

11/01/2021

Minutes from the Regular Meeting of the School Health Advisory Council (SHAC)

1. CALL TO ORDER - Coordinator of Health Services

M. James called the meeting to order and welcomed the group. Introductions were made.

2. PURPOSE - Coordinator of Health Services

M. James read aloud the purpose of SHAC.

A School Health Advisory Council (SHAC) is a group appointed by the school district to serve at the district level. Texas law (Texas Education Code, Title 2, Subtitle F, Chapter 28, Subchapter A, §28.004) requires the establishment of a SHAC for every school district. SHACs are required to meet at least four times each year.

SHACs assist the districts in ensuring that local community values are reflected in health education instruction. Additionally, SHACs play an important role in strengthening the connection between health and learning. They can help parents and community stakeholders reinforce the knowledge and skills children need to stay healthy for a lifetime.

3. REVIEW MINUTES

A motion to approve the minutes was made by A. Jasso and seconded by R. Arthur.

4. REPORTS

a. COVID Update-

M. James, Coordinator of Health Services, reported that current COVID Protocols can be found on the district website. Students who test positive are required to isolate for 10 days. Students in grades PK-6th are required to quarantine for 10 days if they live in the same household with someone who is positive. 7th-12th grade students are recommended to quarantine for 10 days if they live with someone who is positive. All other quarantines are optional for students and staff. We keep a close watch on daily COVID cases. Due to recent low cases, the COVID dashboard is now updated weekly on Mondays.

Today, the total number of students out due to a positive test result is 21. This is a dramatic drop in cases compared to August and early September numbers. The drop in numbers coincides with the Brazoria County dashboard as well.

Free COVID testing for students and staff is taking place at 2 locations- Brazos Success Academy and Freeport Intermediate School. Students and staff can sign up for a COVID test through the COVID Updates page on the BISD website.

b. Mental Health Supports-

A.Jasso, Director of Guidance and Counseling, reported that the district has added Licensed Professional Counselors (LPCs) at both high schools- three at Brazoswood

High School and one at Brazosport High School. LPCs are therapists that can work with students on their mental health needs. They are Tier I and Tier II supports and the students are able to get services throughout the day instead of having to go to resources in the community which removes barriers they would have to overcome to get help. Lake Jackson Intermediate added an LPC this year and students are being referred to him. The district is looking to hire three more LPCs which will rotate to campuses that do not have an LPC assigned to their campus. Families are very appreciative that their students are able to get services during the school day rather than the parent having to schedule an outside appointment and take off work. This increases the number of students who are able to get the support they need.

STOP assemblies may be back in the spring semester. STOP stands for Stop, Talk, Overcome Pain. STOP is really about suicide prevention but suicide is not mentioned. The focus is on staying true to who you are and don't give into peer pressure. The targeted group is 5th and 6th graders.

c. Child Nutrition Update-

R. Arthur stated they are just trying to feed kids on plates. Child Nutrition is operating SSO (Seamless Summer Option) again this year which means all meals (breakfast and lunch) are free for everyone. More and more kids are being fed every week possibly due to it being free. Some of the families are still feeling the financial impact from the pandemic.

We are having a lot of supply chain issues. An order is placed every week and then we get a list of the things we cannot get. We have to find substitutions that are not only "like" items but also meet the guidelines. Our dietician is working really hard to make sure we stay in compliance. The supply chain issue also affects non-food items. We have not been able to get trays. We've had to put items in zipper bags. We've also gotten to-go containers and cut them in half to use both sides as plates. We are having to get really creative and use what we can get under very strict procurement guidelines. Staff has been amazing and gotten very creative.

A TDA and procurement Audit is underway so we are working really hard to make sure we are in compliance. The biggest positive is that we are feeding a lot of kids for free and more students than in a long time.

d. Drug Prevention Strategies-

J. Engelking reported that over the summer, district and county data was reviewed and showed that not just district wide, but county wide and across the country, substance usage is going up due to the pandemic. Because of this, strong prevention measures needed to be in place this year. Curriculum for K-12 was aligned to focus on vaping because it is a known gateway to other substance use. A prevention specialist was also hired and he spent last week leading nine different Chicken Club rallies for all the 4th graders in the district. Now the focus is to make sure to emphasize the curriculum at the

secondary levels and make sure the teachers have the support they need to feel comfortable in providing those lessons.

On top of that, the Random Drug Screening has been reinstated for students who participate in UIL activities or who have a parking permit. Three drug screenings have already taken place and will continue every 2 weeks. This provides students with an “out” knowing that there is a chance they could get tested. In addition, BACODA has expanded to two additional campuses making a total of five campuses. They provide prevention measures, pull students for small groups and teach classes. They also do parent nights. Last week they brought Hidden In Plain Site to Brazosport High School to show parents how easy it is to hide drug paraphernalia in everyday items.

Communities in Schools have been able to expand to an eleventh site coordinator and one crisis specialist. There are a lot of social and emotional supports in the district. All the things we can do to build resiliency in students also helps them to cope with difficult situations.

e. Updates from BISD students-

M. Strawn, student body president at Brazoswood High School, reported on the recent Blood Drive in September which was supposed to occur over 2 days but was reduced to only one day due to the Hurricane. Participation was still high with 110 donors that saved up to 345 lives. The next Blood Drive is scheduled for Nov. 17-18 and is open to students and parents. Last week was Drug-Free week. There was a lot of participation in the dress up days. Stress balls and therapy dogs were part of Mental Health week.

6. ADJOURNMENT- 4:20p.m.