

Keiki Caucus Meeting Notes
Tuesday, July 19, 2005

The meeting was convened in room 407 of the State Capitol by Sen. Chun Oakland at 11:30 am. The usual attendees representing private and public agencies and departments providing services for children and youth were in attendance. Pam Daychild, MD, 3rd year resident at KMCWC, attended as part of her training in advocacy.

Dr. Robert Campbell from the Department of Education gave a presentation on progress of Act 51, The Reinventing Education Act. The Act attempts to improve our public school system by placing more accountability on principals and teachers, streamlining the bureaucracy and empowering principals, students and communities to bring in the innovations which will make their school successful.

Of particular interest are the School Community Councils (SCC) which were created by Act 51 and are being implemented for each school now. The Councils are made up of equal numbers of DOE employees and non-DOE employees. Non-DOE members are students, parents and community members. The PTSA has input at this level. SCCs hold monthly meetings. The dates and agenda are published on the web. The SCCs and their monthly meetings are a way for pediatricians who are interested in school health to participate at the local level.

The other interest we have is the Coordinated School Health Program. This is a program being developed jointly by DOE and DOH with support from CDC. There are 8 components to the program four of which are health services, physical education, nutrition services and health education. Health services concerns the activities of the health aids. This is a program which is being developed and, hopefully, pediatricians can have input.

In summary, Act 51 is reinventing education. Two programs which are evolving are School Community Councils (SCCs) and the Coordinated School Health Program. For members interested in school health, these are two programs to follow. This can be done by utilizing the websites described in the Addendum to these notes. Members can have input at their local school level and at higher administrative levels.

Addendum:

To Find the SCC for Your School On the Web:

1. Go to the DOE website, <www.doe.k12.hi.us>. Here you will see, on the right hand side, a link to the SCC handbook. This is a long and detailed explanation of the how the SCCs will be created and how they will operate complete with anticipated pitfalls. It does state that health and physical education are content areas under consideration.

2. To find your school, click on "mySCHOOL" at the top of the page. On the left side, click on "List all Schools". The schools are listed in alphabetical order. Your school may not have developed its web site. For example, if you click on "Kalaheo High", you will see:

School Community Council (SCC): what is an SCC?
Meeting notices/minutes (reserved for future use).

This is where you will find activities on Kalaheo High SCC in the future if you are interested in this particular school.

To Find the local PTA/PTSA for your school:

The PTSA website is <www.hawaiiptsa.org>. Click on "Get Involved" and then click on "Become a member". You will see the various options and you will find that not all schools have a PTA/PTSA. Some schools have an "Ohana" and some schools don't have anything in this category. If you want further information on this subject, call the principal's office of your school.

To Follow the Development of the Coordinated School Health Program:

The DOE website is <<http://sssb.k12.us>>. When you get to this page, click on "School Health Services". There is a brief explanation of the of school health services. If you click on "Coordinated School Health Program", you will see a list of participating complexes. If you click on a complex, you will see the schools making up the complex, the complex coordinator, vision and mission statements, complex goals and complex profile.

To find out more you will have to call the complex coordinator or monitor the complex website in which you are interested. To get the complex coordinator, call the complex you are interested in. You can find the phone number on the web at the above mentioned DOE website. Click on "mySCHOOL" and then "Complex Areas, Office directory". Click on the complex you are interested in and there you are.

I would appreciate hearing if this addendum is in any way useful to members. I may be telling you things you already know or don't want ever to know! You can email me at mjdror@hawaii.rr.com.