

School Health Advisory Council (SHAC)

Meeting Minutes

09/17/2025

Virtual

In attendance: Kelsie Bednarz, Kelly Clark, Wendy Duemmler, Kasha Giddins, Amy McAteer-Jones, Dan McCloskey, Jarrod McCraw, Colon Moore, Wendy Nielsen, Ashley Ponscheck, Christine Skrutowski, Dylan Stamey, Belle Walker, Charlee Williams

Minutes Approved from meeting 5/14/2024.

Goal 1 Community Collaborative regarding Drug/Tobacco Vaping and Substance Use Disorder

- Kasha Giddins. A substance abuse educator has been hired Kiersten Weigert. She will be coordinating a pilot in conjunction with Tommy Gallis from the UCSO at Porter Ridge Middle and High and Sun Valley Middle and High.

Goal 2- Establish and strengthen mental health support for UCPS student population. Goals to increase Mental Health Therapists, Social Workers, and expand teletherapy, and crisis response team efforts

- Kasha Giddins. Teletherapy was expanded in UCPS in 23/24. We are hoping to expand teletherapy into additional middle and high schools this year. Play therapy worked well in 23/24. Our Play therapist resigned recently and they are currently looking to fill that position again through the collaborative. UCPS is hoping to expand the play therapy program to more schools this year. DPI will be collecting mental health data starting 9/30/2024. Belle Walker is setting up a meeting with Student Support Team to further discuss data that will be collected.

Open Discussion

- **Wendy Nielsen** SHAC report was submitted in August and we are awaiting feedback. The parent Rep for SHAC (Joanne Cordova) is no longer available to participate and has asked to be removed. The UCPS student rep (Kelcey Griffin) has graduated. Kasha and Belle will work on replacement student, possibly multiple students to participate on SHAC. Family Engagement Liaison (Linda O'Connor) will also be invited to participate on SHAC. There was a discussion about starting SHAC meetings at 3:00 for the remainder of this year. Participants agreed to the new start time.
- **Kelsie Bednarz** stated the Triennial Assessment will be due this coming summer 2025. Kelsie will be resigning in October and plans to discuss this assessment with her replacement.
- **Amy McAteer-Jones** expressed how thankful she is for the Free Lunch program at the two schools she serves. Prospect and East Elementary. She feels strongly this makes a big difference in a student's day. Kelsie Bednarz commented that last year we went from 3 schools having free lunch program to 17 schools having it. Online applications may be removing some of the barrier for parents to sign up for free lunch and are seen as a positive.

Remaining SHAC meetings of 24/25 year will be held virtually on 11/19/24, 3/18/25, and 5/20/25.