

Minutes of the Regular Meeting
School Health Advisory Council (SHAC)
Pearland Independent School District

Regular Meeting of the Pearland Independent School District School Health Advisory Council (SHAC) was held on Monday, September 23, 2024, beginning at 4:00 p.m.

The subjects discussed, considered, or upon which any formal action was taken are listed below.

1. Welcome & Introductions

- a. Dr. Nixon welcomed the SHAC members, and each member introduced themselves to the group.

2. Overview of SHAC

- a. Dr. Nixon explained that the purpose of the SHAC is to advise the district on matters related to health and wellness and assist the district in ensuring that local community values are reflected in the health education program. The district-level group will serve exclusively in an advisory role. The council will address the continued implementation of a coordinated health program. SHAC members will also collaborate to promote a healthy environment for all students, supporting their physical, emotional, and social well-being.
- b. As a follow up to the meeting, Dr. Nixon will ask for a volunteer to serve as the SHAC Co-Chairperson this year. The Co-Chairperson will assist in any presentations of SHAC information to the Board of Trustees, if needed, and will serve as an advisor to Dr. Nixon in the identification of topics to be discussed during SHAC meetings.

3. Review School Safety Activities

- a. To begin the discussion about school safety topics, Dr. Nixon shared that Mr. John Palombo is the Executive Director of Safe and Secure Schools for Pearland ISD. Mr. Palombo is a member of SHAC but was unable to attend the meeting due to a training.
- b. TEA District Vulnerability Assessment (DVA) – The Texas Education Agency (TEA) conducted a DVA in Pearland ISD in September to assess the district’s implementation of safety and security requirements. The TEA representatives visited district schools and reviewed facility access points, exterior windows, bleeding control stations and AEDs, communication systems, and interviewed staff. TEA also reviewed our district Emergency Operations Plan, School Safety and Security Committee, Threat Assessment and Safe School Team, and District Policies. Overall, the TEA representatives were very complimentary of the intentional way our campuses focus on safety. The district will receive the official report sometime in November.

- c. Threat Assessment – Based on feedback from last year’s SHAC, Dr. Nixon reviewed the Behavioral Threat Assessment and Safe and Supportive School Program Team. In Pearland ISD, our Safe and Supportive School Program team is called a Threat Assessment Team. The threat assessment process is designed to preserve a safe school environment that promotes the physical and psychological safety of all members of the school community. The members appointed to each Threat Assessment team have expertise in counseling, behavior management, mental health and substance use, classroom instruction, special education, school administration, school safety and security, emergency management, and law enforcement. All members have received training from the Texas State Texas School Safety Center. Dr. Nixon explained the Threat Assessment team must conduct threat assessments, determine the level of risk, and provide interventions to support the individual for whom the threat assessment was conducted and the victim of the threat. Threat assessments are intended to prevent targeted violence. It involves assessment and intervention. Before a team may conduct a threat assessment of a student, the team must notify the parent/guardian regarding the assessment and provide an opportunity for the parent/guardian to participate in the assessment and provide the team information regarding the student. Dr. Nixon explained the information gathered for the threat assessment including student demographic data, discipline history, attendance, academic history, student and staff interviews/statements, and parent/guardian interviews. After completing a threat assessment of a student, the team shall provide to the parent of or person standing in parental relation to the student the team's findings and conclusions regarding the student. Dr. Nixon stressed the importance of students and parents reporting to the school or district anytime there is a concern.
- d. Dr. Nixon also encouraged parents to talk with their students about making threatening statements and posts. Pearland ISD schools and many school districts around the state have received reports of social media and email threats. The district is committed to the safety of our students and staff, so when threats are reported, administrators will immediately begin working with local law enforcement to investigate. Dr. Nixon stressed the importance of talking with you student and reminding them that issuing a threat, even over social media, via text message, or through email is a federal crime. Those who post or send these threats can face state or local charges.

4. Discussion of Future Topics

- a. Dr. Nixon asked the SHAC members to complete a feedback questionnaire to get input on the key health and wellness issues that could be addressed in future meetings. Members completed the questionnaire before leaving the meeting.
- b. October is Fentanyl Poisoning Awareness Month – Dr. Moore shared information about the upcoming fentanyl poisoning awareness session for parents and students. Pearland

ISD will be hosting *The Forever 15 Project* on Monday, October 21, 2024, from 5:30 pm – 7:00 pm at the Virgil Gant Education Support Center. The SHAC previewed this program during the 2023 – 2024 school year and recommended bringing the presentation to Pearland.

- c. Coffee with the Counselors – Dr. Moore shared information about the Coffee with the Counselors sessions that will be offered this school year. (For more information visit the Pearland ISD website at <https://www.pearlandisd.org/departments/guidance-services/mental-health-support/coffee-conversations>). These are virtual sessions offered from 9:00 – 10:00 am. There were two sessions offered in September, and information from these sessions is available on the Coffee with the Counselors website. On October 8, the topic will be Emotional Regulation Strategies. Does your child have big emotions? Join us to learn more about the brain and coping strategies to help your child regulate their emotions. On October 10, the topic will be Parenting with Empathy Part 1: Creating a Nurturing Environment for Children. This workshop will help you learn to parent with connection in mind, using empathy and assertiveness to reach that goal.

5. Next Meeting – Monday, November 4, 2024