

Life Threatening Allergy Committee

Meeting Minutes

October 16, 2013

Attending: Dr. Anderson, Mark Dalton, Debbie McMeel, Steve Morse, Tobi Melton, Wendy Barrett, Laurie Anderson, Chad Larsen, Ann Buswell

1:45 – Dr. Anderson attending to look at the new EpiPen law:

- Dr. Anderson answered many questions and concerns. He felt that the stock EpiPen idea for schools made sense and was a good idea. Many children have their first allergic exposure/reaction at school. Next steps are to wait for the draft policy from OSPI, update the Bellingham Public Schools policy and seek funding/grants/continued funding to implement this policy. There is concern about student safety and legal issues if we were to decide not to offer the stock EpiPen option when the state makes it available.
- Add the language that Mark Dalton found on the EpiPen form from the Spokane School District.

2:30 or 2:45 – Section on extracurricular with Chad Larson:

- Steve and Chad will meet together to begin the discussion around coaches and athletics. We will bring initial recommendations to the team on Nov. 13. Chad is going to call the first aid trainer for the coaches to see if we can add EpiPen and life threatening allergies training to the training already required by all coaches. Too difficult to try to find another day when they can all come.
- Steve and Chad will make suggestions around communication and ensuring that EpiPens are at practice, etc. This will be similar to our recommendations around after school programs.
- Steve talked to Bob Kuehl about the “Safe Schools Software” for online trainings that many districts in the state are using. We are going to look into implementing this in the district for life threatening allergies, diabetes, human resources issues, child protective services and many other trainings. Steve will follow up with safe schools to see if the Anaphylaxis training on their software is endorsed by FARE.
- Questions for future discussion. Currently, middle school coaches have to be first aid trained, but have to pay for it themselves. Middle school assistant coaches do not have to be trained. Should the district be requiring? Paying for? We also need to add EpiPen and life threatening allergies training for middle school coaches.

3:15 – Look at the drafts:

- Need more discussion on food for field trips.
- Recommending another policy procedure change, Students with life threatening allergies should not put their lunch in the classroom bin. They should be carried separately.
- Question for further discussion. EpiPens are administered through the clothing. If a child has thick clothing on or is overweight, should we be administering directly on the skin? Need more research and information.
- Peggy gave information on the number of EpiPens/life threatening allergies/etc. in the district for the last several years.
- Next meeting Steve will print all of our current recommendations, items for further discussion, etc. Peggy and Steve are also starting a notebook to “hold” all of our policy changes/recommendations/etc.

Thanks, all. I’m very excited about the work of this team.

NEXT MEETING is 1:45-3:30 on Wednesday, November 13