

Meeting of the Allergy Subcommittee of the Wellness Committee
March 21, 2011

Present: Pam Van Aucken, Kim DeMario, Jane Healy

Review of FANN and ISBE recommendations, as well as comments from first meeting of this subcommittee (Jane Healy and Patti Basta present).

Our district should be “peanut aware” rather than peanut free. Peanut free puts undue hardship on the district to provide enforcement, plus for many of our families, peanut butter is a cheap form of protein. However, there is concern about PB&J sandwiches being the ‘default’ food given to students by Preferred when the main meals run out. Presently, only Whittier has a known child with severe peanut allergies for the last lunch period. Food service staff there are careful to pull meals so that an adequate food option is available--even late in the day--for this child. Are there other options for a default meal?

Concern expressed that proper sanitation/hygiene is being practiced in lunchrooms. Staff should be trained in using alcohol based cleaners after *each* meal so that tables are free of contaminants for the next lunch period. Does Preferred do this job or is this a job for custodians?

Parents of children with known allergies need to notify staff before child arrives at school so accommodations can be made. Is there a need to develop a checklist for staff to go over? Concern that parents might choose more aggressive standards than are necessary (e.g. child should eat in a separate room, etc) which could create hardship for staff in implementation as well as social implications for child.

Recommendations--

1. Provide Allergy Awareness through watching the video/webinar on anaphalactic shock and allergies at opening day ceremonies (~20 min). As a side bar, it is recommended that staff also receive some training in diabetes management, asthma and the Heimlich maneuver.
2. Provide training in the use of the Epi-pen at the each building’s first faculty meeting (20 min.). Nursing staff would be able to have staff members work with an Epi-pen trainer for experiential learning.
3. Recent photo of child should be included in their health file to help staff to visually check child for signs of an allergic reaction (flushed cheeks, “chipmunk cheeks”, thick neck, etc.)
4. Staff who teach/work with students who need an epi-pen or asthma inhaler should be responsible for having those medications on hand, even when on a field trip or at the park or playing fields.
5. Nurses strongly urge the district to invest in SNAP --School Health Software (<http://www.promedsoftware.com/>). This program is extremely helpful in managing student records, keeping contact information up to date, accessing info. in a timely fashion and also across the district. It integrates with

- PowerSchool nightly. SNAP would free up time for Nurse staff so they would be able to do more hands-on work like vision and hearing screenings in higher grades than they are presently able to do (due to time constraints).
6. CPR and AED training should be strongly encouraged for all staff; *minimally*, all school secretaries and administrators, as well as all nurses and health aides should have valid certification. (Presently, they do not all meet this standard!) Kim and Pam can teach this to staff so they can acquire certification (biannual process; takes several hours to complete).

Needs/Concerns:

-Staff training via video/webinar must be held in a group setting for nurses to be able to maintain their licensing standards. While it is okay for staff to view webinars on their own time, this does not constitute training from nursing staff.

-Powerschool information needs to be updated regularly. Nursing staff have had trouble contacting families with the #s provided, only to find out that siblings had updated phone #s that could have been used.

-It would be helpful for nursing staff to have laptops that they could use throughout the day, regardless of what school they are at.

-SNAP is highly desired by nursing staff!

Note--Jane Healy had a brief conversation about this with Ray Lauk; need to pursue this with Sue Schumacher and Ernie Santacruz for cost and feasibility

respectfully submitted by Jane Healy