



Minutes

April 15, 2021 9:05 a.m. – 10:07 p.m. · Zoom Meeting Only

Called to order: 9:05 a.m.

Zoom: Patrick Casey, Melinda Kinnison, Carole Garner, Tamara Baker, Dave Oberembt, Mike Motley, Tammie Works, Lucas Harder, Michele Brown, Paula Rawls, Jerri Clark, Cheria McDonald, Elaine Prewitt

Absent: Rosa Hatch, Gary Williams, Dan Breshears, Charles Hervey, Loretta Alexander

Vacant: Arkansas Academy of Family Physicians, University of Arkansas Division of Agriculture Cooperative Extension Service

Staff: Shannon Borchert

Guests: Shae Martin, Karen Davis, Kiah Ferrell, Ariel Rogers

Review of March 2021 Minutes: P. Rawls moved to adopt the March 2021 minutes; D. Oberembt seconded motion. The motion passed.

Act 1220 & Coordinated School Health Reports: M. Brown moved to accept the reports; J. Clark seconded motion. The motion passed.

Act 1220 Report (Shannon Borchert and Ashley Williams)

The 2020 Student Wellness Advocacy Group program (SWAG):

Schools:

1. Ouachita High School
2. Yellville-Summit High School
3. Bryant Middle School, Concord High School
4. Conway High School
5. Little Rock Central High School
6. Osceola High School
7. Pocahontas Jr. High School

These schools were provided health and advocacy sessions on a digital platform to accommodate in-person and digital students.

Topics:

- Advocacy
 - Health Equity
 - Students and (School) Wellness Committees
 - Advocacy 101
- Brain Development
- Emotional Intelligence
- Inclusive Campus and Communities
- LGBTQ+
- Mindfulness
- Motivational Interviewing
- Dangers of Tobacco
- Zoom! Through the Grocery Store

Partner organizations:

1. University of Central Arkansas
2. University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences
3. Special Olympics Arkansas
4. Arkansas Children's Hospital

Next Meeting: Thursday, May 20, 2021 from 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
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April 15, 2021 9:05 a.m. – 10:07 p.m. · Zoom Meeting Only

5. Arkansas Advocate for Children and Families
6. Arkansas Department of Education: Division of Elementary and Secondary Education
7. Curricula Concepts
8. Arkansas Hunger Relief Alliance
9. Arkansas Minority Health Commission

Partner individuals:

1. Stephanie Rose, DSW, LCSW, AADC, CS, DCC
2. Heather Hudson, PhD, MPH, MCHES, CSE & Sarah Marshall, PhD, MPH, CPH, CHES
3. Camie Powell
4. Laura Taylor, CHES
5. Josh Hall, JD, MPH
6. Ashley Williams, MSHS
7. Amy Routt & Josh Routt, LCSW
8. ShaRhonda Love, MPH
9. Samantha Strader, RD

SWAGs hosted and advocated for various health education activities throughout the year ranging from YouTube outreach channels, a “Screens Down, Move Around” campaign, Ready.Set.Record., Covid-19 vaccination promotions, outdoor classrooms, and virtual mentoring projects for lower grade level district campuses. With nearly 115 students participating in SWAG, more than 350 participants in activities, and many social media outreach hits for SWAGs, the digital platform for SWAG allowed for groups to adapt their activities to CDC guidelines. SWAG students and SWAG advisors reported burnout, varying participation/support due to Covid-19 quarantines, infections, and deaths, and other Covid-19 impacts.

CSH Report (Lisa Mundy and Ariel Schaufler)

- Registration for the May 5, 2021 Coordinated School Health meeting will open pending a Commissioner’s Memo.
- School Health Services is applying for supplemental 1801 Covid funding in the amount of \$433,333.00. The funding focus will be on technical assistance to Covid prevention, vaccine support, and social emotional learning curriculum.
- The Statewide School Health Coalition was April 6, 2021. There were 45 in attendance via zoom. Malvern, Springdale, and El Dorado provided updates on Covid prevention measures, school meals, and their expenditures of 1801 priority school funds.

Old Business

Update on 2020 CHAC Recommendations: The Arkansas Board of Health will review the recommendations on Thursday, April 22, 2021.

Legislation

[SBI40](#) (House-read the third time and failed)- to require school district boards of directors to include in student discipline policies the requirement that schools conduct an assessment of a student's adverse childhood experiences before disciplining a student.

[SBI61](#) ([Act 536](#)) - to allow a public school or a public-school district to offer a hunting safety course as part of its curriculum.

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[SB532 \(Act 775\)](#) - to require all newly constructed public schools and existing public schools undergoing additions or total renovations to provide for water bottle filling stations.

[SB598](#) (Senate-Withdrawn by the author)- to amend the definitions within the telemedicine act; to authorize additional insurance reimbursement for telemedicine; to prohibit health benefit plan financial incentives; and to declare an emergency.

[HBI063 \(Act 829\)](#) - to amend the telemedicine act; and to authorize additional reimbursement for telemedicine via telephone.

[HBI068 \(Act 767\)](#) - to clarify the telemedicine act; to specify that the home of a patient may be an originating site for telemedicine and that group meetings may be performed via telemedicine and to clarify reimbursement of telemedicine services.

[HB1176 \(Act 624\)](#)- to ensure that reimbursement in the Arkansas Medicaid program for certain behavioral and mental health services provided via telemedicine continues after the public health emergency caused by coronavirus 2019 (covid-19).

[HBI546](#) (House-Clincher motion failed of adoption)- to phase out the soft drink tax; and to provide for additional amounts to be distributed to offset the revenue reduction resulting from the phase out of the soft drink tax.

[HBI783](#) - to allow students in certain grades in-school access to vending machines offering food and beverages that meet the nutrition standards of the federal smart snacks in school program.

C. Garner moved to issue a statement from CHAC in opposition to HBI783 to the bill sponsors and the Senate Education Committee. D. Oberembt seconded motion; motion passed. T. Works and C. Garner volunteered to draft the statement for L. Harder's review.

[HBI848 \(Act 1074\)](#)- to create the Healthy Active Arkansas Schools Act.

New Business

Member Updates

Carole Garner: AR Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics:

Building on the important investments from the American Rescue Plan Act, the upcoming American Jobs Plan Part 1 -infrastructure and Part 2 – family and children packages provide an important opportunity so that no child is hungry. The Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics is partnering with several organizations asking that the following priorities be included in the next recovery package:

- Healthy School Meals for All will offer school meals to all enrolled students.
- School meal standards – the sodium standards need to align with the latest DGAs; need to restore the 100 percent whole-grain-rich requirement and the limit on flavored 1 percent (low-fat) milk; establish an added sugars standard for school meals and competitive foods.
- Last year school nutrition and the Child and Adult Care Food programs incurred more expenses than normal (e.g. labor, transportation) while seeing a significant decrease in revenues from reduced meal participation. Several COVID relief packages provided funding for these programs to help cover emergency operational costs from March-June 2020. However, more is needed to

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sustain the feeding programs, including extending the Covid relief funding through at least June 2021.

- AND is requesting increased reimbursement school meals as well as the performance-based reimbursement schools receive when meeting the updated nutrition standards under the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act for lunch and for breakfast which never had that incentive.
- The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic has placed a spotlight on the central role of schools in feeding our children. This illuminated the need for investment in school kitchen equipment and infrastructure. The ask is for \$1 billion or \$100 million over 10 years.
- The P-EBT program has provided families with money to buy food to replace meals that children would have received at school. The American Rescue Plan Act extended the P-EBT program through the length of the public health emergency and the administration's increase in benefits to cover an additional snack. Going forward, P-EBT benefits should be provided to families who receive free or reduced-price school meals whenever schools are closed during summer vacation, on weekends, for school holidays, and for unexpected closures.
- AND is asking for an additional \$2.2 billion for WIC multi-year food costs and fruit and vegetable benefit.
- A 5% increase in state grants for SNAP-Ed is needed to increase nutrition education efforts, social marketing campaigns, and other areas.

Several of these items are also being considered as separate legislation which are marker bills for the Child Nutrition Reauthorization bill that will likely appear in a few months. It is hoped that the big-ticket items such as Healthy School Meals for All and Equipment Grants will be picked up in the Jobs Plan so that it will free up money later for other CNR items.

Adjourn: 10:07 a.m.

Next Meeting: Thursday, May 20, 2021 from 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
Zoom Meeting Only