

Minutes for SHAC Meeting September 13, 2011

The SHAC committee met on September 13, 2011 in the Board room at the Palacios ISD Administration Building. The meeting was called to order at 12:10 pm by Amy Kubecka, Co-Chair for the 2011-2012 SHAC. The meeting began with the welcome and introduction of SHAC members and visitors.

Members present were: Amy Kubecka, Lisa Harper, Larry Williams, Rita Cepak, Sarentha Kessler, Paulette Hunter, Cara Herlin, Carolyn Kubecka, Diane Koop, Roberta Weixelman.

Visitors present were: Vanessa Kunefke, Buddy Kelley, Kimberly Nicholson, Daniela Monterrubio, Peggy Scantlen, Herbert Ressler.

Results of the free Immunization Clinic held by MEHOP on August 18, 2011 at Central Elementary were discussed. The event was successful in immunizing 40 students- 24 Jr. High & High School and 16 East Side & Central students. Problems discussed included parents missed meeting the teacher, not enough volunteers were available, the location did not allow for smooth traffic flow, and the parents had to take the child to the ER on the weekend for the TB skin tests to be read. The decision was made to do the immunization clinic again next year. Improvements discussed for next year were different dates and locations for the immunization clinic. Possible dates were Monday or Tuesday of the week before school starts. Possible locations mentioned were the East Side Annex building and the East Side nurse's office.

Daniela Monterrubio, an intern at the Department of State Health Services, presented on PhotoVoice, a research project she conducted this summer in Palacios where people identify, represent and enhance the community through photographs. More information regarding PhotoVoice projects can be found at www.photovoice.org. The focus of the project was barriers and benefits to health in the Latino community. Residents in the Latino community were given cameras and asked to take pictures of places and items in the community and write a brief description regarding how it impacts their overall health. Benefits to health in Palacios that were mentioned included: outdoor recreational areas, basic medical care available, limited fast food, and a recycling program. Barriers included: lack of medical specialists and rehab services, lack of bilingual services, environmental concerns, lack of nutritional/health information for parents, no access to computer courses for Spanish speaking adults, and lack of transportation. The participants stated they would like to have computer classes for Spanish speaking adults, were concerned about the nutrition of school lunches, applauded the school district's prompt response to H1N1 and would like a regular distribution of health information, and would like more information regarding the schools' sexual education classes. School nurse Lisa Harper stated that information regarding the sexual education classes is in the student handbooks and permission slips are sent out when dates for the parent information nights are set. Mrs. Harper also stated that no one shows up for the parent information nights or calls the school for more information. Translators are available at the school if parents have questions. The committee decided to address school lunch nutrition and distribution of information regarding sexual education at future meetings.

The meeting closed by discussing the date and time of the next SHAC meeting. The next SHAC meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, November 15. The current time of 12:00pm-1:00pm was accepted as the time for the next meeting.