



School Health Advisory Committee Meeting

February 8, 2024

Lee County Public Education Center

9:00 – 10:30 am

Member/Guests/Presenters

Cavanagh, Christina	Physician Lee Health
Carroll, Amy	LCSD – Coordinator of Food Procurement
Colon, Wildaliz	SDLC - Assistant Director - Health Services
Evans, Amanda	DOH - Healthy Community Coordinator
Fischer, Mary	Community Member
Fleming, Jada	SDLC - Board Member
Goerke, Kurt	DOH – Health Education Program Manager
Guffetelli, Mike	FL DOH - Wellness
Ithal, Jeri	Lee County DOH
Kreuscher, Sally	Lee Health – Community Programs Coordinator
McRoberts, Sydney	LCSD – ESE Nurse Specialist
Miner, Moira	SDLC - ESE Nurse Specialist, SHAC Co-Secretary
Ortenzo, Janet	Southwest Florida Coalition Against Human Trafficking
Parker, Heather	LCSD – Wellness Coordinator
Roy, Leisha	SDLC – TOA Comprehensive Health Education, SHAC Chair
Thompson, Sara	SDLC – Prevention Specialist, SHAC Co-Secretary
Wynne, Kathy	SDLC - Prevention Specialist

Meeting was called to order at 9:04 by Leisha Roy.

Minutes from the November 16, 2023, meeting was unanimously approved with Mary Fischer making a motion to approve and a second was made by Kurt Goerke.

Agenda for the meeting was unanimously approved with Amanda Evans making a motion to approve and a second was made by Kathy Wynne.

NEW BUSINESS

Lee County Health Department’s Healthy Living Collaboration – Amanda Evans, a health educator and Healthy Community Coordinator with the Lee County Florida Department of Health, gave a presentation on Healthy Communities.

- **Healthy Communities** is a program in every single county in Florida. The (CHIP) Community Health Improvement Plan, that Amanda supports, falls under this program. This plan was devised by meeting with community organizations and finding out what

problems they had within their respective communities. The organizations gave feedback and ideas for goals and objectives to be achieved within a three-to-five-year timeframe.

- The CHIP main areas of focus are below.
 - Nutrition and Physical Activity
 - Health messaging
 - Nutrition education campaigns for elderly residents
 - Grocery store tours will be done in the next couple of months.
 - Created a pdf with ideas for students of indoor activities that can be done over the summer when schools are closed, and students might not have access to gyms.
 - Worksite wellness report card
 - Policy systems and environmental changes
 - Charleston Park is a small, historically African American neighborhood near Alva on the edge of Lee County. The closest grocery store is about twelve miles away. Walking to grocery stores or other places is not very doable since Charleston Park is off a major highway.

A needs report outlining transportation, nutrition and physical activity, mental health, and health services was just finished for this neighborhood. The report was based on survey responses from twenty-seven of the fifty-four households in Charleston Park.

Projects for Charleston Park include a community garden, that currently needs volunteer help to revive, a walking trail, and providing exercise equipment for their community center.

- Mental Health
 - Development of a Mental Health Resource Guide. The guide has contact, patient audience, and payment information on mental health organizations throughout Lee County. Amanda had copies for everyone and shared that she can deliver more guides to anyone who needs it. In addition, 5000 copies have been provided to schools throughout Lee County.
 - Mental Health First Aid trainings. Amanda trains for both the adult and youth versions of this training. She mentioned how this training is also being done with SDLC employees at all levels.
- **Minority Health School Gardens Project** that is funded by the state. Lee County has been doing some projects with different minority communities including schools in those communities.
 - Amanda spends five to ten hours per week helping with the School Gardens Project.



- This initiative has allowed the DOH to provide funding to create new gardens for four SDLC schools; Paul Lawrence Dunbar Middle, Bonita Springs Middle, Caloosa Middle and Tortuga Preserver Elementary. These gardens will be ready in fall 2024. DOH isn't just providing funding to create the gardens, but they are providing resources to help maintain them.
- Amada showed pictures taken on a tour of the gardens at Heights Elementary school. She shared how nice it was that the students were quizzing the adults about the different plants grown there.
- The **Healthy Living Collaboration** partnership with SDLC is trying to get students to eat more locally grown food by supporting farm to school, smarter lunchrooms, and nutrition education initiatives.

This collaboration has not only allowed schools to have gardens but to also have the produce from them used in the cafeteria so students can eat it. The biggest need currently is for more manpower to manage and maintain the gardens and awareness of this initiative.

- **Evaluation**

SDLC and DOH are working together to quantitatively and qualitatively evaluate how the Healthy Living Collaboration impacts students. Currently, discussions to compare groups of students not involved with a school garden to students who are is being had. Amanda shared that she has ideas for qualitative and quantitative data that could be collected but she would like feedback on the type of data being looked at and how to track it.

- The qualitative data that they would like to track is as follows.
 - Graduation rates
 - Club engagement
 - Grades Discipline
 - Attendance
 - Choosing to eat foods from the school gardens or not
- Qualitative data that is being considered is success stories documented by students using videos and photographs, and having potential dropouts getting involved in the gardens to see if it helps them.

At this time, Leisha Roy shared that the Food Insecurity, Farm to School, School Garden Action Group met at the Collaboratory yesterday (February 7th). At this meeting, Leisha stressed that additional manpower was needed to continue to manage the school garden program. In response, the Wellness Team at the Collaboratory has offered to help with grant writing and data collection.



Leisha also shared that the Collaboratory is donating \$90,000 to the Healthy Living Collaboration to allow the hiring of another Assistant Manager of School Gardens. The Collaboratory hopes that this donation will be a regular contribution because they see the value in this initiative.

Amy Carroll then shared that our major garden schools like Trafalgar Middle and Island Coast High are seeing a big increase in student interest of produce made available in the cafeterias when the produce is straight from the garden. Cafeteria managers are recording how much produce from their school gardens is sold in the cafeterias. Although, products from produce sent to other schools is not being tracked. Even though currently only the farm to school schools are being tracked, the number of student purchases are phenomenal and growing.

Amy also shared that SDLC is trying to participate in the Smarter Lunchroom Movement, which is a program with Cornell University that is aimed at increasing student interest to make healthier food choices by better positioning food options in the cafeteria, having student recipe contests, and running advertisements on the school news. Leisha added that they are encouraging the kitchen managers to think outside the box when preparing the produce to sell in the cafeterias.

Amanda finished up her presentation by showing the Healthy Living Collaboration logo that a student created and offering to provide the report on Charleston Park, if anyone is interested.

Kathy Wynne then asked if The Healthy Living Collaboration had any involvement with the Harry Chaplin Food Bank. Leisha replied that they have been working with Harry Chapin. Leisha then added that Collier County Schools fund the Brighter Bites program, but Lee County does not, which is why they are no longer supporting our schools. The Healthy Living Collaboration and Harry Chapin are looking into the possibility of using high school students who need community service hours to volunteer manpower.

Human Trafficking and Sextortion – Sergeant Wanda Hainley with the Hendry County Sheriff's Office gave a presentation on how trafficking is defined by Florida law, how prolific human trafficking and sextortion is, and how traffickers are increasingly using social media to find victims.

Sgt. Hainley explained that since the law describes trafficking as the "the recruitment, harboring, transportation, provision, or obtaining of a person for labor or services through the use of force, fraud, or coercion" law enforcement must prove the 'force, fraud, or coercion' in the court of law. She went on to state that many people want to know the numbers of how many people are convicted or victims of trafficking, but the numbers are skewed because many times a lesser charge is given because prosecutors do not feel that a jury will believe an element of the force, fraud, or coercion part.

Human trafficking is the fastest growing business of organized crime in the world and is surpassing drug trafficking. This is because you can sell a bag of cocaine to someone one time and then you must secure more product, but with a person, a trafficker can sell them multiple times



every day. This poses less risk to the trafficker because they don't have to keep securing new product to bank a lot of money.

Sgt. Hainley then showed a map from 2019 that highlighted hot spots of trafficking in the United States. It represented proven trafficking cases that have gone through the courts. She pointed out the high number of hot spots in California and Florida. There are millions and millions of trafficking victims world-wide, but Florida consistently ranks number three in the nation for calls to the National Human Trafficking hotline. California ranks number one and Texas is number two.

Recently the Hendry County Sheriff's office started a task force, Intercept, with Homeland Security. Just since its inception in the fall of 2023, they have identified thirty-seven victims, with the youngest being two-years-of-age, with twenty-five arrests.

Teachers, faculty, and school counselors need to know the red flags of human trafficking and sextortion. Based on Sgt. Hainley's experience, a teacher will notice the changes in a student far sooner than their own family will because they see that child every single day and if the teacher has the correct information, they will not only know the red flags, but will be able to ask the right questions. It could be that a student might fall asleep every day in class because they are being trafficked every night. Sgt. Hainley continued that many will say that mom and dad would know that, but she insists that they do not. Kids really need us to know because trafficking is so sly and under the radar, and kids know how to keep information from their parents out of fear. Kids also need to know the tactics that predators are using to lure and coerce them, so they don't fall prey to it. Sgt Hainley then shared that after one of her trainings she had at one of Hendry County middle schools, a student shared that someone tried to lure her online, but that she knew what was going on and how to stop it because of the training.

A slide with a picture of a trafficking victim, Desiree Robinson was shown. Desiree did not know the tactics used by predators and she was sold for \$250. Her body was found on Christmas Eve. This is one of the reasons that Sgt. Hainley constantly stresses how critical it is to educate our children about this. She also said that this topic can be covered without having graphic conversations about sexual things and she does it every day. She shared that she has been challenged by others who insist that she must use certain language when talking with our youth, and then they complain that they can't get into the schools. She responds that of course they can't get into the schools, since many parents do not want them teaching their kids about all the sex stuff.

Sgt Hainley also shared about how sometimes kids will reach out, but adults are not really listening to her. One example shared was of a little girl who kept complaining to her counselor at school that her grandfather would not stop going into her pocketbook. The counselor would just tell her to tell him to stay out of her pocketbook. Long story short, the girl referred to her privates as a pocketbook. She was reaching out, she was begging for help, but no one heard her because they had it in a box that a pocketbook must be a purse.



Next, we were shown a video named Oree's Story, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aB7RVVPXFcQ>, and we were asked to think about how many people were in contact with this girl, at school, home, and her community and did not know what was going on.

While waiting for the video to start, Sally Kreuzcher asked how to get local law enforcement to present on this topic. Sgt. Hainley said that she has the freedom to present anywhere and to reach out to her to coordinate. She also shared that there are other organizations in the area that can give presentations on trafficking and sextortion. Janet Ortenzo added that Tampa has a very active human trafficking coalition.

After the video, Sgt. Hainley, presented the fact that it only takes eight days for a predator to manipulate and convince a child to send nude pics and/or leave their home to meet a stranger.

Next, the presentation covered sextortion. After defining it, (sextortion is the practice of extorting money or sexual favors from someone by threatening to reveal evidence of their online behavior or sexual activity to destroy their reputation). Sgt. Hainley shared that it only takes one image and that it happens to boys more than girls. She then showed a short video that she created to explain what sextortion is and how it works.

After this video, she shared a story of a young man who killed himself after being victimized by a sextortion scam. She then stressed that he is one of thousands who have killed themselves from this victimization, which can lead to human trafficking. She then warned everyone to look for the apps on their child's phone like the "calculator app". These apps allow users to hide apps or photos they do not want others to see. And to also watch for questionable money transfers on cash apps.

Report any suspicion of human trafficking. There is a new FDLE reporting line (855-FLA-SAFE: 855-352-7233).

Kathy Wynne asked about the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children's Take It Down service that is designed to scour the web for explicit photos of minors and remove them. Sgt. Hainley agreed that this was a great source to share with parents.

Janet Ortenzo brought up that there was a recent judiciary meeting with executives from "big tech". Janet said that currently tech companies cannot be sued for posting of explicit content of minors. Janet urged that we should support of the Stop CSAM Act that is designed to make it easier for victims to ask tech companies to remove child sexual abuse material and related imagery from their platforms and KOSA. KOSA is the Kids Online Safety Act that is designed to provide kids and parents with the tools, safeguards, and the transparency they need to protect against threats to children's health and well-being online. The legislation would require that online platforms put the interests of children first, providing an environment that is safe by default.



Sgt Hainley added that it is important to watch for parents with drug problems because the odds are higher that they will sell out a child. And don't forget to ask, "Are you okay?".

Leisha Roy asked if the district could give mandatory trainings on human trafficking as part of our annual mandatory trainings we already have.

Sgt. Hainley said that school counselors are already mandated to receive human trafficking training in Hendry County.

Health Services Update – Wally Colon, Assistant Director of Health Services, gave an update of recent health related initiatives in the schools.

- Narcan is on all school campuses. All high schools have eight doses, and all middle and elementary schools have four doses. Athletic trainers also carry Narcan.
- LifeVac choking rescue kits have been donated by Lee Health and are now in all the schools. All clinic staff have been trained to use these.
- Health Services implemented heat-index guidelines, so schools know when it is not safe for students to participate in outdoor activities.

PUBLIC COMMENT

- Mary Fischer voiced appreciation for the powerful presentations.
- Leisha Roy suggested moving future meetings to 10:00 – 11:30 because of traffic congestion. Heather Parker voice that she thought the time change was a good idea. A vote was taken and passed to move the next meeting to start at 10:00 as a trial.

SDLC WELLNESS

- Heather Parker, Employee Wellness Coordinator, introduced Mama Chia probiotic squeezes. She explained that chia seeds are high in both fiber and omega-3 fatty acids.

Meeting adjourned at 10:30. Leisha Roy motioned 1st and Heather Parker 2nd it.

2024 Meetings

April 11, 2024

