

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

Notice is hereby given that a Regular Meeting of the Pearland Independent School District School Health Advisory Council (SHAC) was held on **Monday, September 21, 2026**, beginning at 4:00 p.m.

1. Welcome & Introductions

Dr. Lisa Nixon called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m. and welcomed all members.

2. Overview of SHAC

Dr. Nixon reviewed the purpose of SHAC, which is to provide parent and community input regarding student health and wellness initiatives across the district. Members were encouraged to submit future topic suggestions to Dr. Nixon or Monica Reynolds. Dr. Nixon explained SHAC's role in reviewing programs before implementation and gathering community feedback on health-related issues impacting students.

3. ASPIRE Tobacco Prevention Program Review and Evaluation

Dr. Nixon introduced guest presenters from The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center: Dr. Jennifer Cofer, Executive Director of the End Tobacco Program and Shemeika Johnson, Program Director of End Tobacco Youth Initiatives.

Representatives from MD Anderson presented information regarding the ASPIRE (A Smoking Prevention Interactive Experience) tobacco prevention program. Key information included:

- ASPIRE is an online, evidence-based tobacco and nicotine prevention program designed for middle and high school students.
- The program addresses traditional tobacco products, e-cigarettes, vaping, hookah, nicotine pouches, and synthetic marijuana.
- The curriculum aligns with Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS) in health, science, and technology.
- Students complete five self-paced instructional modules that include videos, quizzes, testimonials, and interactive activities.
- The program is available in English and Spanish and is offered at no cost to schools and students.
- Completion time is approximately three hours and may be spread over multiple sessions.
- An educator dashboard allows monitoring of student participation and completion.

- MD Anderson provides implementation support, educator training, and student incentives.

Presenters shared data indicating:

- Over 31,000 students nationwide participated during the 2025-2026 school year.
- Nearly 28,000 Texas students completed the program.
- Evaluation results show increased student knowledge and stronger intentions to remain tobacco-free following participation.

Discussion focused on the value of implementing prevention education before students are exposed to tobacco and nicotine products. SHAC members expressed support for introducing tobacco prevention education beginning in grades 5 and 6, emphasizing the importance of reaching students before experimentation begins.

4. Overview of HB 549 and Airway Clearance Device (LifeVac)

Monica Reynolds, Coordinator of School Health Services, presented information regarding House Bill 549 (Weston Bryan Mandrell Act) and the potential implementation of airway clearance devices such as LifeVac on district campuses.

HB 549 Requirements

- The legislation requires districts that accept or purchase airway clearance devices to:
- Place at least one device on each participating campus.
- Locate devices in areas where students primarily consume food.
- Ensure trained staff are available whenever a substantial number of students are present in those locations.

Key points discussed included:

- Current guidance from organizations such as the American Heart Association, American Academy of Pediatrics, and American Red Cross continues to emphasize established choking response procedures, including back blows, abdominal thrusts (Heimlich maneuver), CPR, and emergency medical services activation.
- Airway clearance devices have recently received authorization for marketing and continue to undergo additional monitoring and evaluation. District leaders are following ongoing research and recommendations from national health organizations.
- Questions remain regarding implementation procedures, including when the device would be utilized during a choking emergency, training requirements for staff, and alignment with existing medical response protocols.
- The district is also reviewing considerations related to campus operations, staff training, and nursing practice standards as part of the decision-making process.

Ms. Reynolds highlighted Pearland ISD's existing safety measures:

- Designation as a Heart Safe School District through Project ADAM.
- Medical response teams on every campus.
- Ongoing CPR, choking response, and traumatic bleeding training.
- Medical emergency drills conducted twice annually.
- CPR mannequins and AED trainers are available on every campus for staff training.
- Strong partnerships with local emergency response agencies.

Extensive discussion occurred regarding implementation of airway clearance devices. Feedback included:

- Members expressed appreciation for continued research before district adoption.
- Concerns were raised about deviating from established standards of care.
- Participants emphasized the importance of staff training and parent education regarding choking prevention and emergency response.
- Several members suggested waiting for additional independent research and national medical organization guidance before making a district-wide decision.
- Members acknowledged parents' desire to do everything possible to protect students while balancing the need for evidence-based practices.

Overall discussion reflected support for continuing current choking response protocols while monitoring future research and developments. Dr. Nixon and Ms. Reynolds encouraged members to provide additional feedback after the meeting as the district continues evaluating the issue.

5. Nomination of SHAC Co-Chairperson for 2026 – 2027

Dr. Nixon informed members that SHAC is seeking a parent representative to serve as co-chairperson for the 2026-2027 school year. The co-chairperson assists by providing feedback on SHAC initiatives, supporting future meeting planning, and serving as a parent and community liaison when needed. Members interested in serving in this role were encouraged to contact Dr. Nixon following the meeting. No nominations were made during the meeting.

6. Discussion of Future Topics

Dr. Nixon shared that the next SHAC meeting, scheduled for November 2, 2026, will focus on bullying prevention and intervention. The meeting will include presentations from student ambassadors who spent the previous year examining bullying, its impact on students, and potential strategies for improvement. District staff will also provide an overview of the bullying investigation process and explain the distinctions between bullying as defined by law and district policy and other forms of student conflict or inappropriate behavior. The goal is to help parents better

understand how reports are investigated and the interventions available to support students. Dr. Nixon also announced that Monica Reynolds will assume leadership of SHAC upon Dr. Nixon's retirement in December 2026

7. Next Meeting – Monday, November 2, 2026