



Child Health Advisory Committee

Minutes

June 12, 2025, · 9:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m. · Zoom

Call to order: 9:00 a.m.

Zoom Meeting

Present: Shannon Borchert, Patrick Casey, Jerri Clark, Carole Garner, Lucas Harder, Teresa Henson, Jazmine Martinez (member elect), Cheria McDonald, Nathan Morris, Dave Oberembt, Carmel Perry, Camille Richoux, Ray Samanigo, Bala Simon, Jennifer Wessel, Tammie Works **Absent:** Ashten Black, Jennifer Morrow, Elaine Prewitt, Chad Sanders

Staff: Shanetta Agnew, Shy Whitley-Smith

Guests: Amy Davidson, Kenya Eddings, Taylor James, Amber King, Lisa Mundy, Ariel Rogers, Anna Strong and Ashley-Young Golden

Review of May minutes: C. McDonald moved to accept the minutes, D. Oberembt seconded. Motion passed.

Act 1220 & Coordinated School Health Reports: T. Works moved to accept the reports; D. Oberembt seconded. Motion passed.

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

Shanetta A. & Ariel R. (CSH) attended the North Little Rock School District Quarter 4 District Wellness Team Meeting-End of the Year Review on May 21, 2025. The committee topic discussions: District Wellness Policy, review of 2024-2025 NLRSD SHI Data Overview, and School Health Index Review & AR App Goals for FY25-FY26 school year.

Shy W. and Jeri C. have attended 8 AR App training sessions since April with a final AR App training on the 29th of the month. Reports are all due on AR App June 30th then we will begin the review process.

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

The 4th quarterly CSH meeting was held May 14, 2025. The meeting covered the annual school nurse survey, new school legislation, School Health Index, and the new AR App school reporting method. 55 school personnel representing 51 LEAs; 26 state agency and school health coalition partners (ADE, ADH, UAMS, and the Office of Emergency Management-State Fire Marshal's Office).

Eddie Anderson of OEM gave an overview of the free fire safety curriculum for elementary schools.

New Business:

Officer Elections: J. Wessel volunteered to continue serving as Chair. J. Wessel accepted the nomination. C. Richoux shared with the core team prior to the June CHAC meeting she will continue to serve as Vice-Chair. D. Oberembt moved for J. Wessel and C. Richoux to serve as Chair and Vice-Chair respectively. Dr. B. Simon seconded the motion. The motion passed.



Child Health Advisory Committee

Minutes

June 12, 2025, · 9:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m. · Zoom

Anna Strong, Executive Director, MPH, MPS & Outreach Coordinator, Ashley-Young-Golden with Arkansas Chapter of American Academy of Pediatrics (ARAAP) presented the following slides below:

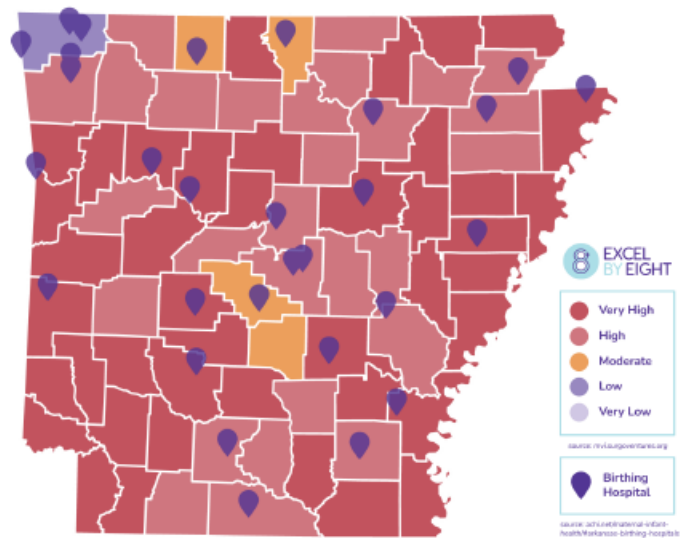
Setting the Stage and Planning for Change

- Arkansas ranks:
 - 4th for maternal mortality
 - 2nd for teen births
 - 3rd for infant mortality
 - Annual births ~35,000, and 66% are financed by Medicaid
- Arkansas Medicaid has provided 1.8% fee-for-service increase to pediatric care rates in the last 15 years

- Enter 

1

Maternal Vulnerability in Arkansas



An evidence-based, interdisciplinary pediatric primary care program that promotes nurturing parenting and healthy development for babies and toddlers, particularly in areas where there have been persistent inequities for families of color or with low incomes.

HealthySteps Specialists are integrated into the pediatric team to provide short-term behavior/development consultation and referrals, intensive services when needed, and support practice screening efforts.



Child Health Advisory Committee

Minutes

June 12, 2025, · 9:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m. · Zoom



Pediatric Setting

ACCESS

Almost all families take their babies to see a pediatric primary care provider

TRUST

Parents trust their pediatric primary care provider

ACCEPTED

The pediatric office is a non-stigmatizing setting

FREQUENT

New parents attend 12-13 well-child visits within the first 3 years of life; half occur in the first year

3 © 2021 ZERO TO THREE. Use of these materials is expressly limited to Programs approved by the HealthySteps™ National Office (Program) and which are a part of the HealthySteps™ National Network for the sole purpose of implementation and delivery of the Program. Adaptations, reproductions, revisions, excerpts, derivatives including but not limited to translations, and other exploitation of the materials are expressly forbidden without the prior written authorization of ZERO TO THREE.



Tiers of Service Delivery

SERVICES INCLUDE

TIER 3

COMPREHENSIVE SERVICES
FAMILIES MOST AT RISK



Ongoing, preventive team-based well-child visits

TIER 2

SHORT-TERM SUPPORT
MILD CONCERNS



Child development & behavior consults
Care coordination & systems navigation
Positive parenting guidance & information
Early learning resources

TIER 1

UNIVERSAL SERVICES



Child developmental, social-emotional & behavioral screenings

Screening for family needs
-MATERNAL DEPRESSION
-OTHER RISK FACTORS
-SOCIAL DETERMINANTS OF HEALTH

Family support line
-PHONE, TEXT, EMAIL, ONLINE PORTAL





Child Health Advisory Committee

Minutes

June 12, 2025, · 9:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m. · Zoom



5 © 2023 ZERO TO THREE. All rights reserved.



National Average: Short-Term Medicaid Cost Savings



CHILD-FOCUSED INTERVENTIONS

- Oral health
- Asthma*
- Appropriate use of care for ambulatory sensitive conditions
- Flu vaccine



ADULT-FOCUSED INTERVENTIONS

- Breastfeeding
- Postpartum maternal depression
- Intimate partner violence
- Healthy birth spacing
- Smoking cessation

Average Annual Savings to Medicaid (national)

163% AVERAGE ANNUAL ROI

Includes analyses at state, health system, and site levels with both well-established and new sites, leveraging the HealthySteps cost savings model developed by Manatt Health.

For every \$1 invested in HealthySteps, an estimated \$2.63 in savings is realized by state Medicaid agencies each year.

*Asthma is a *recently* added cost savings intervention and therefore is not captured in the 163% annual ROI calculation.

6 © 2021 ZERO TO THREE. All rights reserved.





Child Health Advisory Committee

Minutes

June 12, 2025, · 9:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m. · Zoom

Initial HealthySteps Demonstration in Arkansas



Arkansas Chapter

American Academy of Pediatrics
DEDICATED TO THE HEALTH OF ALL CHILDREN



Act 513 of 2023:

Supplemental \$3.44 PMPM in Medicaid PCMH began 1/1/24

- The Arkansas Medicaid Program shall:
 - (1) Provide a supplemental reimbursement rate for physician practices enrolled in the patient-centered medical home program that currently and actively participate in a team-based, evidence-based pediatric practice transformation model of care; and
 - (2) Collaborate with experts in pediatric health care to select the team-based, evidence-based pediatric practice transformation models of care most appropriate for use with the patient-centered medical home program.
- The supplemental reimbursement rate described in subsection (c) of this section shall:
 - (1) Supplement fee-for-service wellness visit rates in a child's medical home from birth until a child's fourth birthday;
 - (2) Support the physician practices enrolled in the patient centered medical home program to employ interdisciplinary staff required to implement the patient-centered medical home program; and
 - (3) Be reviewed periodically in conjunction with future Medicaid rate reviews for physician services.



Child Health Advisory Committee

Minutes

June 12, 2025, · 9:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m. · Zoom

Additional Sustainability and Perinatal Health Efforts

- Medicaid Reimbursement for Pediatrician-Recommended Screenings (administrative)
 - Maternal Depression \$3.86
 - Developmental Screenings \$8.80
- Integrated Behavioral Health by employed team members (administrative)
 - Supports small teams and deeper levels of behavioral health care
- Breastfeeding and Lactation Services Reimbursement (Act 627 of 2025)
- Community Health Worker Reimbursement (Act 435 of 2025)
- Doula Certification and Reimbursement (Act 965 of 2025)
- Healthy Moms, Healthy Babies (Act 140 of 2025)

Expanded Reach

- Additional investments from HealthySteps National Office and the Transforming Pediatrics for Early Childhood (HRSA grant to UAMS)
- Expanded reach to ~20 practices
- Added family medicine sites and rural practices
- Additional sites in planning stages





Child Health Advisory Committee

Minutes

June 12, 2025, · 9:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m. · Zoom

Arkansas Outcomes

- 27,171 children served in 7 demonstration sites as of January 2025
 - 3,758 tier 2/3 patients
 - 68% of tier 2/3 were Medicaid
- Most Common Needs
 - Food Insecurity
 - Maternal Depression
 - Early Intervention
 - Financial Assistance
- Immunization rates increased from 22% (baseline) to 59% in 2 years
- Expansion sites projected to reach an additional 16,000+ children annually through ACCN, 1500+ through UAMS

Source: Unpublished data from Arkansas Children's Care Network and University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences

Relevant legislative updates

- Maternal/Early Childhood:
 - Healthy Moms Healthy Babies (Act 140/124)
 - Doulas (965)
 - Community Health Workers (435)
 - Lactation (627)
- RSV prevention rate increase to federal max (634) + overall vaccine rate review began in April
- Primary Care Payment Improvement Working Group (483)



Child Health Advisory Committee

Minutes

June 12, 2025, · 9:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m. · Zoom



Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

www.cdc.gov/actearly

1-800-CDC-INFO

© 2023 ZERO TO THREE. Use of these materials is expressly limited to Programs approved by the HealthySteps™ National Office (Program) and which are a part of the HealthySteps™ National Network for the sole purpose of implementation and delivery of the Program. Adaptations, reproductions, revisions, excerpts, derivatives including but not limited to translations, and other exploitation of the materials are expressly forbidden without the prior written authorization of ZERO TO THREE.



Developmental Screening & Surveillance



© 2023 ZERO TO THREE. Use of these materials is expressly limited to Programs approved by the HealthySteps™ National Office (Program) and which are a part of the HealthySteps™ National Network for the sole purpose of implementation and delivery of the Program. Adaptations, reproductions, revisions, excerpts, derivatives including but not limited to translations, and other exploitation of the materials are expressly forbidden without the prior written authorization of ZERO TO THREE.





Child Health Advisory Committee

Minutes

June 12, 2025, · 9:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m. · Zoom

Developmental Surveillance: Effectiveness

“Among [713] studies examined, pediatric care providers who worked **without screening instruments** achieved specificity (ie, the proportion of children correctly identified as not having a problem) that was consistently near or higher than 70%. The sensitivity .. In all cases but 1.. Was lower than 54%. **Thus, the number of children correctly identified as having a developmental or behavioral problem was quite low.**”

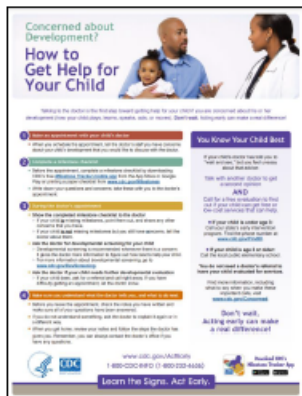
Sheldrick et al. Pediatrics 2011: Identification of Developmental-Behavioral Problems in Primary Care: A Systematic Review

Ex: Robins et al. *Pediatrics* 2014: 16,701 toddlers screened for ASD at 18 & 24 months

Surveillance Sensitivity: 24%

Screening (M-CHAT-R/F) Sensitivity: 91%

© 2023 ZERO TO THREE. Use of these materials is expressly limited to Programs approved by the HealthySteps™ National Office (Program) and which are a part of the HealthySteps™ National Network for the sole purpose of implementation and delivery of the Program. Adaptations, reproductions, revisions, excerpts, derivatives including but not limited to translations, and other exploitation of the materials are expressly forbidden without the prior written authorization of ZERO TO THREE.



Tips for Parents to Talk to Doctors

- Make a separate appointment for your concern
- Use the LTSAE checklists or App
- Bring the checklists to show your doctor



Tips for Doctors to Talk to Parents

- Importance of talking about development
- Specific communication & listening skills
- Resources & next steps

© 2023 ZERO TO THREE. Use of these materials is expressly limited to Programs approved by the HealthySteps™ National Office (Program) and which are a part of the HealthySteps™ National Network for the sole purpose of implementation and delivery of the Program. Adaptations, reproductions, revisions, excerpts, derivatives including but not limited to translations, and other exploitation of the materials are expressly forbidden without the prior written authorization of ZERO TO THREE.



Child Health Advisory Committee

Minutes

June 12, 2025, · 9:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m. · Zoom

CDC's Learn the Signs. Act Early (LTSAE)

- Free resources
- For parents AND providers
- Information about milestones
- How to support your child's development
- How to talk to your doctor (or patient!)

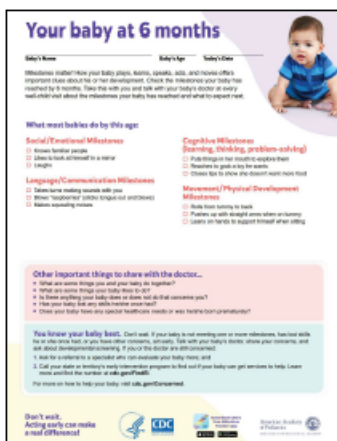


Centers for Disease
Control and Prevention

www.cdc.gov/actearly
1-800-CDC-INFO



© 2023 ZERO TO THREE. Use of these materials is expressly limited to Programs approved by the HealthySteps™ National Office (Program) and which are a part of the HealthySteps™ National Network for the sole purpose of implementation and delivery of the Program. Adaptations, reproductions, revisions, excerpts, derivatives including but not limited to translations, and other exploitation of the materials are expressly forbidden without the prior written authorization of ZERO TO THREE.



Milestone Checklists

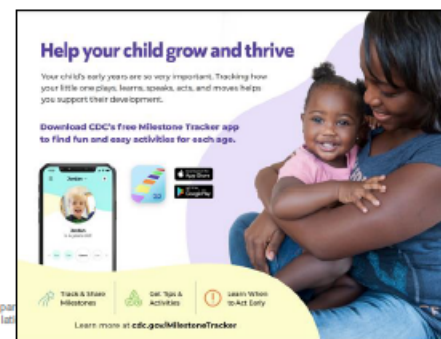


Free printable checklists

2 months – 5 years

Age at which MOST children have the skill

Activities for parents to do at home



© 2023 ZERO TO THREE. Use of these materials is expressly limited to Programs approved by the HealthySteps™ National Office (Program) and which are a part of the HealthySteps™ National Network for the sole purpose of implementation and delivery of the Program. Adaptations, reproductions, revisions, excerpts, derivatives including but not limited to translations, and other exploitation of the materials are expressly forbidden without the prior written authorization of ZERO TO THREE.

Milestone Tracker App

The app is available in Spanish it includes features such as milestone summaries, referral and services information and appointment trackers.



Child Health Advisory Committee

Minutes

June 12, 2025, · 9:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m. · Zoom

Thank you!

Anna Strong, MPH, MPS

anna@arkansasaap.org

501-626-5777

Arkansas Chapter

American Academy of Pediatrics

DEDICATED TO THE HEALTH OF ALL CHILDREN®



Sources

© 2023 ZERO TO THREE. Use of these materials is expressly limited to Programs approved by the HealthySteps™ National Office (Program) and which are a part of the HealthySteps™ National Network for the sole purpose of implementation and delivery of the Program. Adaptations, reproductions, revisions, excerpts, derivatives including but not limited to translations, and other exploitation of the materials are expressly forbidden without the prior written authorization of ZERO TO THREE.





Child Health Advisory Committee

Minutes

June 12, 2025, · 9:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m. · Zoom

HealthySteps Outcomes Citations

1. Guyer, B., Barth, M., Bishai, D., Caughy, M., Clark, B., Burlom, D., Genevro, J., Grason, H., Hou, W., Keng-Yen, H., Hughart, N., Snow Jones, A., McLearn, K.T., Miller, T., Minkovitz, C., Scharfstein, D., Stacy, H., Strobino, D., Stanton, E., & Tang, C. (2003). *Healthy Steps: The first three years: The Healthy Steps for Young Children Program National Evaluation*. https://att-healthysteps.s3.amazonaws.com/documents/139/attachments/2003_HS_National_Evaluation_Report.pdf?1539967.
2. Hughes, S., Herrera-Mata, L., & Dunn, J. (2014). Impact of Healthy Steps on developmental referral rates. *Family Medicine*, 46(10), 788-791.
3. The HealthySteps National Office. (2020). *Embracing Growth: 2019 Annual Report*. https://att-healthysteps.s3.amazonaws.com/documents/309/attachments/Embracing_Growth_2019_Annual_Report.pdf?1596829170.
4. Mitchell, J., Levine, S., & German, M. (2020, April 29 - May 6). Screening for Autism at 18 months in primary care and age of diagnosis of Autism Spectrum Disorder [Poster Session]. Pediatric Academic Societies. <https://plan.care-apps.com/pas2020/abstract/cb127010d9cd07e3e85e9f1586f1b73e>. Note: this conference was cancelled due to COVID-19.
5. Johnston, B.D., Huebner, C.E., Tyl, L.T., Barlow, W.E., & Thompson, R.S. (2004). Expanding developmental and behavioral services for newborns in primary care: Effects on parental well-being, practice and satisfaction. *American Journal of Preventive Medicine*, 26(4), 356-366.
6. Johnston, B.D., Huebner, C.E., Anderson, M.L., Tyl, L.T., & Thompson, R.S. (2006). Healthy Steps in an integrated delivery system: Child and parent outcomes at 30 months. *Archives of Pediatrics & Adolescent Medicine*, 160(8), 793-800.
7. Herbst, R.B., Ammerman, R.T., Perry, S.P., Zion, C.E., Rummel, M.K., McClure, J.M., & Stark, L.J. (2019). Treatment of maternal depression in pediatric primary care. *Clinical Pediatrics*, 58(13), 1436-1439.
8. Gross, R.S., Briggs, R.D., Hershberg, R.S., Silver, E.J., Velasco, N.K., Hauser, N.R., & Racine, A.D. (2015). Early child social-emotional problems and child obesity: Exploring the protective role of a primary care-based general parenting intervention. *Journal of Developmental and Behavioral Pediatrics*, 36(8), 594-604.
9. Briggs, R.D., Silver, E.J., Krug, L.M., Mason, Z.S., Schrag, R.D.A., Chinitz, S., & Racine, A.D. (2014). Healthy Steps as a moderator: The impact of maternal trauma on child social-emotional development. *Clinical Practice in Pediatric Psychology*, 2(2), 166-175.
10. Buchholz, M., & Talmi, A. (2012). What we talked about at the pediatrician's office: Exploring differences between Healthy Steps and traditional pediatric primary care visits. *Infant Mental Health Journal*, 33(4), 430-436.
11. Wolcott, C., Buchholz, M., Ehmer, A., Stein, R., & Talmi, A. (2017, Nov 29 - Dec 2). *Adversity and well-child visit attendance: The role of a preventative primary care intervention* [Poster Session]. ZERO TO THREE Annual Conference, San Diego, CA.
12. Niederman, L.G., Schwartz, A., Connell, K.J., & Silverman, K. (2007). Healthy Steps for Young Children Program in pediatric residency training: Impact on primary care outcomes. *Pediatrics*, 120(3), e596-e603.
13. Minkovitz, C. S., Strobino, D., Mistry, K.B., Scharfstein, D.O., Grason, H., Hou, W., Isalongo, N., & Guyer, B. (2007). Healthy Steps for Young Children: Sustained results at 5.5 years. *Pediatrics*, 120(3), e658-e668.
14. Preliminary data from the HealthySteps Outcome Pilot Study.
15. Fried, E., Hernandez, C., Ringwood, H., & Tomcho, M. (2019, Oct 2 - Oct 5). *Creative solutions to postnatal Care: Mom-baby dyad visits in a pediatric setting* [Conference Session]. ZERO TO THREE Annual Conference, Hollywood, FL.
16. Kearns, M.A., Fischer, C., Buchholz, M., & Talmi, A. (2016, Dec 7 - 9). *More than the blues? Comparing changes in pregnancy related depression symptoms based on enrollment in Healthy Steps* [Poster Session]. ZERO TO THREE Annual Conference, New Orleans, LA.
17. Caughy, M.O., Huang, K., Miller, T., & Genevro, J.L. (2004). The effects of the Healthy Steps for Young Children program: Results from observations of parenting and child development. *Early Childhood Research Quarterly*, 19(4), 611-630.
18. Piotrowski, C.C., Talavera, G.A., & Mayer, J.A. (2009). Healthy Steps: A systematic review of a preventive practice-based model of pediatric care. *Journal of Developmental and Behavioral Pediatrics*, 30(1), 91-103.
19. Davis, A., Vivrette, R., Carter, T., Eberhardt, C., Edwards, S., Connors, K., & Reavis, K. (in press). Impact of an approach to integrated care for young children in low-income urban settings: Lessons from the Perspectives of Primary Care Clinicians. *Journal of Clinical Practice in Pediatric Psychology*.
20. Herbst, R.B., Khalsa, A.S., Schlottmann, H., Kerrey, M.K., Glass, K., & Burkhardt, M.C. (2019). Effective implementation of culturally appropriate tools in addressing overweight and obesity in an urban underserved early childhood population in pediatric primary care. *Clinical Pediatrics*, 58(5), 511-520.
21. Buchholz, M., Burnett, B., Margolis, K.L., Millar, A., & Talmi, A. (2018). Early childhood behavioral health integration activities and HealthySteps: Sustaining practice, averting costs. *Clinical Practice in Pediatric Psychology*, 6(2), 140-151.
22. German, M., et al. (2021). Impact of Community Healthy Workers on Community Referrals with an Integrated Primary Care Setting. *Manuscript in preparation*.

© 2023 ZERO TO THREE. Use of these materials is expressly limited to Programs approved by the HealthySteps™ National Office (Program) and which are a part of the HealthySteps™ National Network for the sole purpose of implementation and delivery of the Program. Adaptations, reproductions, revisions, excerpts, derivatives including but not limited to translations, and other exploitation of the materials are expressly forbidden without the prior written authorization of ZERO TO THREE.



J. Wessel asked who the healthy steps specialists are in Arkansas. A. Strong stated that it's different with each state. Several states are looking to Arkansas, because it is an agnostic provider. For example, New York hires child psychologists, social workers, or mental health providers. In Arkansas we use licensed certified social workers (LCSWS), community health workers (CHWs), trained individuals with childcare experience or a Women Infant & Children staff member who understands child development. If they have training and experience in child well-being and follow the evidence-based model that works in Arkansas.

S. Borchert asked where to learn more information and A. Strong mentioned they have more than one website and excel 8 and the national office has resources as well as healthysteps.org

Old Business:

J. Wessel shared with the group that the development of the consolidated recommendation template is still underway, and the newest layout will be presented soon.

Member & Non-Member Updates/Announcements:

- C. Garner shared that the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics, the School Nutrition Association, the Heart Association, CSPI and the American Federation of Teachers are sponsoring a webinar on "The Impact of Proposed SNAP Cuts on Students and Schools" on June 16, 2025, at 2:00p.m. (CST)
- C. McDonald gave an update about the Arkansas School Nurses Association Conference (ASNA) held June 10-11, 2025, at the Conway Expo Center was successful. Approximately 360 participants across the state, including vendors and school nurses.



Child Health Advisory Committee

Minutes

June 12, 2025, · 9:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m. · Zoom

- July 10, 2025, CHAC meeting will be in-person at the Freeway Medical Health Building.



Child Health Advisory Committee

Minutes

June 12, 2025, · 9:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m. · Zoom

Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83582295337?pwd=Uk1JZGxSUmdqYS9YeTF4TXNHdXJVQT09>

Meeting ID: 835 8229 5337 Passcode: 229369

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

Next Meeting: Thursday July 10, 2025, from 9:00 am – 10:00 am.

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

June 12-13, 9:00 am

July 10-11, 9:00 am

August 14-15, 9:00 am

September 11-12, 9:00 am

October 9-10, 9:00 am

November 13-14, 9:00 am

December 11-12, 9:00 am

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

October 23, 2025, at 10:00 am