



School Health Advisory Council (SHAC)

December 9, 2025 – 4:30 p.m.
DISD Board Room

Meeting Minutes

The SHAC meeting on December 9, 2025, focused on mental health updates. Jackie Melancon reported that 29 students are enrolled in the TChat virtual counseling program, with 29 sessions conducted. The program expanded to include elementary students, particularly for behavioral support. The Peer Helpers program, replacing Hope Squad, involves 32 high school and 24 middle school students. Communities in Schools added four counselor site coordinators, managing up to 100 students each. Last year, 1800 students received services, with 8300 interactions. Nikki Tworek was recognized for her exceptional work as a site coordinator. The meeting concluded with a discussion on vaccine impacts and future parent information sessions.

Action Items

- [] Provide information on any resources from the AAP or Texas Pediatric Society that could help reassure parents about the new vaccine requirements.
- [] Refer any interested candidates for the Communities in Schools counselor site coordinator position at Terrell Elementary.

Outline

Introductions and Attendance

- Speaker 1, Jacki Woolford, welcomes everyone to the SHAC meeting on December 9, 2025, and mentions that Regina Prigge and Shonda Cannon are absent.
- Speaker 2, Cassie McGee, introduces herself as a parent of a fifth-grader.
- Speaker 3, Robert Lucian, introduces himself as the food service manager.
- Speaker 4, Cindy IR, introduces herself as a parent of a senior at Denison High School.
- Other introductions include Rachel Wigger, district nurse; Janine Hat, pediatrician; and Jack, Melissa, and Paul Neumann, Chief of Police for Denison ISD.

Mental Health Update from Jackie Watson

- Speaker 5, Jackie Melancon, provides an update on the TChat virtual counseling program, which expanded to include elementary students this year.
- Data from November shows 29 students enrolled in the district, with the elementary campus having the most referrals.
- The program offers short-term counseling sessions, with the first session often involving parental support for younger students.
- Case management involves periodic check-ins with parents and providing community resources.

Peer Helpers Program and Grant Information

- The district moved away from the Hope Squad peer-to-peer suicide prevention program to the Peer Helpers program, which includes a broader mental health curriculum.
- Both Denison High School and Scott Middle School have students participating in the Peer Helpers program.
- The Grant Halliburton Foundation sponsors the Texas-sized Hope Conference, where students will attend in January.
- The program is free for students, including transportation, food, and t-shirts.

Communities in Schools Program

- The Communities in Schools program added four more counselor site coordinators this year, with Terrell still needing a placement.
- The program serves students in academics, behavior, and attendance, with site coordinators managing up to 100 students each.
- Last year, 1800 students were served, with 8300 services provided, including tier one, tier two, and tier three activities.
- The program has grown significantly, with 260 students receiving mental health and behavioral health services this year.

Recognition and Future Plans

- Nikki Tworek, a site coordinator, was recognized by the state for her outstanding work with students.
- Students and teachers consistently praise her for making a positive impact on their lives.
- The program continues to grow, with plans to add more site coordinators in the future.
- The next meeting is scheduled for February, with more information to be sent out closer to the date.