

Health & Advisory Committee
& Safe and Drug Free Schools Committee Minutes
September 16, 2013

Meeting called to order at 4:05 p.m.

In attendance were: Pam Pailes, Inez Matthijez, Christine Ewing, Jennifer Pogue, Jeneya Anderson, Casey Becker, Molly Parker, Robert Connor, Olivia Malone, Lisa Caudle, Brian Scholz, Crystal Cooper, Aida Regalado, Kristen LaBaume, Neely Pedersen, Carrie Long, Melanie Paul, Linda Medley, Kristina Richter, Natalie Barganski, Joseph Reyes, Irene Reyes, Sister Begoña Divinagracia, Edgar VanGeem, David Hancock, Gina Valdez, San Juanita Torres, Cheryl Cannon, Linda Barganski, Sandra Davila, Dr. Mary Jane Garza, Bryant Gray, Sandra Martinez and Linda Copado Rincon.

Introductions were started by Cheryl Cannon.

Motion was passed by Brian Scholz and Dr. Mary Jane Garza to approve last meetings' minutes.

Presentations were given as follows:

1. Presentation by Linda Rincon from United Way. United Way has a contract with Health and Human Services to provide the Texas Home Visiting Program in Nueces County. Seven communities in Texas were approached in 2011, with Nueces Co. being one of them, to fund students that are in need. Social Service agencies came together and decided to make United Way the fiscal agent for Nueces County. There are four evidence-based home visiting programs in our community:
 - a. Nurse Family Partnership – Works with first time pregnant women mostly in low-income homes. They are enrolled up to week 28 of their pregnancy. Visits will depend on the level of need. Once the baby is born, weekly visits will be done during a transition period. They will also screen for domestic violence, post-partum depression, etc. The family will be given resources according to their needs.
 - b. Early Head Start Homebound Program – Participating families need to meet income criteria or have a child that has a disability, is under foster care or homeless. Visits are usually once a week and are conducted at the participant's home. This reinforces learning in a familiar environment. This program can help a child until he/she is of 3 years of age.
 - c. Universal Program – This program serves any family that lives in Nueces County that has children up to kindergarten age. This program has the same component as the previous two. Visits are every other week. They provide developmental testing that helps identify delays or disabilities early on.
 - d. Home Instruction for Parents of Preschool Youngsters (HIPPPY) – This is a school readiness literacy focused program. Visits are done weekly and the children do not need to be at meetings with parents. Visits are done during the school calendar year. Children are enrolled at 3-4 years old. Program follows a lesson plan that helps empower parents to become child's first teacher. Parents can then give feedback on the lessons given to them.

Achievement ceremonies are held at the end of the school year where the children are the ones being acknowledged for their work.

United Way is also part of the Coastal Bend Teen Pregnancy Coalition. They recently received training to partner with teen parents. They are also part of the Fatherhood Initiative program that helps engage fathers to be an active part of their family.

Pam Pailes from the High School campus is already providing information about this program to pregnant students. Several of them have gone forward and called. She stated that not only the students have nothing but wonderful things to say about the program, but the parents as well.

2. Floor open for nominations for co-chair for committee. Unanimous vote to make parent Aida Regalado from the Elementary campus co-chair.
3. Cheryl Cannon presented the Needs Assessment forms to the committee. This will help to assess what topics the committee believes are of most importance to discuss.
4. Cheryl Cannon presented the Roles of the Council – Eight Components. Components include: Family and community involvement, nutrition services, physical education, health education, counseling, physiological and social services, health services, health promotion for school staff and healthy school environment. Also discussed were the committee's vision, mission and goals.

Floor Open for discussion.

Pam Pailes brought a Teen Pregnancy poster and brochures to be reviewed.

Dr. Linda Barganski stated that before being implemented, new programs have to be approved by the committee. Feedback was needed regarding the United Way Program. Unanimous vote to use United Way visiting programs in the district.

Meeting concluded at 5:02pm. □