

Texas School Health Advisory Committee (TSHAC)

Monday, September 16, 2024

10:00 a.m.

APPROVED 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 10:02 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, September 16, 2024, meeting.

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

Mr. Eduardo Rios, Chair, recognized Ms. Dianna Pierson, School Health Team Lead and School Nurse Consultant, to introduce DSHS staff. She introduced Hayden Evans and asked DSHS staff members Raiza Ruiz and Brett Spencer to introduce themselves.

Agenda Item 2: Consideration of February 5, 2024, 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 February 5, 2024, meeting.

Motion: Mr. Michael Kelly moved to approve the minutes as presented from the February 5, 2024, meeting. Ms. RJ Alvarado and seconded the motion. Following a roll call vote, the motion passed by a majority vote with Twelve (10) Approve (Alvarado, Carollo, Fudge, Kelly, Mitchell, Pierson, Rios, Rivera, Schwind, Silvius), Zero (0) Disapprove, One (1) Abstain (Glasscock) and Eight (8) Absent (Cabra, Drabek, Gardner, Hoffman, Mosley, Nelson, Surani, Vigil).

Agenda Item 3: Presentation from the Texas Medical Association and Texas Association of Family Physicians on how physicians can assist local school district school health advisory councils

Mr. Eduardo Rios, Chair, introduced Dr. Li-Yu Mitchell, parent member of TSHAC, member of local school health advisory committee (SHAC) and family physician. Dr. Mitchell presented information on how Texas physicians can assist local school district SHACs. Highlights of the presentation included:

- Dr. Mitchell shared a brief introduction on who she is, and who the Texas Medical Association (TMA) and Texas Association of Family Physicians (TAFP) are.
- Dr. Mitchell shared information on TMA councils, committees, and community outreach activities. The Council on Health Promotion oversees all of TMA's outreach programs and creates turn-key program physicians can easily implement in their local areas. Dr. Mitchell then shared some of the current turn-key programs. She discussed how when she was chair of the Council on Health Promotion, she encouraged physicians and alliance members to participate. TMA recently implemented school-related community grant projects and SHACs were also featured in TMS's monthly magazine.
- Dr. Mitchell shared that Texas physicians are eager to assist school districts across the state. TMA is available as a resource to help find local physicians who can help address the health concerns of the area. TMA can help school districts and local SHACs spearhead health initiatives.
- Dr. Mitchell shared that TAFP also has physicians interested in promoting health in their communities. Community physicians are ready to help schools and there may be funding available to help put on initiatives in local school districts. Dr. Mitchell offered to be a contact if anyone is interested in reaching out to either organization.

Mr. Rios asked to clarify if funding is available for local SHACs to present initiatives and receive grant funding for. Dr. Mitchell clarified, stating the funds are from the family physician or TMA member to bring as a proposal. She shared an example: her local SHAC had an idea, she then brought it to TAFP as an idea, and then she would get the funding. Mr. Rios thanked Dr. Mitchell.

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

Mr. Eduardo Rios, Chair, introduced this agenda item and announced that the Sample Resolution: Recommendations on Recess for Elementary School Students

subcommittee and School Health Initiative Screening Tool and Cover Letter subcommittee were put on pause and will now be restarted. Mr. Rios shared the current subcommittee members for both, and then asked for volunteers. Ms. RJ Alvarado volunteered to stay on the School Health Initiative Screening Tool and Cover Letter subcommittee. Dr. Maria Rivera volunteered to also participate in this subcommittee. Mr. Rios stated to please contact DSHS if interested in joining either subcommittee.

Mr. Rios called on Mr. Pete Silvius and Dr. Maria Rivera to provide Recommendations and Research on Physical Education subcommittee updates.

- Mr. Silvius presented the Recommendations and Research on Physical Education subcommittee has finalized their document. Subcommittee members went through the document and updated based on what current trends are related to semantics around physical education and coordinated school health. The links were all updated to ensure the links were worthwhile and still meeting the needs of the document. An example of something that was changed was to elevate the Whole School, Whole Child, Whole Community Model.
- Dr. Rivera added that recommendations from other professional organizations were included to back up the importance of physical education in schools. She then shared this was something the subcommittee wanted to align with the recommendation TSHAC made around Health Education.
- Mr. Barney Fudge clarified that when you are referring to administrative rule and graduation requirements in reference subchapters B and G, do not reference or cite the subchapter G anymore because subchapter B consists for the foundational high school program, which is what the current graduation requirements are under. He also stated that there were amendments made at the June the state board of education meeting that changed one of the statements. The updated information is in subchapter B of the graduation requirements, specifically TAC 74.12 B6F stating "credits may not be earned more than once for lifetime fitness and wellness pursuits and skill-based lifetime activities and credit may not be earned more than twice for lifetime recreation and outdoor pursuits." Mr. Fudge stated there is another edit needed, but he can send the language and the statutory reference. Mr. Silvius thanked Mr. Fudge. Ms. Dianna Pierson stated she and Mr. Evans will take care of this.
- **Motion:** Mr. Pete Silvius moved to approve the Recommendations and Research on Physical Education document with the amended changes. Ms. Karen Schwind seconded the motion. Following a roll call vote, the motion passed by a majority vote with Eleven (11) Approve (Alvarado, Carollo, Fudge, Glasscock, Kelly, Mitchell, Pierson, Rios, Rivera, Schwind, Silvius)

Zero (0) Disapprove, and Zero (0) Abstain, and Eight (8) Absents (Cabra, Drabek, Gardner, Hoffman, Mosley, Nelson, Surani, Vigil).

Mr. Rios thanked Mr. Silvius and Dr. Rivera and called on Ms. RJ Alvarado to provide Recommended School Health Services Staff Roles subcommittee updates.

- Ms. RJ Alvarado shared that the policy had not been updated since January 2011. There has been a change from a simple system of school nurses to more complex systems of major health services being provided to students, physical and mental services. The purpose of the document was to redefine the roles of mental health services within the schools.
- **Motion:** Ms. RJ Alvarado moved to approve the Recommended School Health Services Staff Roles document. Ms. Bena Glasscock seconded the motion. Following a roll call vote, the motion passed by a majority vote with Ten (10) Approve (Alvarado, Carollo, Fudge, Glasscock, Kelly, Pierson, Rios, Rivera, Schwind, Silvius) Zero (0) Disapprove, and One (1) Abstain (Mitchell), and Eight (8) Absents (Cabra, Drabek, Gardner, Hoffman, Mosley, Nelson, Surani, Vigil). Mr. Rios thanked Ms. Alvarado and Ms. Thompson.
- Mr. Barney Fudge stated on page 13 there is a reference to the Guidelines to Training Unlicensed Diabetes Care Assistants and that document is in the process of being updated. The link may need to change once that document is published.

Mr. Rios thanked Mr. Fudge and announced the committee will take a 10-minute break at 10:52 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 11:03 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 to provide updates from the Texas Education Agency. Highlights of the update included:

- Mr. Fudge shared the To the Administrator Addressed (TAA) letter went out on August 29, 2024, as well as the September 10, 2024, Health and Physical Education Update Newsletter, discusses the 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 2024-2025 school year is on or before

5:00 pm (CDT) on June 13, 2025. 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 the 2024-2025 academic year, school health survey data will be due to the agency on or before 5:00 PM (CDT) on May 30, 2025. For technical assistance questions about FitnessGram, please call 1-866-211-2718 or email support@fitnessgram.net. 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. For instructions and registration information about FitnessGram, visit <https://help.fitnessgram.net/texas/>.
- There is no date yet for the TEA School Health Survey to go out because it varies from year to year.
- Mr. Rios thanked Mr. Fudge.

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 October, TDA is getting ready for National Back to School Month and National School Lunch Week. TDA is also gearing up for National Farm to School Month to launch the Farm Fresh challenge where schools can participate and showcase how they are providing local schools in their school meals.
- Ms. Nguyen shared there are a few grant opportunities that will be rolling out. One is a collaboration with Texas A&M AgriLife Extension.
- Ms. Nguyen shared TDA is working on gathering training for schools and early childcare centers who participate in Child and Adult Care Food program. Email farmfresh@texasagriculture.gov with questions or if you would like resources.
- Ms. Nguyen shared TDA is participating in the Texas Action for Healthy Kids Virtual Summit, where she will be talking about the final rule for meal standards and how that affects schools, as well as how to incorporate local foods.
- Mr. Rios thanked Ms. Nguyen.

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 that as discussed in previous committee meetings, Senate Bill 294 passed during the 88th Texas Legislative Regular Session. SB 294 relates to the maintenance and administration of medications for respiratory distress on school campuses. This bill also expanded the scope of the Stock

Epinephrine Advisory Committee to include the committee's recommendations during the rule amendments process. The proposed rules will be posted to Texas Register on November 1, 2024 and available for public comment until December 2, 2024. The rules will be effective Spring 2025.

- Ms. Pierson shared updates on the CDC 5-year cooperative agreement: "School-Based Interventions to Promote Equity and Improve Health, Academic Achievement, and Well-Being" of Students
 - DSHS is currently in year 2 of the cooperative agreement. This second grant year started on July 30, 2024 and will end on June 29, 2025.
 - School Health Program and our training contract partner, Action for Healthy Kids, provided in-person professional development training in Education Service Center (ESC) 1 (our Priority Local Education Agency La Villa ISD is within ESC 1) in July 2024. The training included information on how to conduct a School Health Index assessment and a presentation on Medication for Respiratory Distress policies in schools. These professional development opportunities will expand beyond La Villa and ESC 1 during year 2 and beyond.
 - The Texas Coordinated School Health Partnership was created to align with the CDC cooperative agreement, bringing together Texas school health organizations to share resources, has had 2 successful partnership meetings so far. During the last meeting on July 30th, Action for Healthy Kids presented Wellness Policies and the role of SHACs. The five area-specific workgroups also reported on their recent activities, which mainly included introductions and next steps in creating the workgroup's goals. Workgroup meetings will occur quarterly, in between the partnership meetings. The next partnership meeting will occur on October 29, 2024.
- Ms. Pierson shared that for the Reaching for Excellence Grant, Forestburg and Bluff Dale ISDs were awarded the FY25 Reaching for Excellence Grant. 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 WSCC Model. The districts were notified, and their projects officially begin this month, September 2024.
- Ms. Pierson shared that the 2023 Texas School Nurse Workforce Survey report was posted on the DSHS webpage on August 20, 2024. This survey was conducted by the DSHS Texas Center for Nursing Workforce Studies which serves as a resource for data and research on the nursing workforce in Texas. As a reminder, the preliminary survey findings were presented during TSHAC meeting on February 5, 2024. The patterns and trends in the 2021

and 2023 data will aid school nurses, school administrators and DSHS identify areas of concern, prioritize initiatives, and develop targeted strategies to address challenges.

- Ms. Pierson shared that the [Texas Allergy, Asthma and Immunology Society \(TAAIS\)](#) published a [list of physicians](#) who are willing to prescribe unassigned Epinephrine and Bronchodilators to Texas school districts. The link is also published on the [Texas DSHS School Health Program webpage](#) under the Announcements section.
- Mr. Barney Fudge asked if Ms. Pierson could restate the timeline for the rules for SB 294. Ms. Pierson shared the proposed rules will be posted to Texas Register on November 1, 2024 and available for public comment until December 2, 2024. The rules will be effective Spring 2025.
- Dr. Maria Rivera asked if DSHS is aware of any programs for free supplies for school districts, specifically epinephrine and asthma medication. She states she and her district are having a hard time with that. Ms. Pierson stated that at this time there are no option for medications for respiratory distress, but this is something that stakeholders within Texas are looking for. She said she could keep the committee updated.
- Mr. Rios thanked Ms. Pierson.

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. The committee did not share any future agenda topics or priorities.

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, February 24, 2025.

Agenda Item 9: Public comment

Ms. Jacqueline Thompson, ACCO, HHSC, read the public comment announcement and coordinated with the ACCO production team requests from stakeholders who registered or were on-site to provide public comment.

Virtual oral public comment –

- **Christian Hancock, Texas Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders Network President**

Ms. Hancock shared that she encourages TSHAC to ensure students with FASD are included in every discussion and decision involving school health. The intersections of FASD are prevalent in every school support system. FASDs are lifelong physical, developmental, behavioral, and sometimes intellectual disabilities caused by prenatal alcohol exposure. We know these disorders impacts at least 1 in every 20 children. Although FASD is the most common developmental disorder, it continues to be unrecognized, misdiagnosed, and unsupported. Only 10% of the FASD population is suspected to receive a correct diagnosis, which means many of the students in schools are not recognized or supported well. Learn more in the handout provided in this meeting. Currently, FASD is not specifically named or included in the IDEA special education services. Educators and school personnel, like school nurses, counselors, physicians collaborating with these school districts, are not trained on FASD. Ms. Thompson thanked Ms. Hancock.

- Ms. Thompson stated that Jamie Bouldin registered for public comment and was present for the meeting, but when facilitators checked in with her she did not wish 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 11:31 a.m.

Below is the link to the archived video recording of the September 16, 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](#)