2000 - Operations
65 - Medical Recommendations by School Personnel to Parents/Guardians Policy

1. **Board Directive**
   - 1.1. The Providence Hall Charter School (PHCS) Board of Trustees (Board) recognizes that the decision for a student to see a healthcare professional or use medication is a parent/guardian concern.
   - 1.2. In working with students, school employees may be in a position to make or give recommendations to parents/guardians which impact their student's education.
   - 1.3. The purpose of this policy is to clarify for school employees and parents/guardians the recommendations or directions that school employees may make or give to parents/guardians about seeing healthcare professionals or using specific medications for their children.
2. **Administrative Policy**
   - 1.1. Nothing in this policy shall be interpreted as discouraging general communication not prohibited by this policy between school employees and a student's parent/guardian.
   - 1.2. This policy does not include immunizations against communicable diseases as required by the Department of Health as a prerequisite to school attendance.
   - 1.3. ***Allowable Educator Communications***
     - 1.3.1. School employees may provide information and observations to a student's parent/guardian about that student, including observations and concerns in the following areas:
       - 1.3.1.1. Progress
       - 1.3.1.2. Health and wellness
       - 1.3.1.3. Social interactions
       - 1.3.1.4. Behavior
       - 1.3.1.5. Topics consistent with FERPA and PHCS policy.
     - 1.3.2. School employees may communicate information and observations between school employees regarding a student.
     - 1.3.3. School employees may refer a student to other appropriate school employees and agents, including referrals and communication with a school counselor or other mental health professionals working within the school system.
     - 1.3.4. School employees may consult or use appropriate healthcare professionals in the event of an emergency while the student is at school, consistent with response plans.
       - 1.3.4.1. If a school employee believes that a student is at risk of attempting suicide, physical self-harm, or harming others, then the employee may question the student about the suicidal thoughts, self-harming behavior, or thoughts of harming others in order to refer the student to appropriate prevention services and to inform the student's parent or guardian. However, the questioning shall be limited to that which is necessary for referral to prevention services or to make the parent or guardian aware of the perceived risk.
       - 1.3.4.2. If a school employee believes that a situation exists which presents a serious threat to the well being of a student, that employee shall notify the student's parent/guardian without delay.
     - 1.3.5. School employees may complete a behavioral health evaluation form, provided by the student's physician, if requested by a student's parent/guardian to provide information to a licensed physician.

1.4. ***Prohibited Educator Communication***
- 1.4.1. School employees shall not require that a student take or continue to take a specific medication, whether over-the-counter or prescription medicine, as a condition for attending school.
- 1.4.2. School employees may not recommend to a parent/guardian that a student take or continue to take a psychotropic medication.
- 1.4.3. School employees may not require that a student take or continue to take a psychotropic medication as a condition for attending school.
- 1.4.4. School employees may not recommend that a parent/guardian seek or use a type of psychiatric or psychological treatment for a student.
- 1.4.5. School employees may not conduct a psychiatric or behavioral health evaluation or mental health screening, test, evaluation, or assessment of a student, except where this conflicts with IDEA and its subsequent amendments.

1.5. ***Medical Recommendations and Mandatory Abuse Reporting***
- 1.5.1. In compliance with State Law (UCA §62A-4a-403), school employees are required to report suspected child abuse.
- 1.5.2. Unless failure to take action would present a serious, imminent risk to the student's safety or the safety of others; school employees may not make a child abuse or neglect report to authorities solely or primarily on the basis that a parent refuses to consent to:
  - 1.5.2.1. A psychiatric, psychological, or behavioral treatment for a child, including the administration of a psychotropic medication to a child; or
  - 1.5.2.2. A psychiatric or behavioral health evaluation of a child.

1.6. ***Allowable Recommendations by School Mental Health Professionals/Counselors***
- 1.6.1. A school counselor or other mental health professional working for PHCS may:
  - 1.6.1.1. Recommend, but not require, a psychiatric or behavioral health evaluation of a student.
  - 1.6.1.2. Recommend, but not require, psychiatric, psychological, or behavioral treatment for a student.
  - 1.6.1.3. Conduct a psychiatric or behavioral health evaluation or mental health screening, test, evaluation, or assessment of a child in accordance with FERPA and PHCS policy.
  - 1.6.1.4. Provide to a parent/guardian, upon the specific request of the parent/guardian, a list of three (3) or more healthcare professionals or providers, including licensed physicians, psychologists, or other health specialists.

3. **Training**
- 3.1. Appropriate school employees shall receive training from their supervisor on the provisions of this policy.

4. **Penalties for Violation**
- 4.1. Intentional violation of this policy may subject school employees to discipline consistent with State law and PHCS policy.