

SMITHVILLE ISD STUDENT HEALTH ADVISORY COUNCIL – YEAR-END REPORT FOR 2022-23 SCHOOL YEAR

This report is to supplement the mid-year report to include SHAC activities through the end of the 2022-23 school year.

The job of the SHAC is to create a healthy school environment because healthier students are better learners. Texas law (Texas Education Code, Section 28.004) requires the establishment of a SHAC for every school district. A SHAC is a school district-created advisory group consisting of parents, school staff and community members. The job of the SHAC is to ensure the district's school health programs reflect local community values.

Updating information from our November 2, 2022 SHAC meeting:

The 2010 SHAC Bylaws were read by the council, discussed, amended, updated and approved. The Bylaws are posted on the Student Health Advisory Council link on the district website.

Updating information from the SHAC December 1, 2022 SHAC meeting:

To comply with the Bylaws, district administrators established a list limited to 20 SHAC members to facilitate meeting a quorum for voting, as well as a list of non-voting participants who regularly attend meetings. The SHAC Council made nominations for new executive officers of Chair, Co-Chair and Secretary. Dr. Caudill continues as district Coordinator. Voting took place and the SHAC officers elected via secret ballot were:

Margarita Igoe, Chair
Erin Seale, Co-Chair
Rebecca Hamilton, Secretary

The Student Health Advisory Council link on the website has been updated to include minutes and recordings of all SHAC meetings, as required by TEC 28.004.

During this last semester, the Smithville ISD SHAC has been researching health education and SB9 curriculums for recommendation to the Board of Trustees. SHAC subcommittees were established to focus on three main areas:

1. **Parental Involvement Subcommittee** – Yolanda Hernandez, Chair
2. **Staff Wellness Subcommittee** – Michelle Rutherford, Chair
3. **Health Subcommittee** – Rebecca Hamilton, Chair

The Smithville ISD SHAC has been experiencing a growth of parental and community member participation. As a result, we have 70% attendance of parents from the Hispanic community. For this reason, we are working with administration to have a Spanish translator available for parent-related events.

As required by TEC 28.04 (d-1)(d), a majority of the members on the SHAC must be persons who are parents of students enrolled in the district, and who are not employed by the district. In SHAC meetings this year, we have been discussing important issues, such as drug abuse, bullying, child abuse, and concerns about side effects from excessive screen time. The goal is to research preventive programs and curriculums to recommend to the Board of Trustees and more closely align with legislative requirements.

The SHAC has been discussing ideas on keeping the momentum going to encourage more parental participation. A promotional SHAC video was produced and added to the district website. We have continued to communicate with district administrators to find ideas to promote parental awareness of the SHAC. We have discussed the possibility of utilizing Federal funding and having a 2023-24 budget allocation to fund adding the SHAC logo to bottled water and inexpensive trinkets, such as pens, mini hand-sanitizers and mini-keychains. The Council also discussed purchasing a banner to display on a SHAC booth at every school event. Fortunately, the banner already exists and Dr. Caudill has offered to locate it for our use.

The SISD SHAC priority is to work toward the goal of finding a health curriculum that will benefit all students. For years, it has been a challenge to present the Aim for Success programs which have ended up with minimal participation from parents to preview the program and from students to attend the presentation.

At the June 2023 SHAC meeting, data was shared that the number of students attending the 2022-23 Health/Sex Education presentation in Smithville ISD high school was 28 students out of approximately 575 total students. Junior high attendance was 67 students out of approximately 425 total students. After discussion, it was determined the issue of low parental involvement and low student participation continues to be a priority for our SHAC members to address.

It is the goal of the SISD SHAC to keep working together with its members and community organizations to find the best programs and curriculums that will benefit all our students in our School District.

SISD SHAC is grateful to Parents, Community members and all our teachers and administrators who invest their valuable time make continuous improvements to create a healthy and safe environment for all of our students.

Thank you!