

Family Life Education Citizens Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes
September 27, 2023

Attendance: Kilo Mack, Brittany Pettus, Kathy Deyesu, Diane Alvarez, Dr. Carol Mueller, Katina Blake, Laurie Caldwell, Rachael Edmondson, Megan Fitzgerald, Kristy Gizinski, Erin Grad, Tina Graf, Jamie Hyman, Ana Jakse, Michael Joiner, Jennifer Joseph, Christy Larkin, Stephan Mayo, Cindy Morse, Jo Riedel, Jaime Savarese, Joe Webb, Katie York

I. Review of Family Life Education Citizens Advisory Committee Overview

- a. Works jointly with the Family Life Education Curriculum Committee to review and comment on the Family Life Education Curriculum and alignment to the MSDE comprehensive health education framework.

II. Review of Family Life Education Citizens Advisory Committee Charge

- a. Review and comment on instructional materials for the Family Life and Human Sexuality Education program in grades 5 – 12, in relation to compliance with the State Standards for Comprehensive Health Education.

III. Review of Family Life and Human Sexuality [COMAR 13A.04.18.01.D.2](#)

D. Special Requirements.

(2) Family Life and Human Sexuality.

(a) Maryland family life and human sexuality instruction shall represent all students regardless of ability, sexual orientation, gender identity, and gender expression.

(b) Beginning no later than grade 7, teaching shall emphasize that refraining from sexual activity is the best method to avoid sexually transmitted infections, including HIV, and unintended pregnancy. To address the serious health risks of sexually transmitted infections, and the consequences of unintended pregnancy, family life and human sexuality education shall include medically accurate information about contraception and condoms.

(c) The local school system shall establish a joint committee of educators and representatives of the community for the purpose of reviewing and commenting on instructional materials. If approval of instructional materials is necessary, it shall occur pursuant to local policy.

(d) Direct teaching of the family life and human sexuality indicators and objectives will begin in or prior to the grade 5.

(e) Student Opt-Out.

(i) The local school system shall establish policies, guidelines, and/or procedures for student opt-out regarding instruction related to family life and human sexuality objectives.

(ii) For students opting out of family life and human sexuality instruction, each school shall establish a procedure for providing a student with appropriate alternative learning activities and/or assessments in health education.

(iii) Each school shall make arrangements to permit students opting out of the objectives related to family life and human sexuality to receive instruction concerning menstruation.

(iv) The local school system shall provide an opportunity for parents/guardians to view instructional materials to be used in the teaching of family life and human sexuality objectives.

(f) The local school system shall provide age-appropriate instruction on the meaning of "consent" and respect for personal boundaries as part of the family life and human sexuality curriculum in every grade in which the curriculum is taught.

(g) When teaching concepts and skills related to family life and human sexuality, in addition to general teacher preparation, teachers are required to have additional preparation in content and teaching methods of such depth and duration as to be appropriate for the material taught. The additional preparation may be provided by college courses, local in-service programs, and/or State workshops.

IV. Reviewed criteria for lesson resource/material: appropriateness, authenticity, content, design, interest, need, presentation, utilization

V. Review of proposed updates for Middle School Family Life and Human Sexuality Curriculum

a. 8th Grade Health – Lesson 1: Sexting

- i. MSDE Standard: 1c.8.19 Analyze the negative consequences of sending sexually explicit pictures or messages by e-mail or cell phone or posting sexually explicit pictures on social media sites.
- ii. Lesson Objective: Students will be able to explain the negative consequences of sending sexually explicit pictures or messages through different digital platforms and how to use effective communication skills to reduce the risks to one's health.
- iii. Proposed Lesson Activities for Review:
 1. "What do you think?" Scenarios
 2. The Decision: Mind Mapping Activity
- iv. Committee members will complete a review for each proposed activity, in the eight criteria areas, by October 31, 2023

VI. Review of proposed updates for High School Family Life and Human Sexuality Curriculum

- a. Health I Course- Lesson 2: Relationships
 - i. MSDE Standard: 1c.HS1.2: Summarize the importance of talking with parents and other trusted adults about issues related to relationships, growth and development, sexual decision-making, and sexual health.
 - ii. Lesson Objective: Students will be able to analyze characteristics of healthy relationships in order to determine how to establish relationships with healthy boundaries and mutual respect.
 - iii. Proposed Lesson Activities for Review:
 - 1. "Talking to Your Parents or Other Adults" article
 - 2. Talking Pointers Assignment
 - iv. Committee members will complete a review for each proposed activity, in the eight criteria areas, by October 31, 2023