



May 1, 2023

Dear Dr. Young,

As the district designee supporting the Abilene Independent School District School Health Advisory Committee (SHAC) this year, I am submitting the 2022-2023 recommendations on behalf of the Abilene ISD SHAC. I am also providing a summary of the membership and meeting dates, as well as input regarding the human sexuality program. Misty Harrison and Elizabeth Wilson have served as Co-Chairman throughout the 2022-2023 school year.

A list of the 2022-2023 Abilene ISD SHAC membership is attached. The following are the dates that the Abilene ISD SHAC met and discussed topics pertaining to the health and wellness of the children in AISD.

- September 26, 2022
- November 14, 2022
- February 27, 2023
- April 24, 2023

The Human Sexuality and Wellness program was presented to the seventh graders this year. The program was presented to the boys by Andrew Dillard and to the girls by Elizabeth Pullman. Elizabeth Pullman had completed the PA program at Hendrick Health and had free time before she was to start her new job. The program covered the following topics: healthy relationships and avoiding risky behavior, puberty, male and female anatomy, STDs, abstinence, teen pregnancy, and development. The four middle schools received the instructions and lessons between February and March with dates as follows: Mann Middle School, February 6-10; Craig Middle School, February 13-17; Madison Middle School, February 21-27; Clack Middle, March 6-10. The goal of the education was to educate young people the abstinence is the safest and healthiest choice to prevent a pregnancy while also preparing them with the knowledge and tools to reduce risks and to have a healthy future.

HB 1525 requires schools to obtain written parental consent before providing sexuality instruction to a student. This request for parental consent may not be included with any other notification or request, other than the notice about human sexuality instruction. This notice must be provided to the parents at least 14 days before instruction begins. Data was presented on students who opted out of all lessons including students who opted out of specific lessons as aggregated by campus as well as by gender. In total, 216 students opted out of specific lessons. 124 of those students were male and 92 were female. The grand total participating this year was 1020 with 79% of the district's seventh graders participating overall. Mann Middle School followed up by phone with the family of any student who did not return a permission slip, and as a result showed an increase in participation with 93% of the seventh graders taking part. Discussion was held about the method of collecting parental/guardian permission. Currently, if a student does not turn in a consent, then it is assumed that the parent has elected to "opt-

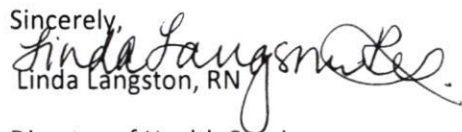
out" of all lessons. The recommendation was made that HB 1525 is researched to see if the law precludes the district from requiring all students to return the consent form whether the parent's decision is to "opt-in" or "opt-out". Also, we recommend that the five-lesson in a week sexuality format be used this year be followed again next year. The format used this school year served the students well and there was good participation by the students.

The SHAC would like to highly encourage the nutrition staff to continue to attend the national conference to lobby for the opportunity to do national networking and to be able to share opinions with lawmakers which could be beneficial.

Please know that I am available to answer questions and assist in providing information to the Abilene ISD Board of Trustees.

Thank you so much.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Linda Langston".

Linda Langston, RN

Director of Health Services