



Child Health Advisory Committee

Minutes

October 9, 2025, · 9:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.

Call to order: 9:02 a.m.

Zoom Meeting

Present: Wendy Blount, Shannon Borchert, Carole Garner, Teresa Henson, Carmel Perry, Krista Jackson, Nathan Morris, Jennifer Morrow, Lisa Mundy, Dave Oberembt, Ray Samaniego, Bala Simon, Chad Sanders, Jennifer Wessel

Absent: Ashten Black, Patrick Casey, Jazmine Martinez, Elaine Prewitt, Camille Richoux, Anna Strong

Staff: Shanetta Agnew, Shy Whitley-Smith

Guests: Amy Davidson, Kenya Eddings, Lucas Harder, Taylor James, Crystal Kellybrew, Sarah Khatib, Amber Robinson, Cheria McDonald, Ariel Rogers,

Review of July & August minutes: S. Borchert moved to accept the September minutes. D. Oberembt seconded. Motion passed.

Act 1220 & Coordinated School Health Reports: Reports are changed from the September meeting. B. Simon moved to accept the reports from September; J. Wessel seconded. Motion passed.

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

CHAC ADE appointment letters for new appointees and re-appointed members were disseminated via US mail in the month of September.

7 schools (Concord High School, Dunbar Magnet Middle School, J.A. Fair K-8 Preparatory School, LR Central High School, LaFayette County High School, Ouachita High School, Yellville-Summit High School) have been selected for the 2025-2026 Student Wellness Advocacy Group (SWAG). Schools will receive technical services centered around the following areas:

- Increasing physical activity
- Suicide Prevention
- Nicotine Prevention/Cessation
- Healthy Nutrition
- Bullying Prevention
- Moving from youth health care to adult health care and/or
- Health topics of interest and approved by School Health Services SWAG advisor.

Mental Health Subcommittee met 9/25/25 and discussed some next step action items regarding the two recommendations.



Child Health Advisory Committee

Minutes

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

The CSH Quarterly meeting was held September 10, 2025, 8:30a.m.-12:00p.m.

Total number of attendees: There were 111 attendees at the virtual Coordinated School Health meeting held September 10, 2025. There were attendees from 4 state agencies and 51 school districts present. The topics included tobacco prevention, Street Smart (road safety education program,) mental health anti-stigma resources, and results from the 2024-2025 statewide school nurse survey.

Agenda Items:

- Arkansas Department of Health; Tobacco Prevention Programs (Navig8 & Coral's Reef)
- Arkansas Department of Transportation; Street Smart Curriculum
- UAMS; The Anti-Stigma Toolkit and Planning Resource
- DESE; 2024-2025 Statewide School Health Survey

Upcoming meetings:

- November 12, 2025, 8:30a.m.-12:00p.m. (virtual platform)

Old Business: S. Agnew informed the committee that the FY 23 & FY 24 recommendations are in the process status to be presented to the members of the Arkansas Department of Education Board as soon as approval to be placed on the agenda is granted. The letter of request needed to be revised to justify the timeframe, more updates will be provided as logistics progress.

New Business: K. Jackson, with the Arkansas Department of Agriculture, formerly with the Division of Elementary and Secondary Education's Child Nutrition Unit, presented on federal funded programs & funds. The full transition is still in process, but the change became effective October 1, 2025. Topics of the presentation included:



Child Health Advisory Committee

Minutes

October 9, 2025, · 9:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.

National School Lunch (NSLP) & School Breakfast Program (SBP)

The NSLP and SBP are federally assisted meal programs operating in public and nonprofit private schools and residential childcare institutions. It provides nutritionally balanced, low-cost or free lunches to children each school day.

\$230 - \$250 million

Arkansas State Funds: Reduced Co-pay and Free Breakfast

Child and Adult Care Feeding Program (CACFP)

The CACFP is a federal program that provides reimbursements for nutritious meals and snacks to eligible children and adults who are enrolled for care at participating childcare centers, day care homes, and adult day care centers. CACFP also provides reimbursements for meals served to children and youth participating in afterschool care programs, children residing in emergency shelters, and adults over the age of 60 or living with a disability and enrolled in day care facilities.

\$60 - \$70 million

Summer Food Service Program (SFSP)

The SFSP provides free meals to children in low-income areas through eligible organizations, primarily in the summer months when most schools are closed for instruction.

\$5 - \$10 million

The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP)

TEFAP is a federal program that helps supplement the diets of people with low income by providing them with emergency food assistance at no cost.

\$4 - \$5 million

Commodity Supplemental Food Program (CSFP)

The CSFP works to improve the health of people with low-income, at least 60 years of age, by supplementing their diets with nutritious USDA Foods.

\$20 - \$25 million in cash in lieu and entitlement

10,804 boxes of food.

Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Grant Program (FFVP)

The FFVP provides a variety of free, fresh fruit and vegetable snacks to children at eligible elementary schools.

\$3 million

Funding Cuts:

Local Food for Schools (LFS) and Local Food Purchase Assistance (LFPA) Programs – ~10 million (2 rounds of funding, 3rd round stopped).

CSFP – less money for food that goes to the food banks.

K. Jackson informed CHAC members the programs she presented have not been heavily impacted by the federal cuts. National School Lunch Program (NSLP) and Child and Adults Care Feeding Program (CACFP) are set on a reimbursement rate that funds come out annually. It increases based on the consumer price index and there has been a regular increase in funding.

Over the past few years, a program called Local Foods for School (LFS) brought in approximately \$10 million dollars into the state, where local schools could go to local farmers and purchase locally and it



Child Health Advisory Committee

Minutes

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created relationships between farmers, farm-to-table, and farm to school. Unfortunately, those funds stopped this year and another round of future funds were not accessible.

The Commodity Supplemental Food Program (CSFP) provided individuals 60 years of age or older, with boxes of food; due to some cuts in funding to the food banks that program is no longer current. Nutrition Services are still doing their best to provide some level of items to that age population and information on where local food banks are being conducted throughout the state.

Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) over the last few years has declined due to being tied to a decrease in SNAP eligible students across the state. If a school was elected in 2016, and then re-elected in 2020, in year 2024, the number of kids that were receiving SNAP from 2020 to 2024 significantly dropped, because this is a four-year election process that is determined by the trend in that time span. If data presents a positive increase, schools can re-apply for another 4-year extension. Nutrition Services received approval to officially do a Medicaid match for direct certification, which significantly increased the number of eligible directly certified kids. Before, it was just matching on SNAP. Now they can match students that are Medicaid eligible for free and Medicaid eligible for reduced. A school cannot transition to CEP at any time in a year they have to meet requirements by April 1st and based on those requirements if deemed eligible schools have until June 30th to submit for eligibility.

The committee was reassured that several of the implementations that were put in place under the Child Nutrition Unit will still go forth under the transition of Arkansas Department of Agriculture. As time unfolds more updates will be provided.

Member & Non-Member Updates/Announcements:

- S. Agnew reminded members to review the recorded webinar held on September 17, 2025, titled “Reducing Ultra-Processed Meals: The Next Chapter in School Food”. Hosted by the Chef Ann Foundation to discuss the pathway to reduce ultra-processed foods in school food programs. Ultra-processed foods often contain added sugars, unhealthy fats, sodium, and artificial additives while lacking essential nutrients like fiber, vitamins, and minerals. School meals play a key role in shaping dietary habits for students that promote lifelong health and reducing reliance on ultra-processed foods. The webinar explored the operational challenges that lead school food programs to depend on ultra-processed foods, present current research quantifying the scope of the problem, explore the policy efforts to tackle this issue, and illustrate the connections between these foods and the broader food system. S. Agnew will share the recorded link with the committee.
- C. Sanders shared the upcoming [FALL CONFERENCE | SHAPE Arkansas](#) will be November 13th & 14th in Little Rock, AR a *Teacher of the Year award and Champions for Health Principal Award* will be presented for the first time during this event! S. Agnew will share details with the CHAC committee.



Child Health Advisory Committee

Minutes

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Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83582295337?pwd=Uk1JZGxSUndqYS9YeTF4TXNHdXJVQT09>

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.

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