Meeting Notes
Superintendent's Health Advisory Council
Thursday, October 22, 2026
6:30 pm to 7:30 pm

Welcome and introductions **Dr. Kim Moore**

Review of minutes from last meeting **Dawn MacAdams**

Health Services and Immunization Update **Dawn MacAdams**

A survey of **Health Room Encounters** from School Year (SY) 2024-20254 and SY 2025-2026 showed that visit numbers were increasing. SY24-25 had 99,489 visits seen by both the Nurse and the Health Room Assistant (HRA); SY 25-26 had 101,310 visits seen by the Nurse and the HRA. EMS calls were similar, with 100 EMS calls in SY 24-25 and 106 calls in SY 25-26. Nurses see the majority of students, and about 93% of visits result in the student returning to class.

Emerging Trends in Immunizations depict an increasing number of students having a Religious Exemption on file compared to a Completed Immunization Certificate. Overall, we saw an increase in students K-12 having the Religious Exemption on file from SY 2023-2024 compared to SY 2026-2027. The largest increase seen in the 7th Grade Tdap numbers was a 194 % increase from 18 exemptions in SY 23-24 to 53 in SY 26-27.

Dawn MacAdams shared that there are often delays in securing vaccine appointments at the health department and private providers. If a student does not have a medical home, they rely on the health department and Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs). Lillian Hill, both a pharmacist and a Registered Nurse, said Publix can vaccinate against influenza for ages 3 and up, and a Tdap vaccine with a prescription. Obtaining a prescription is the barrier for many families due to lack of a medical home.

The group discussed vaccine hesitancy. Dr. DuBose educates his families about the efficacy of vaccines. It may take a few visits, but most parents come around with accurate, fact-based education, e.g., maybe not vaccinate for Hepatitis B at birth, but discuss it, and plan to vaccinate at the two-week appointment.

NBCSN - National Board Certification for School Nurses

Five Richland Two School Nurses joined Dawn MacAdams as Board Certified School Nurses in the SY 25-26. The South Carolina Association of School Nurses (SCASN) will pay members' registration fee once they take and pass the certification exam.

Richland Two had two successive **South Carolina School RN of the Year** awards -SY 2024-2025 was Karen Lobitz, BSN, RN, NCSN, CPN, and SY 2025-2026 was Betsy Salcedo, BSN, RN.

Coordinated School Health Advisory Committee (CSHAC) **Dawn MacAdams**

Each school is required to form a CSHAC team and to meet regularly to assess their schools' needs and set yearly goals to improve school health. Richland Two utilizes the *Alliance for a Healthier Generation* toolkit to guide schools in assessing the health of their school and set goals to meet school health tenets required by the South Carolina Department of Education.

Dawn MacAdams and Ed Emmer completed the required Triennial Assessment report in 2025 by compiling the data from the Alliance for a Healthier Generation generated by each school's Coordinated School Health Advisory Committee. This tool has the advantage of saving information year to year, where schools can complete an assessment and build upon the previous years'plans to update goals and/or create new goals. It is a very easy program to use and allows for the district to synthesize the information for the Triennial Report.

Schools are working on their CSHAC teams and encourage parents and students to participate. Dawn MacAdams will be sharing a ParentSquare message encouraging parents to reach out to their child's school and volunteer their time.

Absenteeism Update **Abby Cobb**

Abby Cobb discussed 2025-2026 Attendance Spotlights: We strengthened the 10 Day No-Show processes, increased consistency in school-based Attendance Team Meetings, enhanced Tier 1 and Tier 2 Attendance Supports, continued reduction in the dropout rate, and improved retention of Attendance Secretaries. We held district-wide engagement with Attendance Spirit Week and held quarterly attendance Administrator Collaboration Meetings. We are pleased with our steady chronic absenteeism decline with an unofficial 16.06% for the 2025-26 school year, which is a 3% decrease. Richland Two's chronic absenteeism rate remains below the state average.

SNAP Benefits **Abby Cobb**

The One Big Beautiful Bill Act (H.R. 1) could have implications for Poverty Index Percentage (PIP) rates and related funding within Richland Two. Changes to SNAP eligibility, including expanded work requirements and restrictions on certain household deductions, may result in some families losing or receiving reduced SNAP benefits. Because SNAP participation is one pathway through which students may be identified as economically disadvantaged, changes in eligibility could affect the number of students identified through direct certification and potentially influence the district's PIP rates. A decrease in reported PIP rates could impact the district's ability to identify and support students experiencing economic hardship, as well as affect funding tied to poverty indicators. Changes in PIP rates could also affect schools' eligibility to participate in the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP), which allows eligible schools to provide breakfast and lunch at no charge to all students. If changes in SNAP participation result in fewer students qualifying through direct certification, some schools could fall below the federal eligibility threshold for CEP, potentially affecting their ability to continue providing universal meals without charge. It is important to recognize that changes in PIP rates may reflect changes in eligibility and identification rather than an actual reduction in the number of families experiencing economic hardship. Continued monitoring of student eligibility data, SNAP participation, and poverty indicators will be important to understanding the potential impact on district resources, school meal programs, and student support services. Members of the HAC are encouraged to research and advocate as they see appropriate.

Homebound **Gianina Hayes**

Gianina Hayes reviewed the State Law and Richland Two Policy on Homebound Instruction. She emphasized the need for a licensed medical provider (MD, DO, APRN, PA) to complete the Homebound Form in full, including signature, date, address, and phone number. There were reminders that accommodations can be put in place that may allow students to remain in school for instruction: wheelchair use, elevator use, assistive technology, etc. Full medical homebound and intermittent medical homebound are **temporary, very restrictive** placements. Homebound instruction may be approved for a maximum of forty-five (45) instructional days at one time. If the homebound period must be extended, a new medical homebound form (signed by the physician) is required. Any time missed during the interim will not be excused unless a medical note is provided.

The top three diagnoses requesting Homebound Instruction include: Sickle Cell Anemia, Fractures/Broken Bones, Asthma. There are currently 126 students with Intermittent or Full Medical Homebound Applications across the district.

Winter Illnesses and Attendance **Dawn MacAdams**

There are no current mandatory isolation days for Flu, COVID, or RSV. Richland Two follows the current South Carolina Department of Health School Exclusion List. Respiratory Illness Absences will be categorized as: Medical Absence when a doctor's note is provided. Verified Absence when a parent/guardian note details the illness.

Dr. Moore encourages everyone to stay healthy. Get plenty of rest, eat well, get your flu shot, and stay home if you are ill.

Respectfully Submitted,
Karen Lobitz, BSN, RN, NCSN
District Lead Nurse