



Child Health Advisory Committee

Minutes

May 14, 2026, · 9:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.

Call to order: 9:03 a.m.

Zoom Meeting

Present: Ashten Black, Shannon Borchert, Patrick Casey, Carol Garner, Nathan Morris, Jennifer Morrow, Lisa Mundy, Dave Oberembt, Carmel Perry, Elaine Prewitt, Camille Richoux, Ray Samaniego, Anna Strong, Jennifer Wessel

Absent: Wendy Blount, Teresa Henson, Bala Simon

Staff: Shanetta Agnew

Guests: David Bailey, Sarah Brisco, Amy Davidson, Sarah Labuda, Lindsay McGhee, Ariel Rogers, Laken Ross, Rosemary Withers

Review of March & April minutes: S. Borchert moved to accept the minutes. L. Mundy seconded. Motion passed.

Act 1220 & Coordinated School Health Reports: Reports are changed from the previous meeting. S. Borchert moved to accept the reports C. Perry seconded. Motion passed.

MARCH, Act 1220 Coordinator Report (Shanetta Agnew & Shy Whitley):

- S. Agnew attended the Arkansas Delta Community Connections 1st Quarter Meeting on March 4, 2026. The theme was *“Addiction, Recovery, Community Impact, and What Local Leaders Can Do to Help”*.
- School Health Staff (ADE & ADH) meeting was held March 10, 2026. The Wellness & Prevention Team provided content area updates on the following:
 - AR App: 2024-2025 Data and 2025-2026 Updates and Webinars
 - Student Wellness Advocacy Groups
 - CHAC updates: Mental Health Recommendations
 - Surveillance News: 2026 School Health Profile Districts; 2025 YRBS Trends
 - CSH: Blytheville Priority District; new and Existing Partners
- S. Agnew attended Concord High School Wellness & SWAG meeting on March 19, 2026
- S. Agnew toured the El Dorado SBHC on March 30, 2026

AR App technical assistance webinars:

- Session 1 was held on Wednesday March 18, 2026, at 2:00p.m. 170 registrants attended.
- Session 2 was held on Thursday March 19, 2026, at 10:00a.m. 132 registrants attended.



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The technical assistance sessions included:

- Guidance related to completing the Safe & Healthy Schools section of the AR App (Sections 2.1-2.7)
- Guidance on how to utilize the SHI Assessment results to inform the district-level health and wellness goals
- Q&A

APRIL, Act 1220 Coordinator Report (Shanetta Agnew & Shy Whitley):

- S. Agnew attended a “**Partnering for Prevention: Strategies for BMI Screening and Diabetes Prevention for School-Aged Children**” webinar held April 2, 2026. The School-Based Health Alliance webinar examined the vital role of school-based BMI screening and diabetes prevention in promoting whole child health. Participants explored prevention-driven approaches from innovative health center and school collaborations that foster student and family engagement and encourage healthy behaviors that support long-term well-being.
- S. Agnew attended a “**Time Limits Across Economic Mobility Programs: Lessons from SNAP and Emerging Risks for Health and Housing**” webinar held April 6, 2026
 - The history and policy design of time limits in SNAP;
 - Evidence of their impact on hunger, health, and economic stability;
 - Lessons from state-level pilot programs and administrative implementation; and
 - What expansion into healthcare and housing could mean for vulnerable communities.

The Public Health 2026: Read, Set, Action Conference was held April 9-10 at the NLR Event Center.

Hosted by the following:

- Arkansas Chronic Disease Coordination Council (ACDCC)
- Arkansas Society for Public Health Education (ARSOPHE)
- Arkansas Public Health Association (ArkPHA)

Coordinated School Health Advisor Report (Lisa Mundy & Ariel Rogers):

The Coordinated School Health Quarterly Statewide Meeting will be held via Zoom May 13, 2026, from 8:30a.m.-11:30a.m. **Number of attendees: 56. Presentations included the following:**

- Child Nutrition Updates
- Teens and Energy Drink Consumption, UAMS
- Arkansas Children’s Nutrition Center: Center for Obesity and its Consequences in Health (COACH Clinic)

Old Business:

Approval to revise the 2020 CHAC recommendation on e-cigarette education to include language addressing other emerging nicotine products. S. Borchert moved to accept the revised recommendation. R. Samaniego seconded. Motion passed.



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New Business:

Presentation: Lindsay McGhee, School-Based Mental Health Coordinator, DESE “Care Solace Program, Crisis Recovery Network Project, & Working with districts to promote mental health” (Slides are below)




2025-2026 PROJECTS




Expanded Access to Mental Health & Social Services Statewide. All Arkansas school districts now have access to Care Solace's no cost care coordination services for students, staff, & families.

- **Comprehensive Support:** Connects individuals to mental health care, substance use treatment, and social services (including food, housing, & medical/dental care).
- **24/7/365 Multilingual Care Companion Team:** Provides confidential, personalized help in finding and scheduling care.
- **Easy Access:** Support available via self service search or Warm Handoff referrals made by school staff.
- **Aligned with ADE's Commitment:** Promoting student and staff well-being through equitable access to resources.



Crisis Recovery Network

- Aims to train 40 counselors from every SREB state (37 in AR were trained)
- PREPaRE Workshop; psychological first aid training
- Volunteer basis: deploy for 3-5 days if a school-impacting crisis happens (natural disasters, mass destruction, or mass casualty events)
- Provide support for a full year following a crisis, filling a critical gap between crisis management and crisis recovery



DIVISION OF ELEMENTARY & SECONDARY EDUCATION

School-Based Mental Health Coordinator Spring Meeting

- Roughly doubled the reach from 2025 to 2026
- Partnered with UA Partners: Autism Spectrum Disorder (how to recognize ASD, appropriate engagement to avoid escalation, evidence-based strategies for supporting a person with ASD, resources/referrals for services/supports)
- Partnered with The Center for Good Mourning: Managing Grief & Loss; Community Trauma



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ARKANSAS TRIS



tris-ar.org



Equipping Schools to respond to the impact of trauma

The Arkansas Trauma Resource Initiative for Schools (TRIS) provides training and resources to school personnel of K-12 schools in Arkansas to recognize and respond to the impact of trauma on students.

Download the Crisis Support Toolkit

Your step-by-step guide to support your school community immediately following a difficult event.

ARKANSAS CENTER FOR SCHOOL MENTAL HEALTH

- Newly-formed nonprofit
- Conference in April 2026
- Dan Siegel, Jess Harris, Allison Massari
- 250 attendees
- Sessions on de-escalation, motivational interviewing, mental health screeners, managing student behavior, etc





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CHAC received an overview of statewide school-based mental health initiatives, including the **Care Solace Program**, which provides 24/7 care-coordination and navigation support to help students, families, and staff access mental health and substance-use services; the **Crisis Recovery Network Project**, which strengthens districts' capacity to respond to and recover from school-based crises through trained teams and trauma-informed post-incident supports; and ongoing collaboration with districts to **promote mental health** by building sustainable systems, offering professional development, and integrating evidence-based practices that enhance school climate, family engagement, and access to community-based care.

Member & Non-Member Updates/Announcements:

- J. Wessel shared with the group the Governor's executive order on creating a council on physical fitness. C. Garner has started pulling some history together on PE recommendations, etc. A. Strong mentioned American Academy of Pediatrics recently updated affirmed its commitment to school recess.
- S. Labuda gave a recap about the Children's Environmental Health Seminar (internal meeting) held May 13, 2026, at the Arkansas Department of Health (ADH) auditorium. Representatives were from the Pediatric Environmental Health unit from region 6. The focus was on lead-level exposure and safe places; water testing is being completed at ADH for daycares and schools. Pediatricians typically screen for lead in children at 12 and 24 months; but water is another environmental source where kids can be exposed to.
- Arkansas Advocates for Children's & Families will host their Kids Counts 101 Medicaid Policy Information on June 25, 2026, at 1:00p.m. via Zoom.
- D. Oberembt shared updates about the legislative session(s) and funds for the tobacco prevention and cessation programs.
- C. Garner provided an update about the dairy industry final rules allowing schools to use whole milk vs 2% milk. As a result, there might be some questions regarding the FY27 maximum portion size list, because it does not allow whole or 2% milk. J. Wessel mentioned the Arkansas Hunger Relief Alliance has a food atlas for Arkansas that has some content to address this issue. The release of the document will be provided this summer.
- A. Strong shared that Arkansas Academy of Pediatrics will host their annual pediatric conference, the keynote speaker is Tommy Martin; date to be shared later.



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Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82188157602?pwd=cMg1WAWAkNknHOSmxbWQTUWac2tOKA.1>

Meeting ID: 835 8229 5337 Passcode: 229369

One tap mobile: +1 646 931 3860 US, +1 301 715 8592 US (Washington DC)

State Board of Education are held monthly on the 2nd Thursday and Friday of each month.

May 13-14 at 9:00 am

June 9-10 at 9:00 am

State Board of Health meetings are held quarterly on the 4th Thursday of each month.

June 25 at 10:00 am