

Abilene ISD
School Health Advisory Committee

November 27, 2017

Committee members present: Linda Langston Teresa Bentle, Jaclyn Conner, Olga Chavana, Kristin Fletcher, Diane Russell, Elizabeth Wilson, Brad Barham, Stacy Evans, Peter Norton, Paige Lemasters, Misty Harrison, Leslie Boyles.

Guest: No Guests

Meeting was called to order at 6:09 pm. Minutes from last meeting (September 25, 2017) were reviewed and Paige Lemasters made a motion to accept the minutes as read and Diane Russell made the second motion. All present in were in favor.

A copy of the PHQ9 - Developmental, Behavioral and Psychosocial Screening and Assessment questionnaire and Patient Health Screening was brought for us to review. This is what one of the local pediatric offices is using for their screening process. Screening is at 11 years of age. AISD does not do mental health screenings. It was asked what we would do for children after they are discovered to have mental health issues. Betty Hardwick Center offers 7 months counseling for free. It was stated that there is not a facility in town for mental health there are other and we need agencies specific to mental health. Family group counseling could be beneficial to break the cycle and begin early on. We need to identify and show there is a need. What can we do as a coalition to provide better care and what will our role be? We need to provider numbers for our area and begin screening incoming students. A screening and referral plan was suggested if it can be approved. Depression should be a part of this screening. The screening could be included in the enrollment packets sent home to students. Surveys could also be completed by students during school so we know it was completed by the student and not a parent. It was also asked if AISD would be held liable and what legal action would need to be in place to protect teachers and the district. It was asked that this go to the workshop the night before the board meeting next Thursday.

1. Screening tool - packets for elementary and then middle school and high school complete during school.
2. Find the screening tool to be used
3. Nurses gather information.

We would like to find out what is going on at state level and why mental health has not been addressed and use the district as a tool to identify and have a plan in place to complete the process. Discussed legalities and what the options should be fore unaccompanied minors. We would like this to be completed this year so we have data to go off of for next year.

Members had questions about what has been going around this season - flu and strep.

Linda Langston gave an update on the sex education. The person in charge of writing the curriculum was previously a sex ed. teacher, but did not have as much time to prepare she would have liked to. She received feedback and is working to improve the curriculum. It was taught for 5 days/Monday - Friday for 40 minutes in the locker rooms with girls and boys separated. It has been recommended that they have more time, approximately 10 days because of the importance and amount of information. Some parents were unhappy about the discussion of oral sex with their 6 graders. Mentioned a parent meeting beforehand may be beneficial.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:22 pm by Paige Lemasters.

Next meeting will be Monday, February 26, 2018