

Minutes for SHAC Meeting September 14, 2010

The SHAC committee met on September 14, 2010 at the Palacios ISD Administration Building. The meeting was called to order at 12:05pm by Amy Kubecka, Co-Chair for the 2010-2011 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, Amber Engel, Diane Koop, Kay Lawson.

Visitors present were: Vanessa Kunefke, Joe Adams, Paulette Hunter, Denise Truong, Cara Herlin, Madeline Rother, Peggy Scantlen, Herbert Ressler, Julia Gonzales, Kassie Billings.

Results of the free Immunization Clinic held by MEHOP on August 19, 2010 at Central Elementary were discussed. The event was successful in immunizing approximately 40 students. Possible improvements to the immunization clinic were discussed and included: holding the clinic for a longer time period possibly from 2-6 pm, holding the event at a separate location, and recruiting volunteers to assist with registration, making copies, and carrying forms to clinic workers administering vaccines. More volunteers would free up a nurse to check shot records and identify needed vaccines. The suggestion was made to hold the clinic on a separate day from open house. It was mentioned the District Improvement Plan includes trying to combine events to get more parent participation rather than separating them into different nights. Possible locations mentioned for the immunization clinic for next year include the Central Elementary cafeteria and the gym.

Denise Truong, Family Health Services Program Specialist for the Texas Department of State Health Services, discussed the School Health Index (SHI), a self-assessment and planning guide for school health programs. The SHI can be used separately for each school or can be comprehensive for the school district. The SHI targets 5 health topic areas: physical activity, healthy eating, tobacco-use prevention, unintentional injury and violence prevention, and asthma. The SHI is available free and can be completed on-line or on paper. Completing it on-line would allow automatic scoring and comparison of scores from year to year. Results of the assessment are confidential. The SHI consists of 8 modules which correspond to the eight components of a coordinated school health program and is designed to be completed by school health teams representative of parents and school employees. Training to use the SHI is available through workshops and webinar. Ms. Truong also stated she would be willing to assist with recommending programs to address the needs identified in the assessment. Handouts of Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) describing the SHI were given to the attendees at the meeting. Copies of the SHI were given to the school nurses, Lisa Harper and Diane Koop, to review and distribute to administrators for evaluation. Other copies of the SHI are available on-line at the CDC website listed on the FAQ handouts and will be reviewed by members of the SHAC committee.

Julia Gonzales, Executive Director for Matagorda County United Way, mentioned campaigns they are conducting at this time, including the United Way Youth Board, which would allow youth to give back to the community. United Way will have to talk with school counselors at Jr. High and High School to get the Board started here.

Student's access to water during the school day was brought up as a parent concern. Parents Rita Cepak, Paulette Hunter, and Peggy Scantlen were concerned that students are not drinking water and not using the bathroom at school due to lack of time between classes. Buddy Kelley, Central Elementary principal, was present at the meeting and will address this issue with his staff at Central. The suggestion was made to address these concerns at upcoming Campus Improvement Team (CIT) meetings. Parent Paulette Hunter stated she would address the concerns at the next CIT meeting for East Side.

The meeting closed by discussing the date and time of the next SHAC meeting. The next SHAC meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, November 16. The current time of 12:00pm-1:00pm was accepted as the time for the next meeting.