

Minutes from the April 8th meeting were unanimously approved with Julie Noble making a motion to approve and a second was made by Sherry Wenzel.

NEW BUSINESS

School Board Update – Mary Fischer spoke about Health Education and the School Board priorities. She spoke about the importance of Comprehensive Health Education. The Department of Education has mandated that specific items must be taught to all students in the program, items such as substance abuse prevention, and suicide prevention. Grades 6 through 12 must also receive additional instruction in mental/emotional health. The Board is including this in the 2022 Legislative Priorities package. They will be asking for a fully funded comprehensive policy that can be delivered in an age appropriate way from Kindergarten through High School. Mary asked if the SHAC Committee would be interested in sending a letter stating they are in support of this.

Leisha offered to write a letter and asked if other members would be interesting in signing off on that letter. Leisha will reach out to other local groups to see if they would like to also write a letter. Leisha will create the letter and then send it out to the Committee members to review.

Leisha also discussed the need for more certified Health Education teachers. She also explained what information she will be putting in the letter.

Mary thanked Food and Nutritional Services for all their hard work in advocating for hydration. She expressed that District wide we need to support this health effort.

Center for Progress and Excellence (CPE) – Heather Cross introduced herself and explained what the Center for Progress and Excellence does. They are a non-profit agency that provides free service for mobile crisis response teams to attend calls that assist children in crisis. They are used to try and divert the child from a Baker Act. They also offer case management and peer support and outpatient services. Outpatient services are on a sliding fee scale.

Since September 1st, they have gone to 75 calls with 12 Baker Acts. Eighty percent of the mobile crisis calls come from the schools. They also have a contract with the Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) so they work with the parole and probation officers to assist with children that require assessments for mental health, substance abuse, etc.

This group is also part of a human trafficking contract called TVAP – Traffic Victim Assistance Program. They work with Survivors that are picked up at the border. If they are brought to live anywhere in the five-county area (Charlotte, Lee Collier, Hendry, Glades), they work with the survivor. They have an MSW, therapist and case manager that works with the survivors for a one-year period. They assist the survivors to get clothes, living supplies and a green card.

Their number one function is the mobile crisis response team. Targeted population is 25 years old and younger, but they do service all ages. The calls that come in are categorized. Emergent calls have to be seen in 60 minutes or less, those calls are usually active suicidal or homicidal thoughts. Urgent calls have to be seen within 24 hours, those individuals who have passive

suicidal or homicidal thoughts. Routine calls are seen within 48 hours, those are individuals seeking services.

Sherri Wenzel explained that the District is required to deescalate our students. The mobile crisis response team is part of the School District's De-escalation Plan. CPE then works with the families to get through the crisis.

Food and Nutritional Services Update – Amy Carroll introduced her dietetic intern Rachel Williams. Amy thanked everyone for their input and help in revising the Wellness Policy. It will be presented to the Board in the near future. There is also a triannual assessment of the wellness policy due every three years. Lee County's is due in June 2022. Amy has been working with the UF/IFAS Team to get this done. They will be visiting all the schools and doing a "Smarter Lunchroom Score Card". This will help to assess all the schools and then the results will be posted in the school. She is also working with the Principals to identify every school's Healthy School Team Member.

Amy also announced that the Healthy Fit Labs and Healthy Living Labs have been discontinued in the district. UF/IFAS has been working with the School District to fill this gap. The equipment from those programs will also be used with the in-school garden programs.

There are three "Crunch Events" in October. These events happen at different elementary schools at lunchtime. The kids get to crunch their fruits and vegetables and then they are briefly taught about the fruits and vegetables.

This year Island Coast High School has been working very hard on their school garden and they will be providing all the romaine lettuce for 3 to 5 schools for the rest of the year.

Employee Wellness Update – Heather Parker told us about the Lift Project. It is a ten-week mental health program that teaches people how to change their outlook in times of crisis. Every week there is a lesson on how to improve our mood. There are 511 people signed up and it starts in October. This program is able to be used with students 6th through 12th grade. The videos can be used in class if the teacher or principal signs up for it.

High Blood Pressure classes are starting in October. This class teaches you a healthier way to eat to lower your blood pressure.

The Complete Health Improvement Program (CHIP) is back. This program is a disease reversal program it helps with GI issues, blood pressure, diabetes and high cholesterol.

Health Screenings are coming up this year. Heather said the District is trying to get away from doing the Health Screenings because they want to encourage staff to get their annual physicals and blood draws through their physician. This year the employees will receive \$75.00 for an annual physical plus \$25.00 for blood work.

Health Services Update – Chuck Bradley explained that Beth Wipf has left and moved to Collier County. They are in the process of finding Beth's replacement. Health Services is also in the process of hiring school nurses. We have received funds from the ESSER grant which will allow

some tier three and four support schools to have a full-time school nurse. We are also going to hire three float nurses. These nurses will help out at schools that need it.

The COVID numbers have started to decrease. At the peak, there were about 900 reports coming in daily and this week they are under 100 a day.

Health screenings are still continuing in the schools. The Vision Bus has also been very busy going out to schools. We are getting ready to start the Dental Bus visits in the next month or so.

GOOD OF THE CAUSE

Deb Comella spoke about the Randy Grimes presentation that will be virtual this year. Randy Grimes talks about his recovery from opioids and making good choice and supporting the “Helping Educate Loving Parents Program” through the Cape Coral Police Department. Deb will send the link to be passed out.

Drug House Odyssey will be in February. They are looking for actors for February 8th and February 10th. Any school theater programs are welcome to perform.

Sherry Wentzel shared that the School Counseling and Mental Health Department at LCSD will be starting Wellness Wednesdays on October 6th for parents and caregivers. The flyer will be in peach jar

Sally Kreuzscher has taken a new position in Lee Health in the Community Affairs Team. Her team is going out and doing vaccination clinics. She also talked about the Safe Kids Program and over the summer a child passenger safety course was held and seven elementary School Resource Officers took the course and they are now certified to help other families with car seats and proper child passenger safety.

Julie Noble asked Chuck Bradley for the School District’s protocol for return to play for athletes. Chuck will check with the Athletic Director, David LaRosa. Julie will reach out to Chuck after the meeting.

Julie reported that Golisano Children’s Hospital awarded the School District of Lee County with Heart Save School Designation. This is a two-year designation.

Chuck Bradley made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Heather Parker seconded.

Meeting adjourned at 9:47.

2021 – 2022 Meetings

November 18, 2021

February 10, 2022

April 14, 2022