

Austin I.S.D. School Health Advisory Council Meeting

6:00 p.m.- 7:30 p.m., Wednesday April 17, 2024

Meeting Location:

AISD Headquarters 2nd Floor

PD Room 235 (this is a different room!)

The SHAC may take action during the meeting as it clearly and directly relates to any agenda item on the table at the time. [SHAC Meeting Norms](#)

Time	Agenda Item	Presenter or Staff Resource
6:00 p.m.	<p>Call to Order The meeting was called to order at 6:04PM</p>	<p>Belynda Montgomery, Co-Chair Susanne Kerns, Co-Chair</p>
6:05 p.m.	<p>Introductions and recognition of guests</p> <p>Sarah McKenna: Parent April Jones: Parent Jonathan Alba: AISD Consultant Brant Bingamon: Journalist Tracy Spinner: TEA HB 906 Task Force Alana Bejarano: AISD Lauren Woods : AISD Jacob Reach: AISD</p> <p>SHAC members in attendance: Belynda Barkley Montgomery- Co Chair Leah Kelly Susanne Kerns- Co Chair Francesca Leahy Gerardo Martinez Addison McKenna Nina Miller Alana O'Malley Mary Renfro Maria Solis Ann Teich</p> <p>Trustees in Attendance: Trustee Boswell Trustee Kauffman</p> <p>Mr Martinez, the newest SHAC member, introduced himself and his work with students in AISD.</p>	<p>Belynda Montgomery, Co-Chair Susanne Kerns, Co-Chair</p>
6:10 p.m.	<p>Community Communications Jonathan Alba, a consultant for AISD, spoke about his work with students at the Alternative Learning Center.</p>	<p>Addison McKenna, Student Representative</p>
6:15 p.m.	<p>Trustee Presentation The SHAC recognized Addison McKenna for their work and advocacy in AISD. Addison has served as a SHAC member for multiple years. Trustee Boswell and Trustee Kauffman expressed appreciation for the role that Addison played to pave the way for other students in AISD to serve and advocate for their rights.</p>	<p>Lynn Boswell, AISD Trustee David Kauffman, AISD Trustee</p>

	<p>Trustee Boswell thanked SHAC for the detailed, thoughtful, actionable recommendation submitted to the board advocating for additional mental health services in AISD. She recognized that SHAC not only identified a problem but also offered a solution. She stated that this is what they need from an advisory body.</p> <p>Trustee Kauffman thanks SHAC for everything they do. He recognized that SHAC is the source of all the hot spots that come through SHAC. He stated his appreciation for SHAC boldly and equitably facing the significant issues for the district to make sure that the district is inclusive and supportive for students.</p>	
6:20p.m.	<p>Reading and Approval of Minutes Motion was made to approve the March minutes. 2nd received. Motion was approved. None opposed. None abstained.</p>	<p>Belynda Montgomery, Co-Chair Susanne Kerns, Co-Chair</p>
6:25p.m.	<p>District Updates Health Services Spring is the time to plan for next school year. They have been working with the newcomers with immunization clinics making sure they have all the health services needed to be ready for school. State compliance documentation is all due in the spring. That includes immunizations, screenings and health reports. Ms. Bejarano reported that Health Services should only experience minimal cuts to the department budget and that will not affect services for students. All High Schools are staffed with AISD Health Room Assistants and RNs as needed, all Middle Schools except 5 are fully staffed by AISD. Those 5 are still being serviced by the contractor, EDU. Community Care Clinics will continue next year.</p>	<p>Alana Bejarano, Executive Director of Health Services</p>
6:30 p.m.	<p><u>Mental Health Presentation</u> Ms. Spinner introduced herself and talked about her involvement in multiple committees focused on school based mental health. Her presentation covered a variety of topics around the mental health of students including, History and Current Requirements of School-Based Mental Health (SBMH) in Texas, History and Current SBMH Resources in AISD, TEA, HB 906 Task Force on SBMH, Resources in Austin/Travis County for Building Internal SBMH Capacity, and Addressing Gaps in Services in the Reality of a Budget Deficit. Ms. Spinner provided a slide deck with multiple resources linked within it allowing SHAC members to research topics that interest them. Ms. Spinner pointed out that a consultant was hired in 2019 to review mental health services in Austin ISD and to provide recommendations for making the services “more financially sustainable and create a long-term sustainable strategy that would allow expansion of mental health therapy services onto additional AISD campuses.” Ms. Spinner discussed the common struggles across districts in Texas which include, Chronic Absenteeism, Increase in escalation of behaviors in elementary aged children, Lack of school based resources, consistently across all campuses, empowering and increasing the capacity of schools based professionals, ESSER funding cliff, Convergence of loss of enrollment, parent apathy and lack of engagement, and increasing academic learning loss/gaps, over identification of students identified as BIPOC in SPED and disproportionate discipline rates. Ms. Spinner explained the purpose of the TEA HB 906 Task Force on School Based Mental Health. The Task Force is directed to study and evaluate mental health services that are funded by the state and provided at a school district or open-enrollment charter school directly to a student, parent or family member or employee. They are</p>	<p>Tracy Spinner, Chair of the TEA HB 906 Task Force</p>

	<p>also directed to study training provided to an educator and the impact of the mental health training and services. The Task Force surveyed Texas districts in 2022 and key recommendations were presented to the governor, lieutenant governor and legislators to address the gaps in School Based Mental Health in Texas. Ms. Spinner reported that AISD did not participate in the survey. On April 4, 2024 a new survey was sent to all superintendents and all principals at all campuses in Texas. This survey is due May 23, 2024 and as of 4.16.24, the Task Force had not received any responses from AISD. Ms. Spinner reported that the results from the survey would affect funding, policy and recommendations that will be made by the Task Force.</p> <p>Gaps as identified through HB 906 Task Force Survey (n=730 districts across Texas) include;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Lack of appropriate staffing to support student mental health needs. ● Adequate funding and training of staff to support the MTSS framework. ● Identification of metrics and data collection to review internal and external partner effectiveness to determine if student MH needs are being met; clinically and academically, and give an honest review of ROI. <p>Ms. Spinner offered suggestions on how AISD might consider reviewing current mental health practices in the district. Within the slide deck, Ms. Spinner linked a resource database created by TEA. Ms. Spinner shared the benefits of coordination and alignment of School based Mental Health Resources and Services. A suggestion was made by SHAC that the district support the campuses in the completion of the survey.</p> <p>Ms. Spinner suggested that another source to help determine the mental health needs on a campus could be data that already exist such as absenteeism, academic performance, class failures, and discipline rates.</p>	
7:00 p.m.	<p>Mental Health Subcommittee Report</p> <p>The subcommittee is requesting information from the district including, org charts, personnel keeping track of student data around mental health, specifically those students who are self-reporting, those experiencing self-harm and suicide ideation, personnel responsible for writing grants for the district, and the process for accessing partners to assist with mental health services.</p> <p>The subcommittee will write a recommendation that the district support having AISD complete the TEA survey and that the Assistant Superintendents for Elementary and Secondary schools monitor the completion of the survey.</p>	Ann Teich and Leah Kelly
7:15p.m.	<p>Items from Members (Brief announcements, suggestions for future topics, recognitions, etc.)</p> <p>Addison McKenna has now received \$96,000 in scholarship money to attend the University of Texas. Addison has chosen to attend the University of Texas.</p> <p>Pat Werner is retiring. June 30, 2024 will be her last day. The Director job is to be posted in May.</p> <p>The co-chairs are looking to survey the members to determine the focus for next year’s SHAC meetings. Suggestions include</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Training for SHAC members on testifying and advocating ● SHAC 101 training for all members provided by the district legal team 	Belynda Montgomery, Co-Chair Susanne Kerns, Co-Chair

	<p>SHAC held a discussion about the possibility of a May meeting. It was determined that the questions would be gathered and distributed to the district and a determination would be made later for a meeting.</p> <p>Megan Vasquez, PE teacher at Becker Elementary took a large team to the Capitol 10K.</p>	
7:30pm	<p>Adjourn The meeting was adjourned at 7:35PM</p>	<p>Belynda Montgomery, Co-Chair Susanne Kerns, Co-Chair</p>

** **Please note the process for public comments on video conference meetings:** Persons wishing to provide public comments will be asked to state their name and acknowledge that they have read the 'Note about public comments' listed below. If more than 5 people wish to speak, the Co-Chair will draw 5 names in random order.*

Note about public comments: Speakers and visitors are expected to provide comments in a respectful manner. If the presiding officer deems a speaker or visitor to be disrespectful, that person may be warned or asked to cease any further comment or behavior. Noncompliance may result in ejection from the meeting.

SHAC Resources:

- Additional instructions on how to give public comment at a SHAC meeting: <https://www.austinisd.org/advisory-bodies/shac/meetings>
- Instructions on how to give public comment or public testimony at an Austin ISD Board of Trustees meeting: <https://www.austinisd.org/board/meetings>
- Instructions on how to register to testify at the Capitol: House / Senate Witness Registration: <https://mytxlegis.capitol.texas.gov/hwrspublic/about.aspx>