



Child Health Advisory Committee

Minutes

February 12, 2026, · 9:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.

Call to order: 9:05 a.m.

Zoom Meeting

**Present:** Wendy Blount, Shannon Borchert, Carole Garner, Teresa Henson, Jennifer Morrow, Lisa Mundy, Dave Oberembt, Carmel Perry, Elaine Prewitt, Camille Richoux, Bala Simon, Jennifer Wessel

**Absent:** Ashten Black, Pamela Burton (proxy), Patrick Casey, Nathan Morris, Ray Samaniego, Anna Strong

**Staff:** Shanetta Agnew & Shy Whitley-Smith

**Guests:** Meggi Augustosky, Sarah Brisco, Jerri Clark, Amy Davidson, Kenya Eddings, Lucas Harder, Taylor James, Cheria McDonald, Rhonda McDonald, Gwen Robinson, Ariel Rogers, Maicie Rush, Libby Seftar, Lynette Slaughter, Detrich Smith, Rosemary Withers

**Review of December & January minutes:** S. Borchert moved to accept the December minutes. L. Mundy seconded. Motion passed. T. Henson moved to accept the January minutes. S. Borchert seconded. Motion passed.

**Act 1220 & Coordinated School Health Reports:** Reports are changed from the January & February meeting. S Borchert moved to accept the reports from January & February, L. Mundy seconded. Motion passed.

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

The Arkansas Cancer Coalition hosted its quarterly meeting December 9, 2025. The presentation was from Zakiyyah Rasul, a Program Manager for the Coalition for Tobacco free Arkansas. She discussed “Tackling Food Insecurity in Arkansas Through Community Garden Programs”. A. Davidson, A. Rogers, S. Agnew., and S. Borchert attended the session.

S. Agnew attended Arkansas Minority Health Commission’s “Chat & Chew” on January 15, 2026. The focus was “*Rethink Your Drink*” and what beverages are healthy or non-healthy, what drinks contains a lot of sugar/low in calories. There was also a presentation on “*Southern Ain’t Fried Sundays*” which is a 21-day program via a dashboard. You can log your physical activity and food intake. The program also offers southern cuisine recipes, but with healthier alternatives.



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S. Agnew also attended the ADH Public Health Update; on January 20, 2026. The topics of discussion were pertussis, vaccinations, and measles. Some of the data shared:

- 500 cases of pertussis (whooping cough) reported in Arkansas in 2025
- 2,000 measles cases (nationally)
- 92.5% of students received vaccinations in the 2024-2025 school year

S. Whitley-Smith and J. Clark conducted School Health Index (SHI) technical assistance webinars on January 28th & January 30th. The webinars were for district wellness chairpersons and federal program coordinators regarding the completion of the 2025-2026 SHI assessment.

- 132 attendees were present on January 28th
- 78 attendees were present on January 30th

The due date for the SHI assessment reference numbers to be submitted to ADE is May 1, 2026.

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

No updates.

### **Old Business:**

J. Wessel shared an update with the committee about the FY26 Mental Health Recommendations. She met with some colleagues at DHS, and they made a comment for Medicaid beneficiaries who receive the psychiatric residential treatment are put into PASSE. These members have a service plan and care coordinator assigned to them. The staff at DHS are interested in presenting to CHAC about their services, explanation of the PASSE program, and the requests of schools.

J. Clark mentioned PASSE is for intensive need Medicaid beneficiaries any individual that requires behavioral health services will be rolled under PASSE. The idea of the program is to prevent barriers to getting individuals the services they need. Schools are excluded from the managed care model, but they offer Tier 1 behavioral health services (one-on-one) direct counseling. If a student needs Tier 2 or Tier 3 school personnel will need to work with the care coordinator.

J. Wessel stated if DHS can help standardize the discharge process and share information with residential treatment facilities and schools it would be beneficial.

The FY26 MH recommendations will be added to the revised document to be presented to the Board of Health. S. Borchert moved to approve the FY26 MH recommendations to be presented to the ADH Board of Health. D. Oberembt seconded. Motion passed.

### **New Business:**

No CHAC members needed approval of per diem for travel authorization.

Rhonda McDonald, R.N. Supervisor/Expert Northwest & Northeast Region & Libby Seftar, R.N. Supervisor/Expert Central, Southwest & Southeast Region. Co-presented on a 13-week curriculum called "Love Notes". Slides are presented below:



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Arkansas Department of Health

# LOVE NOTES



Empowering Arkansas Students with Relationship Skills

## WHAT IS LOVE NOTES?



- An evidence-based healthy relationship curriculum.
- Sexual Risk Avoidance Education
- Teaches decision-making, communication, boundaries, respect, consent, and relationship skills.
- Includes interactive activities, journals, videos, and scenario practice.
- Shown to reduce unwanted teen pregnancy outcomes by 46% in research settings.
- Students learn how to make wise choices about relationships, sexuality, pregnancy, partnering and more.





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## WHY LOVE NOTES

IS

**IMPORTANT**

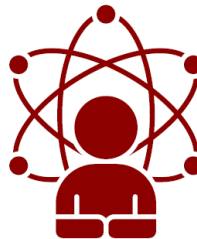


- Teaches relationship skills
- Supports emotional health
- Builds communication skills
- Educates on dating violence

Dating violence awareness is required for grades 7–12 in health courses annually. (Arkansas Code §6-16-1004)

## CORE CONTENT

- Knowing yourself
- Healthy vs unhealthy relationships
- Red flags
- Communication and conflict management skills
- Boundaries and consent
- Conflict resolution
- Decision-making and self-reflection
- How school, commitment, and babies impact's one's life outcome





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## **BENEFITS FOR SCHOOLS**

- Provides structured lesson plans and activities aligned with evidence-based standards
- Helps satisfy Arkansas dating violence awareness requirements in health courses
- Supports school climate by building relational skills
- Prepares students for safer interactions both in and out of school
- ADH Staff provides the program to the students
- It is free to schools through grant funding



## **PROGRAM STRUCTURE**



- Integrate Love Notes within Health, Family & Consumer Sciences, or class of choice
- Instructor-led sessions
- Group discussions, interactive activities, journals, and partner work
- Entrance and Exit Survey
- 13 Lessons, requiring the entire class period



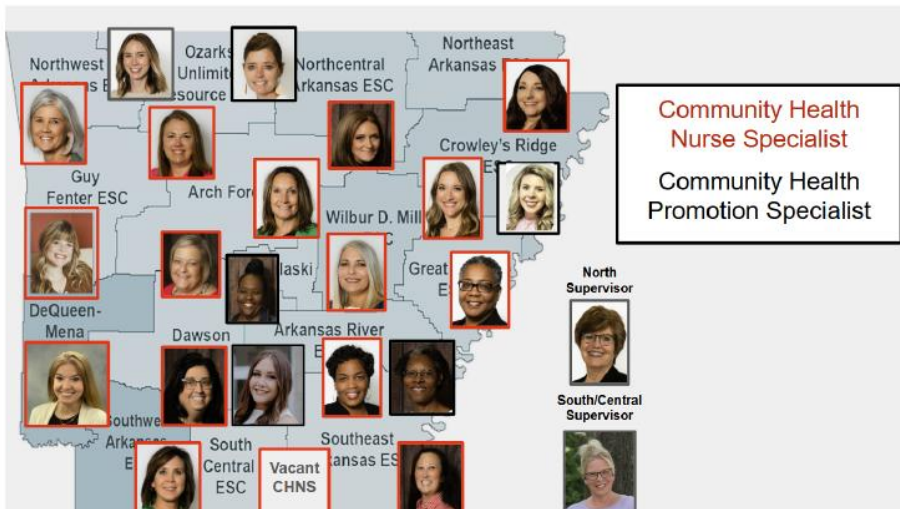
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## OUTCOMES & IMPACT

- Improves relationships with family, friends, and adults
- Better communications with all relationships
- Increased confidence
- Reduces risky behaviors

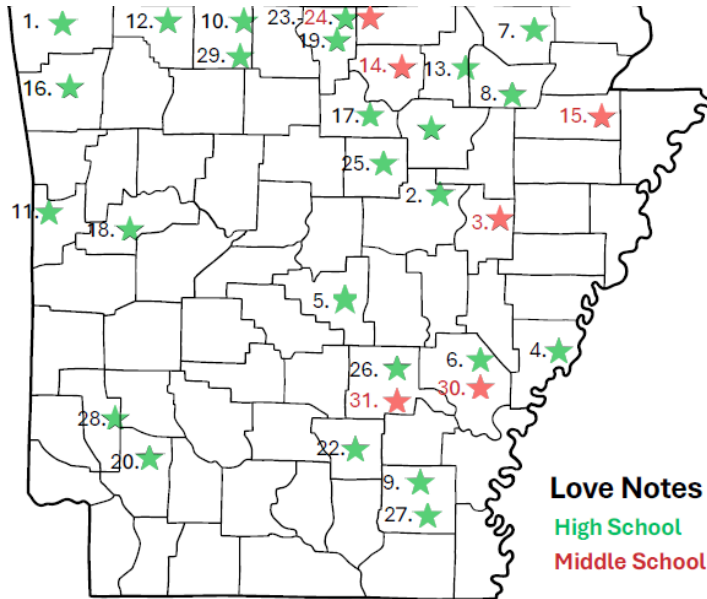




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Schools

- 1. Rogers (4)
- 2. Bald Knob (2)
- 3. **McCrory MS**
- 4. Marvell-Elaine
- 5. Sylvan Hills (3)
- 6. Stuttgart
- 7. Maynard
- 8. Walnut Ridge
- 9. Drew Central
- 10. Valley Springs (2)
- 11. Southside Fort Smith (4)
- 12. Green Forest (2)
- 13. Highland (2)
- 14. **Calico Rock MS**
- 15. **Douglas MacArthur MS**
- 16. Farmington A & B
- 17. Mountain View (2)
- 18. Magazine
- 19. Norfolk
- 20. Hope
- 21. Marked Tree
- 22. Rison
- 23. Guy Berry
- 24. **Guy Berry MS**
- 25. Concord
- 26. Focus ALE
- 27. Monticello
- 28. Cossatot River
- 29. Bergman
- 30. **Stuttgart MS**
- 31. **Focus ALE MS**

Love Notes

High School

Middle School

County	School	HS/MS	Repeat
Arkansas	Stuttgart	HS	1
	Stuttgart	MS	1
Baxter	Norfolk	HS	1
	Guy Berry	HS	1
	Guy Berry	MS	1
Benion	Rogers	HS	4
Boone	Valley Springs	HS	2
	Bergman	HS	1
Carroll	Green Forest	HS	2
Cleburne	Concord	HS	1
Cleveland	Rison	HS	1
Craighead	Douglas MacArthur	HS	1
	Douglas MacArthur	MS	1
Drew	Drew Central	HS	1
	Monticello	MS	1
Hempstead	Hope	HS	1
Howard	Cossatot River	HS	1
Izard	Calico Rock	MS	1
Jefferson	Focus ALE	HS	1
	Focus ALE	MS	1
Lawrence	Walnut Ridge	HS	1
Logan	Magazine	HS	1
Phillips	Marval Elaine	HS	1
Poinsett	Marked Tree	HS	1
Pulaski	Sherwood	HS	3
Randolph	Maynard	HS	1
Sebastian	Southside-Fort Smith	HS	4
Sharp	Highland	HS	2
Stone	Mountain View	HS	2
Washington	Farmington	HS	1
White	Bald Knob	HS	2
Woodruff	McCrory	MS	1

2025 62 Classes  
 2026 54 Classes  
 Completed Classes 66  
 Total Students Reached 18,653





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CHAC members and guests appreciated and enjoyed the information shared.

J. Clark wanted to know if sexual violence, human trafficking was included in the lesson plans, R. McDonald shared there are some supplemental lessons that teachers can choose for their class that are discussing more sensitive topics. B. Simon asked if the curriculum referenced ACEs and linked the student to the school counselor. L. Seftar stated not at the present moment, but there is training for presenters to be aware of students with trauma related incidents. They will look into making those references in the future and will be providing a post curriculum survey with the teachers.

### **Member & Non-Member Updates/Announcements:**

- B. Simon shared the Arkansas Public Health Association (APHA) Annual Conference is scheduled for April 9-10, 2026 at the North Little Rock Event Center. APHA is partnering with Arkansas Society of Public Health Educators and the Arkansas Chronic Disease Coordinating Council. They are requesting abstracts, presenters, and booth vendors for the upcoming event.
- C. Richoux informed the group that Arkansas Advocates is having a Central Arkansas Soup Sunday held on March 1, 2026, from 3:30p.m.-6:30p.m. at the Jack Stephens Center University of Arkansas Little Rock. [Central Arkansas Soup Sunday 2026 Arkansas Advocates for Children and Families \(AACF\)](#)



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Join Zoom Meeting:

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

Meeting ID: **821 8815 7602** Passcode: **19qdYW**

One tap mobile +1 301 715 8592, 821 881 57602 US (Washington DC)

*State Board of Education are held monthly on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday and Friday of each month.*

*February 12-13 at 9:00 am*

*March 12-13 at 9:00 am*

*April 9-10 at 9:00 am*

*May 13-14 at 9:00 am*

*June 9-10 at 9:00 am*

*State Board of Health meetings are held quarterly on the 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of each month.*

*March 26 at 10:00 am*

*June 25 at 10:00 am*