" with regard to school discipline and bullying and hazing policies at schools and colleges. Please note: “Requires each school district, community school, and STEM school to adopt an “evidence- based” or “evidence-informed” policy requiring a district or school to take a disciplinary action against a student in any grade 4-8 who commits an offense of harassment, intimidation, or bullying.”

\* **H.B. 244 (White, Lampton)** To enact sections 3301.601 and 3301.65 of the Revised Code regarding technology-based educational opportunities for, and the enrollment of, military children

### **Senate Bills**

\* **H.B. 67 (Koehler, Bird)** Exempts public and chartered nonpublic schools from administering the state assessment if a waiver is granted by U.S. Dep’t of Education. Passed House 93-1. In Senate Primary and Secondary Education Committee.

\***S.B. 145 (Brenner)** - Revises the state report card system for school districts and other public schools beginning with the report card issued for the 2021-2022 school year. - Maintains the A to F letter grade system, the overall summative grade, and individual letter grades for the components used to determine the overall grade. - Maintains the six components prescribed under current law, but revises how they are graded individually, how they are used to calculate the overall grade, and, in some instances, renames them. - Revises the performance measures that are used to determine component grades and eliminates separate letter grades for those measures. - Requires A to F letter grades to be presented on the state report card with letter grade descriptions and prescribed graphics depicting grade scales and trends.

## Resource Coordinators and Community Learning Centers

Casey Fisher, Community Schools Partnership Manager update included information about the various partners being coordinated with the schools and that over 73 Summer Enrichment partners submitted Request for Proposals.



Ms. Fisher updated the Committee on the following services.

### **Food Services**

- Coordinated providing snacks to all primary schools and water for all secondary schools for the month of June
- Supporting 23 Meal Hubs (June), at which RCs will continue to coordinate additional resources and information for families in the community
  - 7-day meal pack provided
  - EBT resources continued (Free/Reduced lunch qualifier)

### **Keep Cincinnati Beautiful**

- Contacting to coordinate recycling of water bottles

### **Recycled Art Opportunity?**

- Exploring how we can collaborate with an organization to create art from recycled bottles

### **Summer Activity kits**

- K-3rd grade learners

## School Resource Officers (SRO's) and Anti-Violence Initiatives

Ms. Murphy reported that she will be meeting with the ACLU (American Civil Liberties Union) in early June 2021. She also met with high school principals to get their input on SROs. The meeting was facilitated by Cohear.

Cohear is an organization that helps leaders develop meaningful solutions to difficult problems by organizing and engaging with community members with lived experience. <https://www.wecohear.com/>



Committee Chair Bates reported she has spoken with four City of Cincinnati Council members and two police officers regarding the District’s initiatives. She also had a conversation with City Councilman Greg Landsman. Ms. Bates reported that she spoke with Officer Hawkins about SROs. Mr. Hawkins invited the District to meet with officers.

Ms. Bates recommended that the HSC take a “field trip” to SRO’s office.

Ms. Bates reported she contacted City Councilwoman Jan-Michele Lemon Kearney, due to her interest in supporting anti-violence initiatives within the City of Cincinnati. Ms. Kearney’s office contacted Ms. Bates to inquire about what data her office could provide to assist the District in its study of SROs.

Committee Chair Bates reported that she spoke with City Councilman Chris Seelbach about the *Grant Us Hope | Saving Young Lives, Together* non-profit. She stated that the City has appropriated \$60,000 towards the program and would like to partner with the District for an additional \$50,000 dollars.

Grant Us Hope is a change agent for teen suicide prevention in the Greater Cincinnati region. We are passionate about providing a platform for teens, parents, and families to engage in pro-mental health conversations, activities, and solutions, and we’re committed to expanding the availability, reach, and impact of mental health services for teens in distress. <https://grantushope.org/about/>

**ACTION:** Assistant Superintendent Bunte will report back to the Committee the status of the Administration’s meeting with Grant Us Hope.

Ms. Bates updated the Committee on conversations that took place with several stakeholders and organizations within the community regarding anti-violence initiatives.

**ACTION:** Ms. Bates advised that she spoke with General Counsel Hoying about having Internal Auditor Lauren Roberts do an operational audit of the SROs and find out how they are being used, as well as asking the principals if the SROs are being used consistently in the high schools. The audit will also determine if best practices are being used.

She will recommend to the Board that the Administration come up with a framework for an anti-violence in partnership with the City.

**Student Code of Conduct / Discipline Data**

Ms. Bunger updated the Committee on the following discipline reports.

**Discipline Data: Year to Year Comparison - Fall & Winter 2020 - ODR(Office Discipline School Referral)**

	August 2018	August 2019	August 2020	September 2018	September 2019	September 2020
<b>ODR Total</b>	954	600	1	2940	1917	66
<b>Consequence Total</b>	559	351	0	1535	1390	11
Percentage of Referrals that led to Exclusionary Consequence	58.50%	58.50%	0%	52.20%	72.50%	16.67%

	October 2018	October 2019	October 2020	November 2018	November 2019	November 2020
<b>ODR Total</b>	3823	4783	117	2714	3538	93
<b>Consequence Total</b>	2184	2129	24	1561	1435	17
Percentage of Referrals that led to Exclusionary Consequence	57.10%	44.50%	20.50%	57.50%	40.60%	18.20%

**Discipline Data: Year to Year Comparison - Winter & Spring 2021**

	December 2018	December 2019	December 2020	January 2019	January 2020	January 2021
<b>ODR Total</b>	2669	3026	35	2106	3791	63
<b>Consequence Total</b>	1618	1069	1	1313	2354	2
<b>Percentage of Referrals that led to Exclusionary Consequence</b>	60.60%	35.30%	2.80%	62.30%	62.10%	3.10%

**Summary of Code of Conduct Revisions**

- Increase intentional language around reducing race-based disparities, including reference to Equity and Anti-Racism policies
- Add review of mitigating factors when issuing consequences
- Add intentional language on student’s willingness to repair harm when issuing restorative consequences
- Further refine the definition of restorative practices
- Add proactive language on the importance of parent/caregiver to school communication
- Refine due process language
- Continue to remove criminal language like “restitution”
- Add Academic considerations

**Anti-Violence Positive School Culture Initiatives**

Continue

PBIS  
 QI-SEL  
 Bully Prevention  
 ALC  
 Attendance and Truancy Support  
 Behavior Consult Team  
 Collaboration with Mental Health Partners  
 Re-imagined A2S/A2E

Increase

SSW Capacity, including bilingual support  
 Restorative Practices Training  
 Process Improvements in Discipline Reporting  
 Tier 2 SEL Groups  
 MindPeace Rooms  
 Anti-violence programming  
 Stakeholder engagement with students, parents/caregivers, and community members

**COVID-19 Pandemic**

An update on the pandemic will be presented at the May 24, 2021, Regular Business meeting.

**Strategic Plan Strategies / Budget 2021-2022**

The Committee addressed this topic at their April 26, 2021, Committee meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 5:00 pm.

**Health and Safety Committee**

Melanie Bates, Chair  
 Pamela Bowers  
 Ryan Messer, *absent*

**Staff Liaisons**

Laura Mitchell, Superintendent, absent  
 Susan Bunte, Assistant Superintendent  
 Sarah Trimble-Oliver, Chief Strategy Officer