



# Monroe County School District School Health Advisory Committee

**Monroe County School District  
School Health Advisory Committee  
Virtual Teams Meeting  
December 7, 2023  
2:00-3:00 PM**

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|------|---|
| 2:00 | Welcome and Introductions                 |
| 2:05 | Update from School District/School Health |
| 2:10 | AHEC update                               |
| 2:15 | Health Department Updates                 |
| 2:20 | Monroe County Head start Update           |
| 2:30 | Tobacco Prevention Program Presentation   |
| 3:00 | Adjourn                                   |

## Minutes

Minutes from 9/7/2023 meeting approved by Marianne Finizio and seconded by Talley Anne Reeb.

Meeting ran by Talley Anne Reeb RN,BSN today. Minutes taken by Dana Portillo.

Attendees: Dana Portillo (chair), Talley Anne Reeb (DOH), Brittany Evans (Guidance Care Center), Bronte Walsh (GCC), Cali Roberts (Womankind), Christina Geer (AHEC), Kerry Biondoletti (DOE + parent), Marianne Finizio (CHI), Denise McLeod (DOH), Michael Cunningham (AHEC), Stefani Lawlor (DOE + head start parent), Kimberly Stevens (DOH), Brandie Acevedo (DOE + parent), Sue Woltanski (DOE- school board chair), Jennifer Lefelar (DOH), Christina McPherson (DOE Administration), Ashley Ravelo (DOE- head start).

Meeting started with updates:

**School District-** Discussed vaping handout in progress by Erin Williams, Daliana Goins, Donna Tedesco, and Debra Ward. District Guidance staff are in conference this week and unable to attend. Those individuals will give better updates at next meeting as we do not think this is finalized and we want to present this material accurately. Christina McPherson shared the efforts already in place to address smoking and vaping in our schools. She reports that the vaping video produced by DOH for DOE educational purposes has now been seen by all students in middle school and high school. Other efforts are continuing to address the concern for our students. The three high schools are being tasked with creating video PSAs for a contest, with the winning school receiving money.

Sue Woltanski explained a change coming up after the new year that will shorten one day a week for students by one hour to allow teachers further planning. This is a result of teacher shortage challenges, mental health concerns, and knowing that some other districts have already implemented this successfully.

**AHEC** – Michael Cunningham gave several updates for the programs he has in the schools. Clinics remain busy. They have switched to a new EMR (electronic medical record) software. In January, families can get digital registration materials, consent, etc online and through text. His dental program has already been operating this way with success. There is a new ARNP at Stanley Switlik and Plantation Key Schools. Marathon Middle High School is down a provider one day a week, but that may get resolved. All school based clinics and dental clinics will be open through 12/21 and will reopen 1/8. The dental sealant program is now halfway complete. The expansion to the Marathon site has been completed. The Operatories are now open, and they are pleased. Families have been able to arrange transportation from Key West and the upper Keys to get the services they need so far. A new dentist will be started January 8<sup>th</sup> full time and will be a Monroe resident. This dentist holds a pediatric specialty. The schedule is on the website for the rest of the school year. The addition of the new dentist will expand services from the current 3 days a week to five. This is great. There are no new tobacco updates. Tobacco Free Florida has not approved AHEC to provide NRT to students. They can only get that if they come with a prescription from their provider. The opioid project starts in January and will run through April to provide training and Narcan to staff.

**DOH** – Denise McLeod gave updates for upcoming outreach events. She mentioned events in Big Pine Key, Key Largo, Marathon, and Key West. She shared flyers that will be distributed to the team. These outreaches work in conjunction with other community partners to offer screenings, tobacco services, vaccines, bike helmets, etc. There are also QR codes to allow for easier registration.

**Head Start** – Ashley Ravelo gave dental updates. She had her 90-day deadline in November where she was almost 100% for her students. There are only about 10 remaining. Michael Cunningham and his AHEC team were invaluable in getting that taken care of. They created extra days to accommodate the needs. She also shared a child who had extensive dental work needed and several groups were involved – AHEC, Nicholas Children’s bus in Homestead, and eventually providers in Doral. The services were paid for there, a true blessing.

**DOE Tobacco Prevention Presentation** – Kimberly Stevens had a power point that she will also be sharing with the team. She shared the exciting news that Monroe County is only

the third county in Florida to create smoke and vape-free beaches and parks. This was set up in June but fully approved and implemented in October after municipalities gave final approval. She shared educational opportunities for CEUS (included in the power points). She discussed House Bill 495 proposing smoking and vaping prohibitions in state owned parks. She is hoping this passes soon. The next project (ongoing) is the focus on zoning restrictions limiting the advertisement and sale of nicotine products near schools. She discussed prior fines for non-compliance and potential next steps as these issues have not been resolved. The illustration/example was of retailers near Key West High School. Mayor Terri Johnston was mentioned regarding talks with city hall discussing these ordinances possibly as soon as next quarter, but in 2024. She also discussed a settlement fund for students who bought JUUL products on or before December 7, 2022 who have been affected by them. The site to apply is [www.juulclassaction.com/en](http://www.juulclassaction.com/en). There is a \$300 million settlement for distribution. These funds can be used to help with addiction, problems, education, prevention, etc. Lastly, the next Tobacco Free Florida Keys Partnership meeting will be held by zoom 12/28/23 at 2:00 pm. There are details in the presentation, or you can contact Kimberly if you are interested in joining.

She did ask Christina McPherson and Sue Woltanski if the school district is planning on participating in the state FL Youth survey. It is held every other year. Christina said that we will be doing this as always. Donna Tedesco is facilitating this. With the newest restrictions from the state, all survey questions have to be published on the district website beforehand, so parents have the opportunity to review them.

**Woman Kind** – Cali Roberts updated that Woman Kind is expanding to Marathon in the AHEC offices. They plan to be open in January. They have expanded their services, with the assistance of the health department and Rural Health Network, to provide prenatal care until the hospitals can hire more OB/GYNs. They estimate about 150 mothers deliver each year without prenatal care due to the lack of providers in the area.

**CHI**- Marianne Finizio gave updates. She shared that they have not been able to replace Dr. Sharma (OB) or attract dentists. She is thankful to Michael and his AHEC team for any assistance they have provided in the dental arena. She is also grateful for the groups working together to advertise any Affordable Care Act insurance assistance to families. These flyers have been printed in English, Spanish, and Creole and distributed in many locations. Dana shared that they have been delivered to the schools. CHI was also able to help with advertising in radio interviews and providing press releases.

Next meeting Thursday, March 7<sup>th</sup> 2:00.

Dana asked about emailing these minutes now to all SHAC members for approval of minutes that would allow us to post on district website as we meet quarterly. This was approved.

Meeting adjourned.

12/8/2023 Minutes approved by Talley Anne Reeb, RN, BSN.

Minutes seconded by Denise McLeod with direction that the DOH 2024 Health to You Calendar of Events not be posted.

