



Child Health Advisory Committee

Minutes

September 12, 2024, · 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, Gabriella Hicks, Mitch Mathis, Nathan Morris, Jennifer Morrow (member elect) Dave Oberembt, Josh Phelps, Elaine Prewitt, Camille Richoux, Ray Samaniego, Bala Simon, Jennifer Wessel, Tammie Works  
Absent: Ashten Black, Cheria McDonald, Carmel Perry  
Staff: Shanetta Agnew, Shy Whitley-Smith

Guests: Sarah Brisco, Katy Chambers, Amy Davidson, Kenya Eddings, Gavin Gray, Pamela Hutchins, Ariel Rogers, Dietrich Smith, Cordelia Underwood

Review of August minutes: S. Bala moved to accept the minutes; D. Oberembt seconded. Motion passed.

Act 1220 & Coordinated School Health Reports: reports are changed from the August meeting. S. Borchert moved to accept the reports, R. Samaniego seconded. Motion passed.

Summer Professional Development-

- August 21, 2024, School Wellness Reporting Training, Shanetta A. and Shy Whitley-S. presented health improvement plans, AR App and wellness committee guidelines. 3 were in attendance, Dr. Judith Weber, University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences (UAMS) Director and Principal Investigator Center for Childhood for Childhood Obesity Prevention, Hannah Aston, UAMS College of Nursing, Research Program Manager, and Shannon Borchert, School Health Services Director.
- AR App Tracker 2024 Data for LEA Health & Wellness Monthly CHAC Report

Date: August 27, 2024

- 1) Total # of LEA/School Districts: 261
- 2) Review In Progress: TBD
- 3) Waiting on LEA Revision: 17
- 4) Approved: TBD
- 5) Number of schools who've met health & wellness assurances: TBD



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The Health and Wellness Assurances include:

- The district acknowledges the rules and regulations that are required to meet the health and wellness requirements in the state.
- Ensure that the district wellness policy with the state and federal mandates.
- Ensure that the LEA will coordinate with child nutrition personnel to ensure all menus, districtwide, are reviewed quarterly by the district wellness committee.
- Ensure that the LEA has implemented space within each campus to accommodate breastfeeding mothers.
- Ensure that the LEA has completed the School Health Index assessment process for each campus within the LEA. Please submit a form for each school and SHI reference number at the following link: <https://forms.gle/CnoMs5uYpQMX8mEQ8>
- The LEA assumes all responsibilities related to Medicaid reimbursement claimed on behalf of the district for direct service claims.

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

- The first quarterly Coordinated School Health meeting was held virtually on Wednesday, September 11, 2024, and focused on school wellness improvement and reporting. 97 school personnel representing 80 LEAs, 24 state agencies and other organizations personnel representing ADE, ADH, Arkansas Children's, and MidSOUTH/UALR.

Old Business

No old business to report.



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#### New Business

Gavin Gray, Program Manager for Division of Medical Services (Medicaid) Presented on the TEFRA (The Tax Equity and Fiscal Responsibility Act) Program. The presentation consisted of the following information:

- Purpose of The Public Forum
- TEFRA Overview
- Who Is Eligible for TEFRA Coverage
- Disability Requirement
- Medical Necessity and Appropriateness of Care Requirement
- Financial Requirement
- 2023 TEFRA Enrollment Summary
- Health Care quality, Outcomes and Access
- TEFRA Changes
- How do I contact TEFRA
- General TEFRA Information
- TEFRA Payment Unit
- Application Status and Eligibility
- Billing and Invoice Questions
- Medical Claim Status

J. Phelps asked for feedback regarding the struggle related to customer service. G. Gray, shared customers need immediate help and if they keep getting forwarded to several people that is frustrating. Arkansas Department of Human Services (DHS) is working on this concern.

P. Casey shared that during his many years of working at Children's Hospital he saw a very large number of families who benefited from TEFRA, and he thinks it's a wonderful program.

J. Wessell wanted to know when is the "comment period" and G. Gray, informed the committee it can be completed anytime. Slides from the presentation will be shared with the CHAC committee.

S. Agnew presented the FY24 CHAC report the document highlights the work of programs resulting from Act 1220 of 2003 and those that amended the act. The report is an overview of work for July 2023-June 2024. S. Agnew will make edits and will share with the committee for review.

J. Wessell, had one comment/edit to make on the BMI report with the Year 20 report dates.

P. Casey asked whom does the report go to and S. Agnew replied ADH executive team and posting on the CHAC program's webpage. S. Borchert, mentioned the report also goes to the House & Senate Public Health and Welfare Committee; furthermore, it might go to the Tobacco Settlement



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Commission. P. Casey asked if there has been any feedback from the House & Senate Public Health and Welfare Committee and S. Borchert, replied no feedback has been given at this time. P. Casey inquired does any action result from the committee's activities from the legislature or departments? S. Borchert & J. Clark will follow up with their leadership teams once the FY24 CHAC report is finalized.

### Member & Non-Member Updates/Announcements

J. Wessell stated the YRBS data was shared with the ACHI organization, and they have updated their 100 Arkansas project looking at public high schools in Arkansas. They incorporated some of the new YRBS data and the Arkansas Prevention Needs Assessment data to update their infographic. <https://achi.net/library/trends-among-high-school-seniors/>

SHAPE Arkansas is hosting its fall conference on November 7<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> on the campus of UALR.

S. Agnew presented a finalized draft from the *Health Services Subcommittee* targeting mental health.

### Recommendation for Schools to Adopt Peer Mentoring Programs to Promote Adolescent Mental Health

The Child health Committee recommends that schools establish peer mentoring programs to support adolescent mental health and promote connectedness among students.

#### RATIONALE:

Schools play a vital role in supporting adolescent mental health. One effective approach is adopting peer mentoring programs, where trained students serve as peer leaders to model positive behaviors and coping strategies. These programs empower students to share their experiences, promote connectedness among peers, and encourage seeking help. Peer-led initiatives not only enhance mental health literacy but also reduce stigma, helping students build resilience and navigate mental health challenges. Implementing such programs can create a more supportive and connected school environment, contributing to overall student well-being. Peer-led modeling programs train teen leaders to model positive attitudes, skills, and behaviors. Students in these programs share personal experiences with their peers, discussing how they sought help and developed coping strategies for managing challenging emotions and situations. Peer leaders learn about healthy coping strategies they can use and teach to their peers. They also play a crucial role in guiding students to identify and reach out to trusted adults when they need support or are concerned about a friend.



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<https://www.cdc.gov/healthyyouth/mental-health-action-guide/increase-students-mental-health-literacy.html#modeling>

<https://www.cdc.gov/healthyyouth/mental-health-action-guide/index.html>

<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC10755562/#:~:text=Peer%20learning%20and%20peer%20mentoring,students%20with%20mental%20health%20difficulties.>

The finalized draft recommendation does not include resources or fiscal impact, because the consideration is a peer led program and there might not be significant fiscal impacts or needs for schools and is budget neutral.

T. Works presented a finalized draft from the *Nutrition Environment & Services Subcommittee*. T. Works developed a survey and disseminated to school nutrition directors to get an idea of where they stand in the school district and wanting them to reach out to the parents.

P. Casey inquired if the committee had an idea of the prevalence of lactose tolerances at schools. C. Garner shared with the group there isn't specific Arkansas information. Looking at some resources/research of the Academy Pediatrics Hispanic, Asian, and African American children the identified baseline is 20%. The Arkansas Department of Education data based on ethnicity and race shows this concern will affect nearly 34,000 kids in Arkansas.

T. Works shared 63% of the 95 school directors that completed the survey stated they only have 1-10 students with a dairy tolerance. 11% had 26 or more students with a dairy tolerance. Survey respondents mentioned in the comments most the students don't prefer lactose free milk and prefer juice or water.

G. Hicks provided the group with a questionnaire that will go to the parents. The overall concern is for the students that don't have the modification form and have intolerance and how they can give guidance to schools to provide lactose-free milk without the requirement of the modification form.

The committee is to consider the feasibility of using the allergy form for parents to request lactose-free milk for their child/children. T. Works stated out of the 97 responses, 50% commented the milk carton is unavailable to them from their provider. The lactose free milk is double the expense of your regular 1% fat free milk or flavored milk. Another concern is the logistics of distribution in schools.

The committee will explore options for communicating the availability of lactose-free milk to parents. Furthermore, they will review the new USDA guidelines on added sugars and consider how they impact the recommendation for lactose-free milk.

C. Underwood (representative from CNU) shared there are some new rules coming out next year that state's anytime anyone purchases milk, yogurt, cereal for schools it must be below the added sugar limits. Additionally, starting in two-three years there will be limits on added sugars per percentage of



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calories per week.

The Nutrition Environment & Services subcommittee will meet offline to address the medical form concern.

S. Agnew will create a Google Document for collecting and organizing the FY 25 recommendations from the subcommittees and share it with the members.

Adjourn: 10:15 a.m.

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)

Next Meeting: Thursday October 10, 2024, from 9:00 – 10:00 am.

*State Board of Health meetings are held quarterly on the 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of each month. Next meeting is October 24, 2024.*

*State Board of Education meetings are held monthly on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of each month. Next meeting is October 10, 2024.*