SCHOOL HEALTH ADVISORY COUNCIL (SHAC)
Minutes 9/16/25

In Attendance: N'dea Brown, Ava Chakra, Kelly Clark, Wendy Duemmler, Kasha Giddins, Elizabeth Griffin, Jay Jones, Dan McCloskey, Christina Neal, Wendy Nielsen, Ashley Ponscheck, Christine Skrutowski, Dylan Stamey, Susannah Stone-Gill, Charlee Williams, Simone Wilson.

3:00 pm- meeting started on 9-16-25. Minutes from 5-20-25 were approved.
Wendy Nielsen, Director of Nursing, facilitated meeting.
Updates reported on the following goals:

GOAL 1: Expand community awareness regarding substance use disorder and nicotine/vaping use in Union County, NC with a focus on school-aged children within Union County Public Schools

- Ashley Ponscheck stated DPI approved new Health Standards in 2024 for K-12. Implementation of the new standards is occurring this school year. Writing teams are developing curriculum guides including suggested pacing, essential questions and topics to be taught. New to the Alcohol, Nicotine, and Other Drugs strand is the addition of Cannabis. Targeted training will be offered to Health and PE teachers this school year to better equip them for implementing the new standards as they relate to depression and indictors in students. Kasha Giddins mentioned they are bringing back the Parent Education Series this year. The partnership with UCSO to help with the Substance Prevention work has ended due to funding but we are currently seeking additional grant funding to potentially bring back the USCO partnership or expand the services offered to more schools. We currently have Drug Education for UCPS students on Canvas followed up with in-person education with Rachel Patton.

GOAL 2: Establish & strengthen mental health support for UCPS student population.

- Kasha reports we continue to strengthen our Student Support teams in the schools. We have 11 Elementary schools with play therapy in them now. We continue to work with the Collaborative to provide Mental Health services for UCPS students.

Additional discussion:
-Jay Jones mentioned an article related to some Vapes being banned in NC. State House Bill 900.
-N'dea Brown stated most students do not buy Vapes from vape shops they get them from other students or older relatives. She also mentioned with Union County being so close to the SC border many can cross state line to purchase vapes banned in NC.
-Charlee inquired if curriculum would go beyond 9th grade as that is the last year Health Classes are taught. Kasha stated the current vision is to target 9th grade and then have differentiated curriculum to follow for 10 – 12th grade, in the future.
-Kirsten Wiegert is the substance abuse educator for UCPS
- Triennial Assessment has been completed and update forthcoming at the next meeting.
-Susannah Stone-Gill mention Union County Health Services has several days and times that vaccine appointments are available for students seeking vaccines. There will also be a walk-in clinic on Sept 24th for those out of compliance that need vaccines.

Remaining Meetings 2025-2026 are Virtual-11/18/25, 3/17/26 and 5/19/26