

From: Samuel, Aaliyah
Subject: FW: Ed Leaders Meeting Notes
To: Wall, Mary C. EOP/WHO
Sent: August 28, 2021 12:45 AM (UTC-04:00)

Hi,

FYI.

A.

Dr. Aaliyah A. Samuel
Deputy Assistant Secretary, Local, State and National Engagement
Office of Communications and Outreach
U.S. Department of Education
Mobile | (b)(6)

From: "Samuel, Aaliyah" <Aaliyah.Samuel@ed.gov>
Date: Saturday, August 28, 2021 at 12:37 AM
To: "Nix, Sheila" <Sheila.Nix@ed.gov>, "Sargrad, Scott" <Scott.Sargrad@ed.gov>, "Harris-Aikens, Donna" <Donna.Harris-Aikens@ed.gov>, "Soto, Chris" <Chris.Soto@ed.gov>, "Simmons, Nick" <Nick.Simmons@ed.gov>, "Garibay, Montserrat" <Montserrat.Garibay@ed.gov>, "Meadvin, Hayley" <Hayley.Meadvin@ed.gov>, "Thomas, Rachel" <Rachel.Thomas@ed.gov>, "Rhodes, Christian" <Christian.Rhodes@ed.gov>, "Niebling, Rachel" <Rachel.Niebling@ed.gov>, "Murphy, Sarah (Maggie)" <Maggie.Murphy@ed.gov>, "Cobley, Benjamin" <Benjamin.Cobley@ed.gov>, "Cardichon, Jessica" <jessica.Cardichon@ed.gov>, "Rosenblum, Ian" <Ian.Rosenblum@ed.gov>, "Drozda, Zarek" <Zarek.Drozda@ed.gov>, "Hartge, Anna" <Anna.Hartge@ed.gov>, "Bowden, Larry" <Larry.Bowden@ed.gov>, "Kim, Aileen" <Aileen.Kim@ed.gov>, "Flores, Cristina" <Cristina.Flores@ed.gov>, "Comen, Deven" <Deven.Comen@ed.gov>, "Walker, Serena" <Serena.Walker@ed.gov>
Subject: Ed Leaders Meeting Notes

Hello All,

Thursday August 26th the Secretary, and various ED members joined a meeting with Surgeon General Murthy. Below you will find the high-level notes. Please feel free to reach out if you need any additional information.

A.

Ed Leaders Meeting with Secretary Cardona and Surgeon General Murthy Meeting Notes - August 26, 2021

Attendees:

- Dan Domenech, AASA
- Noelle Ellerson, AASA
- Carissa Moffat Miller, CCSSO
- Daaiyah Bilal-Threats, NEA
- Chip Slaven, NSBA
- Danny Carlson, NAESP
- Robert Hull, NASBE
- Randi Weingarten, AFT
- Maribel Ramos, NGA

Notes:

- NEA
 - Daaiyah noted that NEA has been focused on getting vaccination rates up
 - According to a survey they put out, 10% of respondents don't have a plan to get vaccinated
 - They have seen growth in vax rates for Black members, but the lag is in conservative members. They cite trust and misinformation as the main issue there.
 - Inquired about OSHA, and Surgeon General Murthy did not have an update on timing. They sent their petition to Aaliyah, who will send it to the appropriate people.
- AASA
 - Dan pointed to a part of the CDC guidance that they feel is important but "buried"
 - The guideline was that if a student tests positive and the other students in the classroom have been masked and maintaining social distancing, they do not need to quarantine.
 - This guideline has been of interest to superintendents, and they would like it to be highlighted and explained since they feel it is not well-known.
 - Surgeon General Murthy noted the importance of the guideline and that if students maintain the 3-6 feet distancing and are not within 3 feet of the person who has tested positive for more than 15 minutes, then they do not need to quarantine.
 - He also noted the importance of following local health department guidelines for quarantine.
- CCSSO
 - Carissa brought up the topic of testing and inquired about the importance since it has not been as prevalent of a topic of conversation. She also asked for updates on adolescent vaccination and on the timeline for the approval for under 12.
 - Surgeon General Murthy stated that testing still is extremely important and can be helpful in catching the infection earlier. He also noted the lack of focus on testing.
 - Surgeon General Murthy noted that there is a significant portion of teens who want to receive the vaccine, but their parents are hesitant. He talked about the importance of teens advocating for their health. He also brought up the amount of misinformation circling around teens regarding COVID-19 vaccines, notably the misinformation about how the vaccine affects infertility.
 - He emphasized the importance of partnering with local, state, and national health officials.
 - In regards to the approval for children under 12, he said that they are waiting for the companies to finish their trials and hand over the data. This is the number one priority for the companies; however, they don't want to rush the process because they want to instill confidence in parents. It is possible that the approval will come before the end of the calendar year.
- NSBA
 - Chip noted that misinformation is taking over in school board meetings and that the loud minority is taking over the space making it hard for school board members to do their jobs. He asked for advice on combating misinformation and proposed possible doing a national town hall to address some of the misinformation head on.
 - Surgeon General Murthy noted the importance of using trusted voices at all levels. Local voices can be extremely powerful. He also noted that they are already working to combat misinformation in many ways, one being working with tech companies.
 - He emphasized that the more the public talks about misinformation the better, and he said it is good to look at it from an organizer perspective, meaning bring people to the table that are trusted.
 - Secretary Cardona proposed the idea for there to be a national ask made of school boards to have a local pediatrician come to a school board meeting to discuss misinformation.
- AASA
 - Dan stated his concern that special education students' rights are being violated and noted a possible civil rights issue. He requested something be done at the national level.
 - Secretary Cardona noted that the Department is working with the White House to see what national space we can occupy in this arena.
 - Surgeon General Murthy talked about the importance of lifting up the messaging of a student's right to be safe in school and that the narrative should not be about a student's right not to wear a mask. He also noted that in order for students to be safe, both students must be wearing a mask. It is not about one individual's right to not wear a mask.
 - Surgeon General Murthy also clarified that Pfizer has only been approved for adolescents aged 16 and up, not for the entire 12 and up population because at least 6 months of data is needed for approval. The 12 and up population has only been eligible for the vaccine since May.
- AFT
 - Randi discussed AFT's "boots on the ground effort" and the importance of working from the local up. She said that they put money into communities in the form of grants and wanted there to be peer-to-peer

- efforts.
- She also noted that the biggest misconception regarding vaccines that she is hearing is about the long-term impact on fertility. Specifically, young Black males are seeing misinformation on YouTube surrounding the infertility myth.
 - She also offered support to Chip saying that she will do whatever she can to give support to school board members on the ground level.
 - Aaliyah noted that the Department is now approaching these issues by narrowing in on local communities that need extra support. She said that we are doing this both in terms of travel and in terms of setting up virtual meetings.
 - Surgeon General Murthy expressed interest in meeting with this group again and offered to help connect the organizations to local medical organization in the communities they are working in. He also discussed the importance of being thoughtful about whose voice to use where.
 - Secretary Cardona closed the call by thanking the organizations for their work and discussed that safely reopening schools is an equity issue. He once again offered the Department's support for their work.

A.

Dr. Aaliyah A. Samuel
Deputy Assistant Secretary, Local, State and National Engagement
Office of Communications and Outreach
U.S. Department of Education
400 Maryland Avenue SW
Washington, D.C. 20202
aaliyah.samuel@ed.gov
Mobile | (b)(6)