

## **SCHOOL HEALTH ADVISORY COUNCILS\* (Charge and operational guidelines)**

School health advisory councils can play a major role in assisting school districts to develop effective school health programs. The council members serve as resource consultants to the district, providing medical and dental expertise from the private sector and input from representatives of public community health agencies. Each school district should establish a health advisory council to assist in developing objective policies in accordance with community needs.

### **RATIONALE:**

- Council members will become knowledgeable about school health activities, issues, and concerns and become community advocates for children.
- Schools will benefit from the medical, dental, and nursing expertise.
- School board members and administrators will have support and advice when dealing with controversial health issues.
- School health nurses will have established sources of reference for problems as they occur.
- Community healthcare providers will have a designated contact within the school environment.

### **PURPOSE:**

1. To review available health status indicators in the school community population.
2. To identify available community health resources.
3. To promote cooperation between school district personnel and community health resources.
4. To provide a forum for discussion of health related issues.
5. To review and endorse objective health policies and practices.
6. To provide medical backup for standing orders and/or home remedy procedures.
7. To review and endorse a comprehensive health education program that meets the long-term needs for optimal growth and development of children.

### **MEMBERSHIP:**

Membership should include:

#### **SCHOOL DISTRICT MEMBERS:**

- School health nurses
- School administrative staff
- School board member
- School psychologist
- School social worker
- School teacher
- Other (e.g., custodians, food service workers, etc.)

#### **COMMUNITY MEMBERS:**

- School consulting physician
- Practicing physicians including but not limited to:
  - Pediatrician
  - Orthopedic Specialist
  - Ophthalmologist
  - Obstetrician
  - Family Practitioner
- Community Health Providers
  - Respiratory Therapist
  - Nurse Practitioners
  - Physician's Assistants
- Dentist
- Social Services representatives
- Local public health representative(s)
- Parent representative
- Others (audiologists, speech pathologists, etc.)