

School Health Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes Monday, March 6, 2023

In attendance: Johnnelly Green, Ruth Paletti (for Melissa Gentry), Brittany Kingery, Roger Dolz (for Paul Myers), Maria Eunice, Verena Vancil, Olga Luaces, Randell Doty, Sarah Gehrsitz, Toni Griffin, Michele Milinkovic.

12:03PM Meeting called to order

Johnnelly Green – Introduction of new member, Christina Edwards, PTA Representative, not present today.

Review of Narcan policy from 2nd quarter SHAC Meeting. Policy has been drafted and is now awaiting staff attorney and Board approval, but staff attorney position is currently vacant. The policy has been placed on the Board agenda for April.

New vision referral resource – America’s Best Eyeglass & Contacts company. Nationwide company with a local office in Gainesville. Providing vouchers to school nurses to give to students who need an eye exam and glasses, but parents have low income or cannot afford it. Parents do not need to apply for approval. If anyone else knows of any local or available resources for vision, hearing, or dental, please let us know.

Q: Michele Milinkovic asked if all referrals go through the school nurse?

A: Johnnelly stated that for vision and hearing, yes, all referrals usually go through the school nurse. We now have a Family Liaison at most schools that can also work on those referrals, which is helpful, but the liaison needs to communicate with the nurse on the process. There have been instances where the family liaison was working on a referral and the nurse was not aware and was doing the same. In one instance, the Family Liaison arranged for the Heiken Bus to come from Miami to perform vision exams at the school, and the nurse did not know it was happening.

Johnnelly presented next agenda item – Food & Nutrition Services, Maria Eunice.

Maria Eunice – There are 2 major updates in the world of Food & Nutrition.

First, the Health School Team Coordinator Supplement. We have been working with Johnnelly Green and ESE Executive Director Kathy Black on changing the name to be in compliance with the Florida Administrative Code. Was formerly called the Health, Safety and Wellness Trainer, now will be the Healthy School Team Coordinator. Also updating some of the language to be in compliance with federal and state guidelines, and adding some measureable items to the supplement to make that person more accountable. Process needs to go through the Board and school attorney, so hopefully will be bringing an update soon.

Second, USDA has proposed updates to food nutrition standards, and right now it is in the public comment phase. Anyone in the district can comment on the proposed changes. Submission deadline for comments is April 10. We will be submitting a response from the Alachua County district. Some of the goals are reasonable, but some of them are very stringent and will be difficult to attain. Some vendors are also concerned about the possible changes. Some examples are changes in the the sodium and sugar content, which make it challenging to keep the food tasting good.

Verena Vancil – In 2010 there were proposed changes to the Healthy, Hungry Free Students Act of 2010, but there was a lot of pushback and it was put on hold. Now the US is looking to resume this timeline.

Maria Eunice – they call it “transitional guidelines”, which strike a balance between what is doable and what is aspirational. Verena will be going through all of the food items and nutritional information. It will be expensive to make some of these changes.

Verena Vancil – Many manufacturers have pulled out of the commodity process altogether, so this will have an effect on cost, variety, and quality.

Maria Eunice – We want to keep the students eating with us, so we need to keep the food tasting great.

Johnnelly Green – requested that Maria send the group the new guidelines, so members can read them and make a public comment if they would like.

Sarah Gehrsitz – Is there a template for a statement where we can add our support?

Verena Vancil – we are working on a statement right now.

Maria Eunice – School Nutrition Association has not built a template, but we can build it.

Johnnelly Green – what is the percentage of students in our district that eat school lunch?

Maria Eunice – We currently have 33 sites that are on CEP (Community Eligibility Provision) that are all free. 17 of our sites have moved off of it to EPA (requires application and approval). Mostly secondary schools now have to do the application for free or reduced paid meals. We feed about 21,000 meal equivalents a day. The percentages vary throughout the district. For example, at Rawlings we feed 98% of the students, while at Buchholz we feed a very low percent. During the pandemic, when everyone was free, we fed a much higher percent. There is language through the ES School Nutrition Association proposing a universal free program nationally. California and Colorado currently have the whole state free.

Michele Milinkovic – Referring to the new name of the healthy school team coordinator. Wanted to clarify that the supplement would still allow for accommodation if someone just does CPR versus someone just doing the wellness portion, would it still allow for delineation of those tasks accordingly?

Maria Eunice – Would need help from Johnnelly for that, but currently that part of the supplement is not changing. It is still in the development stage of making changes and must be presented to the Board.

Michele Milinkovic – We are hoping that by the end of this year every school has a CPR trained instructor on site. Working with Patty Boyte (Santa Fe College) to hold as many classes as we need for that goal.

Maria Eunice – More food service updates: UF no longer working with us on the Farm to School program, they were funding two people to work with us, but that is no longer a funding source. We have hired a new Farm to School coordinator, Pam Horsham. She also works with the farmers markets around town. Also a new garden coordinator, Jessica Plumbers. Daniel, Farm to School driver delivers produce from the farmers’ hub to the schools. Fifth graders are coming to field trips at Farm to School, also from other districts such as Marion and Clay County.

Johnnelly Green – Introduced **Olga Ensz, DMD**.

Olga presented data regarding the number of dental screenings performed in the schools in previous school years, versus this school year. On average, UF Dental program will perform approximately 2,100 dental screenings for Alachua County third graders each Fall since 2016. For Fall 2022, there were only 793 student screened, about 39% of enrolled third-graders. This is due to the changed policy requiring active consent from parents, versus in years' past where screenings were performed on passive consent, with a parent opt-out option. Dental screenings are vital for students' dental health. Tooth decay can lead to many dental issues that can affect a student's ability to succeed academically, and dental screenings identify those issues early to promote treatment. How can we encourage more participation in the dental screenings next year?

Johnnelly Green – We have noticed a significant decline in participation in regular health screenings as well this past Fall (vision, hearing, height/weight, scoliosis). Due to the recent bill HB 1557, we were required to move towards an active consent process. The bill requires schools to give notification to parents of screenings and care being performed in the schools, and allow for parents to opt-out. We were already doing this, but other schools in Florida were not, which is why the bill was implemented. We are hoping to move back in that direction next year, but if we don't, we do need to brainstorm ideas to promote participation.

Brittany Kingery – What we do in our program (community school at Howard Bishop) is we do not send our consents at the very beginning of the school year with every other document that is sent home. It will get lost and forgotten. Instead we wait a few weeks later, much closer to the screening time, then send it home on a bright colored paper.

Johnnelly Green – Good idea. Our form includes consent for both basic and chronic clinic care management, as well as the health screenings. Maybe if we separate them out, send the clinic care consent at the beginning of the school year, then wait a few weeks and send the health screenings consent, on brightly colored paper, it would promote more return of the forms.

Michele Milinkovic – We can also use social media to announce it to the community.

Johnnelly Green – Question for Randell Doty, Pharmacist. We have seen news articles of a recent albuterol shortage. Is this true?

Randell Doty – Have not heard of it. Possibly because of the recent rise in RSV cases, and probably refers to the nebulizer albuterol treatments, versus the MDI. Will look into that.

Johnnelly Green – Another question for Mr. Doty, how is the Adderall shortage going?

Randell Doty – Not sure about that either, will look into it and let you know.

No further questions.

Johnnelly Green – Next meeting in June 2023.

Meeting adjourned: 1:03PM