



School Health Advisory Committee Meeting

November 16, 2023

Lee County Public Education Center

9:00 – 10:30 am

Member/Guests/Presenters

Bradley, Chuck	SDLC-Director of Positive Prevention
Bultman, Syndi	Lee Health – Injury Prevention Resource Coordinator
Carroll, Amy	LCSD – Coordinator of Food Procurement
Colon, Wildaliz	SDLC - Assistant Director - Health Services
Comella, Deb	Drug Free Lee Executive Director
Fleming, Jada	SDLC - Board Member
Goerke, Kurt	DOH – Health Education Program Manager
Kreuscher, Sally	Lee Health – Community Programs Coordinator
Kurtz, Julie	LCSD – Registered Dietitian
Mason, Zach	Florida National Guard - Captain
Miner, Moira	SDLC - ESE Nurse Specialist
Rodriguez, Mary Lynn	SDLC - Coordinator School Counseling Services
Roy, Leisha	SDLC – TOA Comprehensive Health Education, SHAC Chair
Sylla, Joey	Collaboratory – Team Lead
Summe, Teresa	Lee Health – Asthma & COPD Management Manager
Thompson, Sara	SDLC - Prevention Specialist
Turner, Jessica	Housing Coalition
Wynne, Kathy	SDLC - Prevention Specialist

Meeting was called to order at 9:00 by Leisha Roy.

Minutes from the September 21, 2023, meeting was unanimously approved with Deb Comella making a motion to approve and a second was made by Julie Noble.

Agenda for the meeting was unanimously approved with Sally Kreuzscher making a motion to approve and a second was made by Kathy Wynne.

NEW BUSINESS

Pumpkin Smoothies Change – Leisha sadly informed us that the SDLC Employees' Wellness Coordinator, Heather Parker, was unable to attend the meeting and so we would not be enjoying Pumpkin Smoothies that day.

The Collaboratory: Health and Wellness Coalitions – Joey Sylla with The Collaboratory gave a presentation about the Health and Wellness Coalition. He explained that it is not an organization, but a network of different partners and that it is different from other groups because of how it

shares information and resources. He stated that the Coalition is not bureaucratic or about just meeting for regular lunches. Instead, it is about having a shared and long-term goal of transforming SW Florida to be among the healthiest communities in the nation by 2040.

To reach their goal, they track data on different health indicators:

- Active Living
- Health Systems
- Food Access and Nutrition
- Behavioral Health

Syndi Bultman asked how the Collaboratory's group work with Healthy Lee and if they were just duplicating services. Joey Sylla responded that they were not in competition with Healthy Lee and were there to support Healthy Lee's initiatives in addition to other programs. Joey also pointed out that their efforts were regional and not inclusive to Lee County.

Leisha Roy brought up that one of the benefits of the Collaboratory included funding of healthy living initiatives.

Kathy Wynne asked how the Collaboratory's Coalition aligns with Blue Zones. Joey Sylla said that they were not in competition with Blue Zones.

Joey Sylla then added that the Coalition currently has over ten active projects going on regionally including Active Seniors, Mobile Health Care, and Community Gardens & Farm to School.

Leisha Roy then added that the Farm to School programs at different schools continues to be successful. She brought up the Dunbar High School students designed and built a Farm Bot and that markets are in the schools so students can pick up produce to take home. Leisha also shared that other counties want to get involved and have their own farm to school programs.

Joey then added that it is all about relationships and sharing ideas. Another initiative for his coalition to help address food insecurities was to have a farmer's market in all community areas that would accept SNAP cards.

Leisha then added how excited students get from eating new fruits and vegetables because of the Farm to School programs. It is also great to be able to customize what is grown for each of the student populations.

Joey Sylla finished his presentation by sharing his excitement for the Coalition's Behavioral Health Regional Action Team. And if anyone is interested in getting involved to email Joey or go to 16years.org.

Civil Rights and Equity Plan – Chuck Bradley, Director of Positive Prevention, gave a presentation on the school's Educational Civil Rights & Equity Guide. The guide describes



protected student groups, their rights, their parent's rights, and how to file a grievance. This guide is available on the leeschools.net website on the parental portal.

Chuck started with defining Civil Rights and Equity. He stated that a wheelchair ramp is an example of an equity accommodation.

Chuck then stressed that student success requires the triangle of Parents, Teachers, and Students working together.

In creating this guide, Chuck explained that the core goal was to explain District Policy and Civil Rights & Equity Laws. Chuck then briefly reviewed the following Civil Rights & Equity Laws:

- Title II, established in 1964, focuses on the freedom of religion.
- Title VI, established in 1964, focuses on ancestry and color, including anti-Semitism, which was added by Executive Order in 2019.
- Title VII, established in 1964, focuses on employment discriminations.
- Title IX, established in 1972, focuses on not excluding persons from participation based on sex, sexual orientation, and gender identity by organizations that receive federal funding. Initially this was created for athletics but has grown to include other areas.
- American with Disabilities Act (ADA), Section 504, and Individuals with Disabilities Act (IDEA)
- The Age Discrimination Act of 1976
- Genetic Information Non-Discrimination (GINA) Act of 2008

Next, Chuck gave some examples of how these acts might apply to schools. He shared that under Title II, students can read religious texts when they are not actively in instruction. Under Title VI, students can speak another language when standard English is not required. Title VII protects SDLC employees from employment discriminations.

Chuck added that a very thorough investigative process for Title IX was developed under the Department of Education's Betsy DeVos' administration. This investigative process was designed to protect both the accuser and the accused.

Regarding the Age Discrimination Act of 1976, it only applies to people over the age of 40. The Genetic Information Non-Discrimination Act of 2008 can limit a person's job duties based on their health condition but are first obligated to find accommodations and then secondly find another job for an individual.

Chuck then stated that the Complaint Resolution Process's order is Complaint filed → Investigate → Determination → Resolution.

Chuck then showed everyone where to navigate to access the guide.

Chuck then finished his presentation by stating that SDLC follows state law because it is a state organization. That SDLC continues to support the state gender support plan, whereas schools cannot use gender pronouns, but students can and if they do, parents must be notified.



Leisha Roy asked if there were any plans for District guidance on the new gender related state laws regarding sex education and sexual/gender identity. Chuck responded that legal staff produced a legal document that was sent out to administrators and that Florida DOE is supposed to have guidance by spring 2024.

Kathy Wynne then asked if students who are 18 years of age have the right to pursue their rights without their parents being involved. Chuck said that students 18 or older, were allowed to do that.

PUBLIC COMMENT –

- Jessica Turner, the Coordinator of the Housing Coalition, was working on trying to reduce housing costs in SW Florida.
- Deb Comella shared that Drug House Odyssey (DHO) will be on February 6th, 7th, and 8th at the Lee County Civic Center. She thanked SDLC Dr. Jason Thomashefsky, the Fine Arts Coordinator, for securing student actors. Deb also shared that many 5th grade teachers are requesting slots to take their students to DHO. Deb also shared that a new version of the DHO video is being produced and that she will get a copy to Leisha when it is ready.

Deb then shared that the first video in the upcoming series called Vital Signs will be shown at Grace Church in Cape Coral sometime in March of 2024. Currently the specific date and time is unknown, but Brandy Klingman with Victoria's Voice, an organization devoted to the education of substance abuse and recovery, will be there.

- Leisha Roy shared that RC Hatton Farms donated a pallet of corn on the cob to Heights Elementary School.
- Captain Zach Mason was then asked by Leisha Roy to briefly present about his Drug Prevention Program, Night Vision. Captain Mason shared that he was part of a larger division in the National Guard called the Counter Drug Program that included surveillance and analysts, with the Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA). Captain Mason's focus is on speaking and educating kids on substance use and abuse. He did say that the middle school kids seem to be the most open to his presentations and that nicotine and vaping were a major focus. Captain Mason added that he is not an addiction expert, but he has lost many friends and family to drug use. He likes to have a conversation with his audience rather than lecture them.

Captain Mason believes that parents are important to speak with and that they need to be more proactive. He is currently setting up events in community/recreational centers, summer camps, and churches.



Leisha added that she recently went to a fentanyl conference where it was pointed out that it used to be that marijuana use was seen as “bad”, but now young people are not seeing the dangers in using marijuana.

- Deb Comella spoke up that one-time programs were not going to solve the problem of drug use among young people. That if the school district really wanted to solve the problem of students using drugs, they needed to hire a Certified Prevention Specialist to be embedded in every school to work with teachers to make sure substance abuse education was in all the curriculum.

Kathy Wynne then asked Deb what school districts were currently doing that. Deb said there were none. Kathy continued that she and her co-worker, Sara Thompson, were not Certified Prevention Specialists, that they are health educators, and that Captain Mason was not a Certified Prevention Specialist and that some of the Hanley Foundation Prevention Specialists were also not certified.

GOOD OF THE ORDER

- Kathy Wynne pointed out a flyer that had a QR code everyone could scan to take them to the SDLC Prevention web pages. Kathy then shared how Tobacco Free Lee was helpful in having the City of Fort Myers Council pass an ordinance prohibiting smoking and vaping in city parks. Kathy asked others in the room to join in Tobacco Free Lee’s fight for smoke-free beaches and parks throughout Lee County.

Meeting adjourned at 10:30.

2024 Meetings

February 8, 2024

April 11, 2024

