



CISD STUDENTS HEALTH ADVISORY COMMITTEE MINUTES

Date: 05-21-2024

Time: 9 AM - 10:30 AM

Facilitators: Mrs. Margarita Flores; Director of Administration Support

In Attendance:

C&I Secretary, District Nurse, PE Coaches, Immunize El Paso, Parents/Community Members.

Minutes by:

JaiLynne Cho

Secretary of Curriculum and Instruction

Presenters: Mrs. Margarita Flores, Idalia Valdez and Danny Acosta from Immunize El Paso

Topics: Immunizations required for school and college students.

Notes: Introduction/opening by Margarita Flores - Introduction and review of what SHAC is for new attendees. Today, we will be discussing immunizations, which is something we have been struggling with this year. It is state law, unless there is an exception, all students have to have their shot records updated and on file. The immunizations protect us from those diseases and Immunize El Paso will be here to provide more information on that. Ms. Idalia Valdez, our head nurse, will discuss the district and state policies on that as well. Just a side note, I will be retiring at the end of this school year and a new person will be taking over for the 24-25 school year. Unfortunately, that person is still to be determined. Thank you all for being here. I will pass the floor to Mr. Danny Acosta from Immunize El Paso now.

Acosta - I am the director at Immunize El Paso, with me are my two colleagues. Disclaimer, I do not speak on behalf of the Department of Public Health or Health and Human Services. I will talk about our organization, non-profit, 501(c). We have three stand alone services but also take our services on the go to the community with all of our equipment wherever they will have us. Transportation issues, immigration issues, and other obstacles still provide services regardless of status. A child is not denied vaccines because children need their vaccines. When we started, we did not have social media so we had to collaborate with school nurses the traditional way in the newspaper, and sending letters home. Now through social media, we are able to get that information out faster to our community. At the end of 2023, our patient count was 978,964 to include adults and children. It's been a challenge but it has been successful in vaccinating the community and also during COVID-19. Some people are data people so we have a chart here to show the differences.



In 2022 we vaccinated around 60,000 people, but in 2023, the COVID vaccines went down to around 5,000 people. Why do you think that occurred? Because people are not as scared since not a lot of people are dying as much anymore. During the pandemic, the flu cases were brought down because we were quarantined. We have the non-believers or anti-vaccinators that believe vaccines are not important. That is also still a challenge we as a community face. The latest challenge is unvaccinated children. We try to provide information on why vaccines are so important, not just for your child but for others around them too, like grandparents. Our services outreach from Anthony, TX to Tornillo, TX. We also provide services to the senior centers.

Back in 2010, there was a program called Vaccinate Before you Graduate, which was for the senior highschool students to get their vaccinations before going off to college. We didn't come up with this program but we liberated the program to implement in our communities. A lot of people do not know what meningitis is and we try to inform parents of this. Texas policy has school districts provide information to students but what good does that do if you only hand out papers. We are more interactive with our approach. Meningitis is the target but we take all vaccines that are required in case anyone is there who is missing a vaccine and wants it. School nurses are here to help at the schools to inform the community of immunizations. So two years after following the COVID-19 pandemic, kindergarten vaccination coverage dropped by 2% nationwide. It's slowly increasing now that students are back in school. What are the solutions? What we can do as an organization, it starts with educational campaigns in Eng and Span commercials, radio and door-to-door. Outreach is for adults and children from 6 months to 18-years old. We know a little bit of pain from the shot is better than seeing them suffer in the hospital because they caught a disease. We have excellent partners with the Immunization Partnership. They do a lot of the advocacy work when they are in and out of session to support pro-vaccines legislations and fight anti-vaccine legislations. Partners in Education, we have 9 area school districts that we establish those relationships with to use their facilities for clinicals and helping students. We use the existing resources of the school districts like electricity, spaces, tables and chairs. We participate in benefit enrollments, back to school fairs and health fairs. Clint ISD has allowed us to reach out and make this accessible for those families that are struggling with transportation, socio-economic issues, immigration status etc. We would like to do a very special thank you to Clint and continue to have that relationship. I know we are always in contact with Ms. Valdez and Ms. Garcia from Immunize El Paso who does the scheduling. Thank you Ms. Idalia for allowing us to service the Clint ISD school district. We spoke earlier about all the efforts and more that we can do. "If we build it, they will come" from a movie but we noticed, we build but people are not coming. I'll open it up to any questions?

Margie - we have a lot of our newly immigrated families to all different districts. I know there are locations that are holding them, do you all go to those centers to offer your services.



We know there are some kids that have zero vaccines.

We do not know if we will get a child that is sick into our district.

Acosta - if it is a center that is funded by the fed government, we can't go in unless they invite us to come in to vaccinate these children. A lot of them are getting state funded insurance, so there is no reason for these children to not get services regardless of status. But, if they reach out to us we can go.

Margie - we have some kids who come in and do have no vaccines, trying to get them caught up with all of that. The process has been difficult, that's why I ask, because we are going to enroll them. But we want to make sure we have the sources to get them ready for school with vaccines. It's unfortunate but it's our reality, these kids are getting sick.

Acosta - we do not know their history, we treat them as if they have not been. it takes about 6 months for them to get caught up. That's about 3-4 visits before they are caught up. They are getting 8-9 shots at a time to get them caught up. We make sure they are protected and we protect everyone else.

Vidalez - We do have Angie Venzor who is our displacement liaison, she works with Danny and lets him know who hasn't been vaccinated.

Acosta - We have done this for a long time. We get a lot of "we can't pay for vaccines". But we can tell and avoid the whole scenario of taking advantage. So we work with Angie to get that list of families that are not able to.

Teacher - if high students are not able to make the dates and times of the flier, will there be other options available?

Valdez - we provided this to all campus administrators, so they can share with.

Teacher - was this shared with admin and nurses?

Valdez - Yes nurses too. They should have shared a list of students that are out of compliance.

Parent - my daughter is a senior, so she will need a new vaccine to enter community college.

Acosta - its a booster, the meningitis shot is originally given at the age of 11 or entering 7th grade, whichever comes first.

Margie - some colleges/universities are required to have a recent meningitis vaccine.

It's important for students to know this because a lot of our students get scholarships out of state but require the vaccine. The college won't let them register without.

Parent- are all the High schools getting this information?

Margie - yes, all campuses have been informed and notified.



Acosta - some schools are making it mandatory to complete while they are completing their FAFSA applications.

Parent - how does one get records to check if they do not have their shot records?

Acosta - you can request a print out from the school nurse or go on the state registry. The only thing about the state registry, it's only as good as the clinic that is entering the information.

Parent - are you all present at the physicals for athletics?

Acosta - we can piggyback on these events but the doctor providing the physical usually gives the vaccines.

Parent - are the parents expected to pay anything at these events?

Acosta - we charge the insurance but if they do not have insurance we charge a \$10 fee. But if a family can't pay, we don't advertise it, but we waive the fees.

Teacher - I know you don't want to advertise the waiver, but more people would be in attendance if you mention it like in Montana Vista.

Acosta - we are working with other foundations that could help fund those. But in the district the nurses know we waive.

Parent - how does the billing work because of the physicals because I got charged twice. It was project vita.

Acosta - we outsource our billing and it's just a matter of having those lines of communication.

Parent - I got billed more with insurance but now I say no now because they only charge the \$10.

Acosta - your insurance should be responsible for paying the correct fees because it could come back as fraud...

Parent - no I already took off my insurance but that was before.

Acosta - we try to do what we can for the families and community.

Valdez - my questions to parents, we have done call outs, banners, and events but people do not show up. So my question is, what is the best way to get this out to you all.

Parent - Well, I have a question for you. Are you all calling the specific parents?



Valdez - yes the nurses do, but we still send the call out to all parents because it's opened to the whole community. So when we hold the events, we do get students for Fabens too.

Parent - don't feel bad. We only have three volunteers and no one shows up to these events.

Parent - maybe combine it with our open house. or a health clinic on a saturday for the families.

Parent - I know you all have social media and phones, but a lot of people change their numbers and don't notify the schools. I tried to be a volunteer but I never got a call so I figured they had the wrong number for me.

Parent - the call outs you all do, normally you all do them toward the end of the day and many don't even get to the message until the next day. Like the high school our schools do not even give us the information. So if we pull out my kid to go to another campus for the event, they lose half a day of instruction. Half of the parents do not even know that is a requirement for their kid to go to college. With all the students getting ready to graduate, if we take them half a day they could lose their credit. Have this available with all campuses.

Parent - so if I take my daughter tomorrow, will you all provide a doctor's note?

Acosta - yes, we do provide the document for the services provided. We coordinate with the campuses to help with.

Parent - is this on the district website?

Valdez - it's on the campus site.

Parent - does the CIS people get this information?

Valdez - not usually but we can share this with CIS.

Parent - the volunteers work mostly with CIS. and I run the FB for that area in Montana Vista, so whatever they give us, I post it.

Valdez - Now that i am more aware with this, I can work with Mr. Danny and get clinics set up at the campuses that did not respond to me.

Parents - is there a fee for you all to just come out?

Acosta - there is no fee.

Valdez/ Margie - we have to prepare for the event because of the resources like lighting and availability. But we also need to make sure this is successful and people show up.

Acosta - We do not have the fee to set up the event, but after we show up, there is a lot of non-communication.

Parents - what's the average amount of students you get at this kind of event.



Acosta - It ranges from 0-60. But even if 1 shows up, we made a difference for that one child.

Margie - I know these events for the high school are more successful because they are needing this specifically.

Teacher - we are having a lot of events this week for these students. Maybe we can arrange this.

Acosta - We need at least 1 week to prep to make sure we have the staff and supplies. We won't be able to go from one day to the next. But we can prepare and get all of this done better for next school year.

Parent - Which is more affected or needs this the most?

Valdez - Our Pre-K are the ones that need the most.

Parent - Why not have a booth set up for the middle school going into 6 grade.

Margie - Maybe we can do that Viva La Fiesta event and have a booth for those campuses.

Parents - We have CIS and they are great but now we are not going to have them anymore. I don't get that!

Parents - There isn't an issue with parent involvement. It has to do with staffing. Like at the middle school and high schools in Montana, vista is not welcoming. The receptionist is rude and there are countless complaints about her but nothing gets done. If you do not have a welcoming attitude toward the parents and guardians, they are not going to want to respond. Customer service is needed. Especially with this rude receptionist. you are making all these efforts for no reason with this type of staff.

Teacher - Years of "no parents can enter".

Parent - EMMS has a great secretary and principal. We don't even have kids there, we still help. At MVHS it's a different story.

Valdez- I am going to go over the policy really quickly. We are pressed on time. We have wellness and health service immunizations by the state. This is not the client's requirements, it's the states. There is one for Pre-K and another one from k -12. These are all available on the website. I will share that with you. Now there are exceptions but we have to have a signature and there are the conscience exceptions through an Affidavit. It is to be notarized and requested from the state. It can not be older than 90 days for the student to enroll. We cannot enroll until the affidavit and they expire every two years. Again, this information is available on our website. The other exception is if the student is an active duty member of the armed forces. So if you go into the district website, departments then go to nurses, on the side menu is the immunization requirements.



Click on it then the pdf viewer will show you the documents the policy I just showed. The information to Immunize El Paso and other community clinics. There is more information on flu vaccines that is required by the state. You can use the link to find the request for the affidavit as well.

Any questions?

Parent - You would have a good turn out at the school physicals in July at MVHS. A lot of kids go for their sports. It's always a good turn out.

Valdez - 915-333-0002 is my district number if you all have further questions.

Next Meeting:

Tentative for the 2024-2025 School Year

Administration Building

This concludes today's meeting.