

CHILD HEALTH ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MEETING MINUTES

September 8, 2005

Attendees: Committee Members
Marilou Brodie, Sue Chambers, Charlotte Davis, Blair Dean,
Jennifer Dillaha, James Fasules, Kathy McFetridge,
Suzanne McCarthy, Jan Richter, Rosemary Rodibaugh, Rhonda Sanders

Staff
Mary Gaither, Ann Thompson

Absentees: Bobbie Davis, Steve Strobe

Next Meeting: October 13, 2005, 10:00 a.m.
ACHI Conference Room, Suite 300
Victory Building
1401 West Capitol Avenue
Little Rock

Chair Rhonda Sanders called the meeting to order. Minutes of the August 11, 2005, meeting were approved. A motion was approved to elect Kathy McFetridge Vice-Chair for a one-year term to expire July 31, 2006. The Committee discussed and expressed excitement over their Recommendations being passed out of Legislative Committee.

Rhonda introduced Jennifer Dillaha, a new member representing the Division of Health and announced that Kathy Haynie would be the new member representing the School Nurses Association.

She reiterated the function and importance of the Key Resources Group and motions were approved to add two members to the Key Resources Group; one to be from the Child Nutrition Unit of the Department of Education and the other to be the Chair of Action for Healthy Kids. Rhonda advised that she would notify the appropriate Administrators and request the appointments.

Rhonda updated the Committee on the Legislative Review Committee's concerns over the DOE Rules resulting from the CHAC Recommendations and their subsequent approval with the condition that the Child Health Advisory Committee and the Department of Education work together to hold a public hearing (at least in Little Rock) to discuss the lunch program and develop physical activity ideas for schools.

Tammy Harrell advised the Committee that a bill (S.1276) had been introduced in the United States Senate that would require measurement of the proficiency of all students in physical education.

There was discussion of reporting on competitive food contracts and how it was being accomplished. There was also discussion of lunch periods and access to food during designated times.

It was suggested that the Committee request a Commissioner's Memo be sent from the Department of Education to schools reminding them of the technical assistance available from Community Health Nurses stationed at the Co-ops. Tammy Harrell advised that she would investigate and/or request that

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such a memo be disseminated. It was agreed that the Community Health Nurses listed in the Took Kit needed to be revised.

Laura McDowell advised that the Nutrition and Physical Activity Advisory Committees would now be called Wellness Committees. She also advised that a program is being developed called Coordinated School Health and the program will have one representative from the Division of Health and one from the Department of Education. She said the coordination should eliminate replication of efforts.

Jennifer Dillaha advised the Committee that employment of a qualified community health promotion professional, as required in Act 1220 is in the process.

The Committee discussed and established the following successes, weaknesses and needed improvements:

Successes

- Raising awareness
- Establishing Rules
- Survival
- Nutrition more successful
- Training requirements for food service workers
- De-linking nutrition and physical activity/education
- National policy changes
- New national vending policies
- People working together
- Workplace policies for activity
- Triad for Healthy Arkansas-Children-BMI Data
- Resources and staff for schools such as Community Health Promotion Specialists and Community Health Nurses
- Local committees meet around these issues
- Publication and communication to the general public

Weaknesses

- Vending restrictions and business revenue loss
- Cost of physical activity
- Times for physical activity
- Facilities for physical activity
- Lack of reporting required in Act 1220
- Phase in time too short
- Bad timing on Board of Education approval

Improvements

- 16 oz. low fat milk – fruit juice
- Accessibility to healthy options in vending
- State funding for snacks in schools

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- Ways to and clarification on feeding a hungry child
- Changing vending/beverages for Jr. high/middle-school to 75% no sugar available during school hours
- American Beverage organization
- Vending contract reporting
- DOE support
- Lunch times and space
- Need for better communication w/legislators
- Local committee technical assistance
- Communicate to schools about technical assistance in Co-ops
- Physical activity/education implementation plan with Department of Education
- Enforce and check Physical education frameworks and standards
- Facilities and Community Resources
- Participate in ALC hearings
- Marketing School lunches
- Improve communication to parents and awareness and involvement
- Menu review

During the establishment of the above, the Committee agreed that clarification should be sent to the Department of Education regarding vending by school food services being allowed as long as the foods were on the approved list and the child nutrition program received the revenue. Rhonda agreed to request legal clarification. It was also agreed to ask Dr. Joe Thompson to address the snack issue in his letter to the USDA requesting flexibility.

The Committee agreed that the Physical Activity Subcommittee would work with Tammy Harrell and her subcommittee on ways to incorporate physical activity. They agreed to discuss the Marketing and Data Subcommittees at the next meeting. The subcommittees agreed to work on appropriate issues and report at the next Committee meeting.

There was discussion of changing the meetings to Wednesday. Rhonda advised that she would email a ballot to the Committee for a vote on Wednesday vs. Thursday.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 2:00 p.m.