

SHAC Meeting Minutes

6/25/24

Attendants:

Johnnelly Green	Kelly Raulerson
Melissa Gentry	Ruchita Kachru
Ruth Paletti	Kathleen Ryan
Deloris Paul	Sarah Gehrsitz
Randell Doty	Verena Vancil
LaTroy Strappy	Christina Edwards
Olga Ensz	Jamie Lovett

Meeting began - 1:03PM

Introduction – Johnnelly Green

- Dr. Ruchita Kuchra, Medical Director for SBAC Health Services. Provides signed standing orders for emergency medication administration. Also provides knowledge and expertise on any questions we may have throughout the school year.
- School Health Updates:
 - o School Health Services Handbook 2024-2025 is updated and has been approved by the SBAC. Some updates to mention are:
 - o Removed Covid-19 individual section. CDC recommends no more isolation or quarantine for close contacts, also does not recommend 5-day policy isolation policy for those with symptoms. Is being considered as with any other respiratory virus, 24-hour rule now applies to any positive Covid cases.
 - o Sports physicals now being accepted for enrollment, as FL Statute does not specify that we cannot.
 - o Functional screenings are now being performed by nurses and teachers for students who have difficulty with traditional hearing and vision screenings.
 - o Medication safety guidelines now include training for Front Office school staff on intaking medication when nurse is not present on campus.
 - o Added section on Anxiety.
 - o Added section on Human Trafficking. What nurse is to do if suspected.
 - o Updated section on seizure FL Statute and policy, including staff training.

School Health Legislative Update – Olga Ensz, DMD, MPH

UF Dental has been working with FL legislators regarding the active consent policy for dental and health screenings in the schools, trying to have the language of HB1557 amended to clarify invasive vs. non-invasive medical procedures. The current policy has reduced the number of students being screened due to parents not understanding the consent and either declining the screenings, or not signing the consent at all. There has been a 60%+ decrease in student screenings in the past two years. Lack of preventative dental care can lead to dental infections that can affect academic performance. A team including members from UF Dental, Florida

Voices for Health, and SBAC will be speaking with House Representative Kelly Skidmore next week to discuss. The team will keep the SHAC posted on any updates.

Public comment –

Olga Ensz- Verbalized concern over candy being used as incentive or rewards in the classrooms and school activities. Could be a “slippery slope” for increased dental problems in students who already are not receiving preventive dental care. Suggests giving out knick-knacks and shift away from candy and sugary foods.

Christina Edwards (PTA Representative) – From experience working several school functions, toys and knick-knacks do not work as rewards or incentives. Instead, could encourage a balance between sweets and consistent teeth brushing, as well as other incentives.

Johnnelly Green – There is an initiative in the Food Service Department that is shifting away from sugar in foods to healthier options, which is new federal regulation. There are baby steps happening behind the scenes, and we will start seeing changes in the cafeterias soon.

Verena Vancil – The Food and Nutrition Service’s wellness policy discourages food as rewards. There is also a competitive food board policy that regulates who and when food can be sold as a fundraiser. Any after-hours school activities must comply with the USDA Smart Snacks regulation. We can’t control what parents bring in for their child’s birthday in the classroom.

Olga Ensz- Speaks from concern due to the number of cavities that have been found in students who do have dental screenings performed in the schools, and even in the dentist’s offices.

Dr. Kathleen Ryan – Agree with both, but having a balance is best. The teaching and education aspect is the most important part. For the Control Flu Mist program, stickers are handed out as rewards.

Regarding the Flu Mist program in the Fall 2024, will be providing the Flu Mist to all ages, as well as adolescent vaccines in the Spring.

Kelly Raulerson – Has seen classroom teachers with mason jars full of candy that sticks to teeth, namely Skittles, Starburst, and Laffy Taffy. These candies create a film over the teeth that lasts for hours and can eat away at enamel. Better choices would be Hershey Kisses, always being aware of potential allergies.

No further topics or questions presented.

Next meeting scheduled for September 2024.

Meeting ended: 1:39PM