
Texas School Health Advisory Committee (TSHAC)

Monday, February 5, 2024

10:00 a.m.

Draft Meeting Minutes

Virtual: Teams Meeting Platform

In Person Meeting Site:

Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS)

Robert D. Moreton Building

Room M-100, First Floor

1100 W 49th St

Austin, TX 78756

Agenda Item 1: Welcome/Call to order/ of members and staff

Mr. Eduardo Rios, Chair, called the Texas School Health Advisory Committee (TSHAC) meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

Mr. Rios welcomed committee members and members of the public and introduced Ms. Jacqueline Thompson, Advisory Committee Coordination Office (ACCO), Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC). Ms. Thompson read the logistical announcements and stated the meeting was being conducted in accordance with the Texas Open Meetings Act. Ms. Jacqueline Thompson conducted the member roll call, invited each committee member to briefly introduce themselves, and announced the presence of quorum.

Table 1: The Texas School Health Advisory Committee member attendance at the Monday, February 5, 2024, meeting.

Member name	Attended	Member name	Attended
RJ Alvarado, MA	Y	Melinda Nguyen	Y
Nydia Cabra, DAT, MEd, ATC, LAT	Y	Michelle Nelson, MHA	N
John Carollo, MS	N	Dianna Pierson, MPH, BSN, RN	Y
Carlette Drabek	Y	Eduardo Rios, Chair	Y
Barney Fudge	Y	Maria Rivera, MD, MPH	Y
Julie Gardner, PhD, CHES	Y	Karen Schwind, BSN, RN	N
Bena Glasscock, LPC, Vice-Chair	N	Pete Silvius, MS	Y
Shannon Hoffman, MPAff, MSW, LCDC	Y	Zehra Surani, PhD	Y
Michael Kelly, PhD	Y	Sharon Vigil, MEd	Y
Li-Yu Mitchell, MD, MHS	Y		

Mr. Eduardo Rios, Chair, called on Ms. Tammy Gendke, Mental Health Program Coordinator at the Texas Education Agency, who introduced herself. Mr. Rios then recognized Ms. Dianna Pierson, School Health Team Lead and School Nurse Consultant, to introduce DSHS staff. She introduced Ashley Khanhkham and asked DSHS staff members Raiza Ruiz, Brett Spencer and Hayden Evans to introduce themselves.

Agenda Item 2: Consideration of September 25, 2023, draft meeting minutes

Mr. Eduardo Rios, Chair, referred members to the draft minutes emailed by the program liaison and called for any edits. Hearing none, Mr. Rios called for a motion to approve the minutes of the September 25, 2023, meeting.

Motion: Mr. Pete Silvius moved to approve the minutes as presented from the September 25, 2023, meeting. Dr. Julie Gardner and Ms. RJ Alvarado seconded the motion. Following a roll call vote, the motion passed by a majority vote with Twelve (12) Approve (Alvarado, Cabra, Drabek, Fudge, Gardner, Hoffman, Kelly, Mitchell,

Rios, Rivera, Silviu, Surani), Zero (0) Disapprove, and One (1) Abstention (Pierson).

Agenda Item 3: Presentation on the 2023 Texas School Nurse Workforce Survey

Mr. Eduardo Rios, Chair, introduced Ms. Kayla Davis, Research Specialist at DSHS Texas Center for Nursing Workforce Studies. Ms. Davis presented results from the 2023 Texas School Nurse Workforce Survey. Highlights of the update included:

- Ms. Davis shared an overview of the Texas School Nurse Workforce Survey, including how it was developed, the questions, and data collected. She reported that this is the first time they've done this survey and a taskforce was formed to develop it.
- Ms. Davis shared the response rate to the survey was about 45.5 percent, showing school nurses want to be heard and they are an understudied population. She then shared more information on survey response and distribution.
- Ms. Davis shared demographic data based on sex, race, and race/ethnicity, degree, and licensure. She then shared survey questions based on completed nurse practice trainings and how they were funded, nurse policy roles based on different settings, and job satisfaction.
- Ms. Davis shared this was a preliminary survey and next steps include approval from the Texas Center for Nursing Workforce Studies Advisory Committee and further analysis. Once results are written up and approved by the advisory committee, it will be posted on their website.

Ms. RJ Alvarado asked what the timeframe would be for the turnaround for the analysis of data and report. Ms. Davis shared the plan was for the analysis to be done and report written by the end of this month to get their advisory committee to look at it, but they are understaffed and have a lot of projects going on. They will meet with their advisory committee in June and the report will be published then.

Mr. Rios asked about the relation between the nurse shortage and its relation to some of the insights from the survey data and if they saw a direct correlation. Ms. Davis shared that by shortage she meant not every county had a school nurse, indicating that not every school had a school nurse. She stated she is not sure if the Texas Center for Nursing Workforce Studies have that data, but shared ways this could be measured. She then shared if anyone is interested in using any data from the Texas Center for Nursing Workforce Studies for their own research, to reach out and they are happy to share.

Dr. Maria Rivera asked to clarify if they received data from medical assistants or other certified staff for school nurse-type positions. Ms. Davis shared they only had data for nurses who had a practice setting of school health services, however the

link was open. They could have theoretically gotten responses, but she did not see anyone responding that they are a medical assistant or other type of staff.

Ms. Sharon Vigil asked about the impact of Narcan. Ms. Davis stated they did not ask any questions about Narcan in this survey. One of the questions in the trainings section had a box that said "other" where almost every person that filled in this box said they had taken Narcan training or delivered Narcan training to other staff on campus. She then said this is something they want to look more into in the next survey.

Mr. Rios asked if the information is divided up by elementary, middle, and high school. Ms. Davis stated they did ask them what level of school they taught, and the information will be broken down further. Mr. Rios thanked Ms. Davis.

Agenda Item 4: Updates from subcommittees on progress of document revisions and information resources

Mr. Eduardo Rios, Chair, introduced this agenda item and called on members of each subcommittee to provide updates.

Mr. Pete Silvius presented the Recommendations and Research on Physical Education subcommittee is working on document format, aligning language with the whole school, whole child model, and updating links and resources to the correct terminology for different organizations. The document is currently being reviewed by DSHS staff.

Ms. Nydia Cabra presented the Recommendations and Research on Physical Activity: Impact on Academic Performance subcommittee is almost done with the document with some cleaning up to do. The goal is to update the document by reviewing the Texas Education Code and looking back at the purpose of the document. The subcommittee plans to have a finalized document by the end of the spring.

Ms. RJ Alvarado presented the Health Services Staff Roles subcommittee discussed one of the main issues in school districts is the directors of those nurses are not medical individuals but hold administrative positions. The subcommittee tried to define whether an executive or medical staff is in charge of nurses. Ms. Alvarado then shared information on unlicensed assistive personnel and how the subcommittee redefined and expanded those roles. The last topic of subcommittee discussion was over emergency medical technicians in the school system because of the lack of medical personnel to handle the number of students and their medical conditions.

Ms. Karen Schwind left a written comment on the Opioid Addiction and Abuse Education subcommittee's progress on the Opioid Prevention Resources document. Mr. Rios read Ms. Schwind's comment.

- Currently the TSHAC resources available on the website include references for Opioid Prevention Resources for Texas Schools, April 2021. Given the increased need for opioid prevention, our committee expanded this resource with additional references. The subcommittee has updated both the prevention resources and added Naloxone resources. The Opioid resources include both State and Federal references and educational links. The Naloxone references include prevention, treatment, obtaining naloxone and reporting administration. This document has been approved by the DSHS leadership.
- Mr. Barney Fudge shared a point of clarification on the roles and responsibilities of the TSHAC is not aligned with TEC 38.104. He requests a minor edit he will provide to DSHS staff. Ms. Jacqueline Thompson, ACCO, HHSC shared the motion would be to adopt the document as amended. Mr. Brett Spencer, Health Promotion Unit Director clarified the committee needs to be comfortable with what Mr. Fudge was proposing and program staff can follow up to get the exact wording for edits. Mr. Rios opened it up for discussion. Hearing none, Mr. Rios called for a motion to approve the Opioid Prevention Resources for Texas Schools document with the amended changes coordinated by DSHS and TEA.
- **Motion:** Dr. Julie Gardner moved to approve the Opioid Prevention Resources for Texas Schools document with the amended changes. Mr. Pete Silvius seconded the motion. Following a roll call vote, the motion passed by a majority vote with Twelve (13) Approve (Alvarado, Cabra, Drabek, Fudge, Gardner, Hoffman, Kelly, Mitchell, Pierson, Rios, Silvius, Surani, Vigil), Zero (0) Disapprove, and Zero (0) Abstentions.

Dr. Li-Yu Mitchell presented the Health Education subcommittee has revised the Health Education for All Texas Students document by updating Texas health data, resources, and evidence supporting health education. The document has been approved by DSHS.

- Mr. Barney Fudge shared the same point of clarification as the previous document with regard to TEC 38.104. Mr. Rios stated the committee could call for a motion to approve the document with amended changes. He asked for any questions and opened the floor for discussion. Hearing none. He called for a motion to approve the Health Education for All Texas Students document with the amended to include the same amendment referencing the fitness data.
- **Motion:** Ms. RJ Alvarado and Ms. Nydia Cabra moved to approve the Health Education for All Texas Students document with the amended changes. Dr. Zehra Surani seconded the motion. Following a roll call vote, the motion passed by a majority vote with Twelve (13) Approve (Alvarado, Cabra,

Drabek, Fudge, Gardner, Hoffman, Kelly, Mitchell, Pierson, Rios, Silvius, Surani, Vigil), Zero (0) Disapprove, and Zero (0) Abstentions.

Mr. Rios presented the Bullying Prevention Toolkit subcommittee is on pause to limit burden on TSHAC members. Last action was waiting for Texas School Safety Center's bullying prevention document final release. The Coordinated School Health Resources Datasets subcommittee is also on pause to limit burden on TSHAC members. Last action was reviewing existing resources and searching for any new resources to include. The Sample Resolution on Recess for Elementary School Students and School Health Initiative Screening Tool and Cover Letter subcommittee are also on pause.

Mr. Rios announced the committee will take a 20-minute break at 11:15 a.m.

Agenda Item 5: Update from the Texas Education Agency, Texas Department of Agriculture, and the Department of State Health Services (DSHS)

Mr. Eduardo Rios, Chair, reconvened the Texas School Health Advisory Committee (TSHAC) meeting at 11:38 a.m. Ms. Jacqueline Thompson, ACCO, HSSC Ms. Thompson conducted the member roll call and announced the presence of quorum.

Mr. Eduardo Rios, Chair, recognized Mr. Barney Fudge and Ms. Tammy Gendke to provide updates from the Texas Education Agency. Highlights of the update included:

- Mr. Fudge shared Texas Education Code (TEC) §38.032 requires TEA to post on the agency's website a form to be used to submit a seizure management and treatment plan that includes specific information and the signatures of the student's parent or guardian and the physician responsible for the student's seizure treatment. This change in law only applies to a seizure management and treatment plan submitted to a school district or open-enrollment charter school on or after January 1, 2024. The required form originally posted has been revised in collaboration with the Epilepsy Foundation based on feedback received from numerous stakeholders from around the state. The final version of the required form to be used for submitting this information can be found under the Announcements section of the Healthy and Safe School Environment of the Coordinated School Health Model webpage. For questions related to the form, please contact healthandsafety@tea.texas.gov.

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- Mr. Fudge shared notifications about health and physical education update webinars will be distributed in Health Education and Physical Education newsletters.
 - Mr. Fudge shared as stated in the August 17, 2023 To the Administrator Addressed (TAA) letter, as well as the August 18, 2023 Health Education and Physical Education Update Newsletter and the September 2023 Health and Physical Education Newsletter, there are three options for districts and open-enrollment charters to submit data: Option 1, FitnessGram, Option 2, Physical Fitness Assessment Initiative (PFAI), and Option 3, Other Vendor Collection Tools. For any of the options selected, the deadline to submit fitness assessment results for the 2023-2024 school year is on or before 5:00 pm (CDT) on June 7, 2024. For instructions and registration information about FitnessGram, visit <https://help.fitnessgram.net/texas/>. The last day to register for a FitnessGram site license for 2023–2024 is on or before 5:00 pm (CDT) on June 7, 2024. For technical assistance questions about FitnessGram, please call 1-866-211-2718 or email support@fitnessgram.net. You may also visit <https://help.fitnessgram.net/texas>. For information and resources about the Physical Fitness Assessment Initiative Application (PFAI), visit the Physical Fitness Assessment Initiative web page. For technical assistance, email pfaiprogramsupport@tea.texas.gov.
 - Mr. Fudge shared The TEA School Health Survey will be available within the next couple of weeks. There will be a To the Administrator Addressed (TAA) Letter that will provide information about the survey. A copy of the survey questions will be attached to the TAA letter. The Health Education and Physical Education Newsletter will have information as well. For the 2023-2024 academic year, school health survey data will be due to the agency on or before 5:00 PM (CDT) on May 24, 2024.
 - Mr. Fudge shared The FAQ documents for health education and school health advisory councils (SHACs) have been updated. To view the FAQ documents for health education and SHACs, visit the Health Education webpage. Under the Alcohol and Drugs subheading on the Health Education webpage, information has been added--Health Education TEKS Aligned to Fentanyl Abuse Prevention and Drug Poisoning Awareness. The FAQ document for physical education has been updated. To view the FAQ document, visit the Physical Education webpage.
 - Ms. Gendke shared she is with the Mental Health and Wellness Team at TEA. Through Senate Bill 11 from the 86th Texas Legislature, a research database was created for mental health resources and TEA is currently updating it with Education Service Center partners, who look at local and state resources. Those resources in the toolkit can be found on schoolmentalhealthtx.org.

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- Ms. Gendke shared TEA is continuing to work in conjunction with Texas Child Access Through Telemedicine. This provides telehealth or telemedicine to school districts to help identify and assess the behavioral health needs of the students.
 - Ms. Gendke shared TEA is looking at updating the Mental Health Toolkit.
 - Ms. Gendke shared TEA is hosting two webinar series, one through the Mental Health Team and one regarding child abuse prevention and human trafficking. For questions, email mentalandbehavioralhealth@tea.texas.gov or preventtrafficking@tea.texas.gov.

Mr. Rios recognized Ms. Melinda Nguyen to provide an update from the Texas Department of Agriculture. Highlights of the update included:

- Ms. Nguyen shared in April, TDA Nutrition Division is waiting for USDA to provide the final meal standards ruling. Changes to meal patterns including sugar limits, sodium limits, various milks and whole-grain rich items. Once it is released, TDA will have resources available for schools to be in compliance as they are part of the National School Lunch Program.
- Ms. Nguyen shared that in March, TDA is having their annual National School Breakfast Week Celebration. Schools are highlighting the benefits of breakfast with their students and staff.
- Ms. Nguyen shared TDA is sharing information on TDA's Summer Non-Congregate Meal Program. Last year, TDA piloted non-congregate meal service in rural areas and this year they are expanding it further. TDA is coming out with guidance for that.
- Ms. Nguyen shared TDA is working to support a House Bill 3991 that past in September. There is officially a Texas Fruits and Vegetables Day on April 3rd. Ms. Nguyen reached out to TEA to see if there is anything going on in celebration. She encouraged if you are a member of an organization that has something planned, please reach out to collaborate.
- Ms. Nguyen shared information on TDA's Grant through the USDA called Local Food for Schools. Schools have a range of grant funds from \$30,000-250,000 to work with local producers to bring in local agricultural products.

Mr. Rios recognized Ms. Alison Hern, Government Affairs, DSHS, to provide an update from the Texas Department of State Health Services. Highlights of the update included:

- Ms. Hern shared the implementation of SB 294 is still in progress. As a reminder, SB 294 relates to the use of epinephrine auto-injectors and medications for respiratory distress on public, charter, and private school campuses. The bill expands the Stock Epinephrine Advisory Committee's

scope by including reviewing the administration of medication for respiratory distress. Implementation wise, the department must adopt rules with advice from the Stock Epinephrine Advisory Committee and consultation from the Texas Education Agency. The department is working on developing those rules with input from both entities. Later this year, the Department will create a webform for schools to report the administration of respiratory distress medications. DSHS can provide future updates once the rules and reporting form are complete.

- Ms. Hern shared the implementation of SB 629 is complete. As a reminder, SB 629 requires each school district to implement a policy regarding the maintenance, administration, and disposal of opioid antagonists for each 6-12th grade campus. The bill requires schools to report when the school administers an opioid antagonist. Rules on opioid antagonists must be adopted. For implementation, the department coordinated with the Texas Education Agency to adopt rules for opioid antagonists on school campuses. These rules were adopted in October 2023, and can be found in the Texas Administrative Code, Title 25, Chapter 40, Subchapter F. The department also developed a reporting form for opioid antagonists as well as guidelines for schools when filling out the form. The reporting form and guidelines can be found on the Department's School Health Program webpage under "Required Reporting Forms."

Mr. Rios recognized Ms. Dianna Pierson, School Health Team Lead and School Nurse Consultant, to provide an update from the Texas Department of State Health Services. Highlights of the update and member discussion included:

- Ms. Pierson shared the School Health Program was awarded the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) Cooperative Agreement 2302 "School-Based Interventions to Promote Equity and Improve Health, Academic Achievement, and Well-Being of Students". This is a 5-year cooperative agreement. One of the goals of the CDC Cooperative Agreement is to provide statewide professional development and technical assistance opportunities to K-12 staff and personnel on five school health topics including school chronic health services, physical activity, and nutrition.
- Ms. Pierson shared that as part of the CDC Cooperative Agreement, the SHP will be establishing a school health partnership titled the Texas Coordinated School Health Partnership (Partnership). The School Health Program foresees the Partnership as a group of organizations working to engage and strengthen school health activities across the state in alignment with the CDC grant. The Partnership will identify school health trends and collaboratively work to locate evidence-based school health tools and resources to positively inform school health policies, practices, programs, and services. The Partnership will not duplicate or replace any TSHAC roles as it is focused on the activities related to the CDC grant.
- Ms. Pierson shared the School Health Program will also work collaboratively with a Priority School District to conduct a School Health Index Assessment

(SHI), develop a School Health Action Plan, and help the school district review their school health policies.

- Ms. Pierson shared that the School Health Program will begin solicitation for expiring TSHAC members soon. Current members whose first term expires can reapply to serve another term. Once the School Health Program publishes the application, we will notify the committee and ask to please share with anyone who would be a good fit for the committee. These terms are set to expire July 31st. The vacancy categories are:
 - Health Educator – 1
 - Registered Nurse – 1
 - Consumer/Parent – 2
 - Organization/Agency – 1
 - School Administrator – 1
- Ms. Pierson shared the Reaching for Excellence in Texas School Health Grant funds new projects that focus on nutrition, education, physical activity, and/or injury prevention. Eligible projects should engage students, their families, and the community. The Fiscal Year 25 application window closed on January 22. The School Health Program is reviewing the applications and will select two awardees. Each awardee will receive up to \$10,000 during the 2024-2025 school year to support a new or less than one-year-old program that aligns with at least one component of the Whole School, Whole Community, Whole Child Model. We look forward to updating you all at the September 16, 2024, TSHAC meeting with the names and programs of the awardees.

Agenda Item 6: Open discussion on current topics and trends in school health

Mr. Eduardo Rios, Chair opened the floor for the committee to discuss current topics and trends in school health. The committee did not share any current topics.

Agenda Item 7: Future TSHAC agenda topics and priorities

Mr. Eduardo Rios, Chair, led the discussion regarding future TSHAC agenda topics and priorities. Highlights of member discussion included:

- Ms. Nydia Cabra shared that an athletic trainer is a healthcare provider that is in the majority of University Interscholastic League schools and is regulated by the Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation. She requests the stakeholders with TSHAC are informed about the role of an athletic trainer in a school and the importance of having one in the schools.

Agenda Item 8: Scheduling the next TSHAC meeting and future meeting dates

Mr. Eduardo Rios, Chair, announced the next TSHAC meeting will be on Monday, September 16, 2024.

Agenda Item 9: Public comment

Ms. Jacqueline Thompson, ACCO, HHSC, stated there is no one on site to provide public comment.

Agenda Item 10: Adjournment

Mr. Eduardo Rios, Chair, thanked committee members and members of the public for their attendance, and adjourned the meeting at 12:01 p.m.

Below is the link to the archived video recording of the February 5, 2024, Texas School Health Advisory Committee meeting to view and listen for approximately, two years from date meeting is posted in accordance with the HHSC records retention schedule.

[Texas School Health Advisory Committee](#)