SCHOOL HEALTH ADVISORY COUNCIL (SHAC)

Minutes 9/15/2026

In Attendance: Kelly Clark, Wendy Duemmler, Kasha Giddins, Elizabeth Griffin, Charlotte Keziah, Jay Jones, Christina Neal, Wendy Nielsen, Dylan Stamey, Susannah Stone-Gill, Simone Wilson,

Business:

- 3:00 pm- meeting opened on 9/15/2026
- Minutes from 5/19/2026 were approved.
- Wendy Nielsen, Director of School Nursing, reported that she and Kelly Clark, Nursing Supervisor, attended the Employee Wellbeing Summit in July, held in Asheville, NC. She encouraged those invited in the future to take the opportunity to attend. Wendy also reported that the Specialized Instructional Support Personnel Annual Report was submitted Friday 9/11/2026. She thanked everyone for contributing to the report.

- Update on 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
    - Christina Neal, Behavioral Health Collaborative Program Manager, reported the opioid settlement received by the county has allowed for expansion of the Behavioral Health Collaborative services to support students impacted by substance use. The team has completed SBIRT (screen, brief intervention and refer to treatment) training and this process helped determine which students are appropriate for school-based support and those needing a higher level of care. These funds freed up other funding to support additional supervisors to support staff working across the county. They continue to strive for minimal turnover and relationship building in the schools they are assigned to.
    - Kasha Giddins, Director of Student Support, reported we have hired two additional Substance Abuse Coordinators to go along with our lead Substance Abuse Educator. These two individuals will serve PRHS and PRMS and SVHS and SVMS. They will continue to utilize the Too Good for Drugs curriculum and will also support the schools with anyone who has a referral for drug abuse.

- Update on Goal 2: Establish and strengthen mental health support for UCPS student population; increase Mental Health Therapists, Social Workers, and expand teletherapy.
    - Kasha Giddins, Director of Student Support, we continue to try to expand our mental health services by maintaining our partnership with the collaborative who is working to be fully staffed, looking to expand teletherapy to all middle schools, and keep our two agencies we work with on play therapy in our schools.

Remaining SHAC meeting dates 26.27
11/17/2026 virtual
3/16/2027 virtual
5/18/2027 virtual