

Texas School Health Advisory Committee (TSHAC)

Monday, February 24, 2025

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 10:00 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 24, 2025, meeting.

Member name	Attended	Member name	Attended
RJ Alvarado, MA	Y	Li-Yu Mitchell, MD, MHS	Y
Caitlin Bollier, MS	Y	Dianna Pierson, MPH, BSN, RN	Y
Regina Bryan, MSN, RN	Y	Eduardo Rios, Chair	Y
Barney Fudge	Y	Maria Rivera, MD, MPH	N
Julie Gardner, PhD, CHES	N	Pete Silvius, MS	Y
Bena Glasscock, LPC	Y	Hollie Smith, MSN, RN	Y
Shannon Hoffman, MPAff, MSW, LCDC	N	William Stout, PhD	Y
Michael Kelly, PhD	Y	Sharon Vigil, MEd	Y
Violita McDonald, MSN, RN	Y	George Woods, PhD	Y

Mr. Eduardo Rios, Chair, 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 Brett Spencer and Hayden Evans to introduce themselves.

Agenda Item 2: Consideration of September 16, 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 September 16, 2024, meeting.

Motion: Ms. RJ Alvarado moved to approve the minutes as presented from the September 16, 2024, meeting. Mr. Pete Silvius seconded the motion. Following a roll call vote, the motion passed by a majority vote with Thirteen (13) Approve (Alvarado, Bollier, Fudge, Glasscock, McDonald, Mitchell, Pierson, Rios, Silvius, Smith, Stout, Vigil, Woods) and Five (5) Absent (Bryan, Gardner, Hoffman, Kelly, Rivera).

Agenda Item 3: Updates from the DSHS School Health Program

Mr. Eduardo Rios, Chair, reintroduced Ms. Dianna Pierson, School Health Team Lead and School Nurse Consultant, to give updates on the DSHS School Health Program (SHP). Highlights of the presentation included:

- Ms. Pierson shared that the updates will cover SHP projects and accomplishments of 2024 and plans for 2025. She shared a high-level overview of the strategies the SHP are using to reach goals. SHP applies the Whole School, Whole Community, Whole Child (WSCC) Model to promote health and prevent chronic diseases in schools and beyond by providing school health leadership and support and developing rules and guidance. She then shared the 10 components. Given the scope and capacity of the program, SHP are unable to work on all the components and align activities with the agency and section priorities.
- Ms. Pierson shared the program's goals, which align with the CDC Cooperative Agreement to achieve the following outcomes.
 - Increase number of schools with an action plan based on the completion of CDC's School Health Index (SHI);
 - Increase implementation of evidence-based:
 - Comprehensive School Physical Activity Programs (CSPAP);
 - school nutrition and food security policies and practices;
 - health services policies, and practices that support students with chronic health conditions;
 - Increase physical activity, healthy dietary behaviors, and self-management of chronic health conditions among students in the priority local education agency and corresponding schools.
- The SHP is implementing two new strategies to achieve the goals. These strategies are to provide statewide support; and the implementation of local activities in a priority local education agency (LEA) which is a school district within ESC 1 and corresponding schools. She shared accomplishments for each strategy thus far.
 - Strategy 1: The SHP has established and maintained a state-level school health leadership coalition while establishing new and strengthening existing partnerships to better support school health policies, practices, programs, and services through the Texas Coordinated School Health Partnership. She also mentioned that the SHP provided statewide professional development, school health program and partners such as AFHK, ESC 1, PHR 11, HHSC, and TEA, have all worked together to provide relevant PD opportunities.
 - Strategy 2: As part of a School Health Index Assessment, SHP encouraged the Priority LEA, La Villa ISD, to create a School Health Team. La Villa ISD chose to focus on their elementary school first as a way to follow the same children over the next 5 years and therefore included team members that work with elementary students and within the scope

of elementary school practices. The SHP started working with La Villa on their SHI before our statewide partner had developed the statewide training so many of the professional development events with La Villa ISD were conducted as hands-on workshops between the school district and ESC 1. A total of two SHI's have been completed and as part of ESC1's work, ESC 1 worked closely with La Villa Elementary to complete the SHI modules and build an Action Plan for the school. SHP provided support for the implementation of the La Villa ISD School Health Fair and 5K. This was the second year of the school's 5K and the first year to incorporate a school health fair. SHP has provided TA throughout the year to ESC 1 and La Villa ISD to support SHI and Action Plan Activities such as building a walking infrastructure around the school.

- Connecting Strategies 1 and 2, SHP traveled to ESC 1's School Health Conference in July of 2023 to conduct professional development relating to medications for respiratory distress policies, SHI, and SHACs
- The SHP is well-positioned to further increase statewide school health infrastructure in Years two through five. The program will continue to expand statewide PD and TA opportunities for Texas school health professionals, LEAs, schools, and SHACs.

Ms. Bena Glasscock asked if the TA provided to La Villa ISD was documented so it can be shared with other schools. Ms. Pierson said she will confirm with the SHP team and will follow up via email. Mr. Rios thanked Ms. Pierson.

Agenda Item 4: Presentation from the DSHS Chronic Disease Epidemiology Branch on School Health Data Among Children and Adolescents in Texas

Mr. Eduardo Rios, Chair, introduced Mr. Jude Batoon, Epidemiology Team Lead, DSHS Chronic Disease Epidemiology Branch. Mr. Batoon presented a summary of information on school health data among children adolescents in Texas. Highlights of the presentation included:

- Mr. Batoon shared the outline of the presentation and what will be discussed. He then started with what the Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS) is. The YRBS is part of a nationwide effort to learn more about the health-related behaviors that contribute to the leading causes of death and poor health among high school youth and adults. The surveys are anonymous and voluntary, is administered every two years, and parents have the ability to review questions before their child participates. It is the only state and national dataset that tells us about youth health and behavioral risk factors over time. He shared the YRBS subject areas, including obesity and asthma, dietary behaviors, and physical activity.
- Mr. Batoon shared that public and private health authorities at the federal and state levels rely on YRBS to identify public health problems, design policy and

interventions, set goals, and measure progress toward those goals. This surveillance can be used to monitor the Healthy People 2030 Objectives for smoking, overweight, exercise, seat belt use, fruit/vegetable consumption, alcohol consumption, drug use, and other risk factors so that intervention priorities can be established, and the long-term impact of health promotion programs can be monitored.

- Ms. Batoon then delved into the results. The asthma prevalence was a little over 20% for both 2019 and 2021; and obesity prevalence estimates ranged between 16.9% and 22.1% between 2019-2023. With 2021 asthma data, the team observed that black high school students had the highest prevalence with 29.7% while there are no significant sex-specific difference. With 2023 obesity data, the team observed that male high school students had a slightly higher prevalence of 20.1% vs 16.7% among female students and Hispanic high school students had the highest prevalence with 22.3%. There was a slight increasing trend for eating vegetables 3 or more times per day and a slight decreasing trend of drinking soda one or more times per day. It is clear there is a lot of work to be done to increase vegetable intake and reduce soda consumption among high school students. Overall, the percent of high school students is relatively stable hovering between 42-48%. Male students have higher estimates than female students with 50-56% of males compared to 34-40% of female students. White and students of other race/ethnicities reported an increasing trend and looking at 2021 and 2023 data, both white and students of other race/ethnicities reported higher prevalence estimates than black or Hispanic students.
- Mr. Batoon shared key takeaways that The YRBS data offers robust findings on the state of school-aged adolescents in terms of activity, nutrition, and chronic disease management. YRBS results show that only 12% of high school students ate non-fried vegetables more than or equal to 3 times each day while 18% drank a can or bottle of soda more than or equal to 1 time each day. Male, white, and HS students of other race/ethnicities have higher physical activity levels than female, Black, and Hispanic students, respectively.
- Mr. Batoon shared that these results carry implications and opportunities for success. One opportunity is through continuing to increase encouragement of health food access and intake while discouraging unhealthy food access. Another would be to implement physical activity before and during school hours while building a comprehensive school physical activity program. For opportunities to involve families, we could promote coordination of chronic condition management by providing disease-specific education and communication to parents and families of students with chronic health conditions. For long-term change, we could increase use of school health improvement plans to bolster school wellness policy projects and activities.

Ms. Sharon Vigil asked how school districts have access to this information. She followed up asking if there any conversations about the recommendations, including the change in potential school policy and school behavior. Mr. Batoon shared schools have access to this information through the YRBS dashboard, DSHS website, and reaching out to the DSHS SHP. Ms. Vigil and Mr. Rios thanked Mr. Batoon.

Mr. Rios announced the committee will take a 15-minute break at 10:43 a.m.
43:39

Agenda Item 5: Update from the Texas Education Agency and Texas Department of Agriculture

Mr. Eduardo Rios, Chair, reconvened the Texas School Health Advisory Committee (TSHAC) meeting at 10:58 a.m. Ms. Jacqueline Thompson, ACCO, HSSC Ms. Thompson conducted the member roll call and announced the presence of quorum.

Mr. Rios took a moment to welcome new members and asked for each of them to share some information on their background, experience, and why they wanted to join the committee.

(53:21) Mr. Rios recognized Mr. Barney Fudge to provide updates from the Texas Education Agency. Highlights of the update included:

- Mr. Fudge shared TEA school health survey is open and active to receive responses. There was a TEA To the Administrator addressed letter that posted on February 20, 2025, announcing that the TEA school health survey is open through May 30, 2025. School districts can start accessing the survey directly from the letter. The survey questions are also attached to the survey letter.
- Mr. Rios thanked Mr. Fudge.

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

- Ms. Steele shared TDA is continuing to expand the Texas Farm Fresh initiative, TDA's comprehensive farm-to-school and farm-to-child care support and projects incentivizing schools to purchase local products, understand how to use those products, and to prepare fresh menu items using those products.
- Ms. Steele shared TDA is continuing their Farm Fresh Challenge, which is a friendly annual challenge between school districts in October to try new fresh, local products, to promote their efforts on social media to inform parents, and educate their students where the food is coming from.
- Ms. Steele shared TDA is continuing to administer USDA's Local Food for Schools grant statewide and working on their application for a second potential round.
- Ms. Steele shared USDA has published their Farm-to-School Census, which is conducted every five years. There were increases in the amount of farm-to-school initiatives, projects, and money spent in Texas.

- Ms. Steele shared TDA is continuing their training initiatives. One new initiative is a collaboration with the Culinary Institute of America (CIA) to provide school nutrition professionals with hands-on training to be able to incorporate fresh products, understand all that is required for timing in the kitchen, and preparation of those products in a practical way for a school meal setting.
- Ms. Steele shared TDA is continuing to encourage participation and engagement from schools in these initiatives. They have recognition awards that are given annually at the TDA conference and presented by the commissioner. The Farm Fresh media campaign will come out around October to promote the initiative and to insight more engagement from the public.
- Ms. Steele shared TDA is working on student engagement. There is another grant with USDA, the MyPlate Grant. TDA's partners in this are AgriLife Extension, AgriLife Research, and Take Action for Healthy Kids. TDA is recruiting high school ambassadors to be leaders, talk about MyPlate, and to help teach in after-school settings more about the MyPlate program.
- Ms. Steele shared TDA supports the agricultural producers and help them understand how they sell to schools, what schools are looking to buy, what types of schedules, and what their procurement rules are in using federal funds. Producers can join the Farm Fresh network, where they get visibility from schools and can receive training and information from TDA.
- Ms. Steele shared TDA is working with AgriLife on Fresh Trays Program. They will be establishing producer trainings at the regional AgriLife offices for producers. Local network opportunities will be set up between schools and producers to learn more about the products that are available in their area.
- Ms. Steele shared upcoming events:
 - Annual School Breakfast Week: March 3-7
 - Texas Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Day: April 4
 - TDA Annual Conference (MegaCon): May 21-23
- Mr. Rios thanked Ms. Steele.

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

Ms. Sharon Vigil asked if it's appropriate to talk about any legislative bills that would impact the work of TSHAC and schools. Mr. Rios stated that after session is over, TEA usually provides a roll up of any applicable legislation that would impact school health and how it's being interpreted. Ms. Thompson shared that in order to discuss legislation pending before the house and the senate, TSHAC would need to

have it as an agenda item. If there was to be a before the end of session, the committee could focus on that, but otherwise the next meeting is not scheduled until September 8, 2025. Ms. Vigil and Mr. Rios thank Ms. Thompson. Mr. Rios shared that we could add an agenda item in the fall to review what has been passed.

Dr. Kelly asked if we have resources on the TSHAC website related to 504 plans for children who need accommodations school districts may easily use to establish those plans. Mr. Brett Spencer, DSHS Health Promotion Unit Director, responded there are resources on the SHP website. DSHS will check to see if we have something specific to 504 plans, but there are a number on special health care needs and other topics that probably include stipulations you'll want to consider in 504 plans.

Ms. RJ Alvarado asked those who work in school districts how the measles outbreak is affecting them and what kind of impact are school districts seeing. Ms. Hollie Smith responded that there hasn't been an impact in Tarrant County, but they are preparing. They are educating their staff in what to look for. She has contacts with their local health authority for when they might see it.

Ms. Dianna Pierson wanted to respond to Mr. Kelly's question. She shared that on the SHP webpage, in the Texas Guide to School Health Services under Special Healthcare Needs, there are the resources needed for Section 504 in schools. Mr. Kelly and Mr. Rios thanked Ms. Pierson.

Ms. Bena Glasscock wanted to circle back to Ms. Vigil's question. She shared the TSNO representatives may be keeping a running tab on school nurse legislation. She asked if DSHS also keeps a running list of legislation being filed. Ms. Pierson responded that DSHS internally keeps a running list of bills being filed. Ms. Glasscock asked if the list is posted somewhere that the committee could look out of curiosity. Mr. Spencer responded that the SHP does look at legislation that is filed that could impact TSHAC or our program. We do internal bill analysis, but that is not something we can share externally. It's for our own agency response to legislative questions. Know that we are monitoring that and as Mr. Rios mentioned, around the September meeting we should have a good summary of what passed and the outcomes. We hesitate to comment on any bills filed until they actually pass because they change a lot as they go through the session. It will be a more complete discussion in September when we are through the session and know what passes, what doesn't, and what those bills that do pass end up looking like.

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, September 8, 2025.

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 11:27 a.m.

Below is the link to the archived video recording of the February 24, 2025, 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](#)