

Health and Safety District Advisory Committee - Regular Meeting **MINUTES**

Monday, February 26, 2024

7:00 PM – 9:00 PM

IN-PERSON

Assembly Bill 361 (9/2021) added section 54953(e) to the Government Code, authorizing a local agency to use teleconferencing without complying with the teleconferencing requirements imposed by the Ralph M. Brown Act during a declared state of emergency under specific scenarios. The law remains in effect until January 1, 2024. Due to the state of emergency proclaimed by Governor Newsom in response to the COVID-19 pandemic and its highly contagious variants, and as authorized by per AB 361 and SMMUSD Board of Education Resolution No. 21-08, the November Health and Safety District Advisory Committee meeting will be held virtually.

Meeting Location:

Health & Safety DAC Meeting

Location: SMMUSD District Office

1717 4th Street

Santa Monica, CA 90401

Room: #118

Parking: Please enter the driveway, stay to the right and go down into the underground parking on level P1 in visitor parking. Take the elevator up to Lobby (L) and proceed to PC testing room 118 for the meeting. You will not need to pay for parking. The code to get out of the garage after the meeting is:

7741

Members: Rachel Bressler, RN | Pat Nolan, RN | Cecilia Soto-Loftus, MPH | Laila Taslimi - Chair | Shuli Lotan, LCSW, PPSC | Deborah Rothman | Debbie Bernstein - Absent | Michelle Jonas Sroka - Absent

Board Liaisons: Richard Tahvildaran-Jesswein - Absent | Jennifer Smith

Admin Co-Chairs: Tara Brown / Dr. Mark Kelly

Student Representatives: Bibiana Peterson (SAMOHI), Terence Tejada-Gonzalez (MHS)

AGENDA

I. Call to Order / Approval of Minutes (5 Minutes)

Meeting called to order at 7:00 p.m.

- [Approval of minutes from the January 22, 2024 meeting](#)

Minutes approved.

II. Discussion Items (60 Minutes)

Reminder of our Charges:

- Focus on anxiety and depression, including screening and treatment in school-aged children.
- Focus on drug and alcohol treatment and addiction awareness, including responses to the fentanyl crisis.
- Focus on the Wellness Policy.
- Focus on site emergency response to crisis situations.
- Focus on best practices for handling outbreaks of communicable diseases.
- Focus on Controlled Substance Board policy and administrative regulation.
- Focus on any other issues, if directed by the board.

Narcan distribution Update: (15 minutes)

- Bibiana report out on SAMOHI event: Over 200 Narcan kits distributed to parents at a recent SAMOHI event. There was a positive response with parents visiting Venice Family Clinic to obtain kits as well.
- Next steps: Distribute to parents at SAMOHI Phantom of the Opera musicals. Continue to distribute at athletic events, PTA meetings., etc....

Guest Speaker: Robert Howard, SMMUSD Director of Restorative Practices (45 min)

Moved to the start of the meeting (7:00 pm)

Introductions

Mrs. Brown suggested that everyone review the charges (on screen).

Mrs. Brown introduced Robert ("Rob") Howard. She shared that the Superintendent is asking all school staff to be trained in Restorative Justice ("RJ"). Rob and Tara facilitate RJ training. Tara connected RJ to Tara reported Grant, Edison, Roosevelt, SMASH and Olympic have or will be trained this year. Tara reported that RJ training is happening on Saturday for Spanish speaking parents.

Rob shared how he came to the District and how it transitioned beyond Samohi to the other schools. Rob gave thanks to the allies in the room.

RJ in SMMUSD is focusing on relationships, community and what we value in our community. What happens when a person or persons break or deviate from our values. What happened and what do we need to move forward?

Prior sentiment – How do we teach a lesson? Fear, punishment.

RJ - Justice should be healing. What happens after harm, we need healing. Historically, we over rely on acts such as incarceration. We spend a great deal. RJ shifts perspective – invest in people, seek to have young people to be the best they can. RJ is not a program, it is a mindset. Past practices such as complying with the rules works for some, but not for many.

SMMUSD Superintendent, Board and staff value equity – people don't need all the same things. We value wellness and healing.

Rachel has attended several Level I and II trainings. Rachel disagreed that money is not needed, citing that it takes resources to have Rob and commit resources for training. Rob shared that he wants to be here and that though money is needed for resources, it is about community for him.

Level I - Community-based; relationships. Two day training. How to get people to talk with each other, listen to each other. What norms do we hold for ourselves? Consider "What is my relationship with my principal?"

Level II - Harm and conflict training. How does one facilitate when rules have been broken, or harm has been done? Day one is about conflict. Day two is about harm. What has been the impact and what do we do about it, how do we address the harm?

Tara shared that Level I, i.e. relationships, is necessary for Level II. Community is necessary to address harm and conflict.

Rachel - Is the point of the Level II is that trained persons bring it back, e.g. to the classroom. Rachel asked if Level I can be taught to students. Rob - yes.

Tara - People say with RJ, there is no discipline. Rob – spoke to the concern – "We are going to let people get away with it." People seek consequences. RJ is not permissive to things we don't believe in. There are responses, including the persons who have been harmed.

Pat is the idea to model for others. Rob spoke to how young people learn – home, parents, community – we should be role models. First training has been for adults – they report the feeling of campuses to be different.

Rob shared a personal experience. Returning to the question, “How do we heal?” There are practices for getting people to be ready.

Bibiana asked about are people trained to deal with harm when an immediate response is necessary.

Rob spoke to the “vibe” on a campus, and when it is off, people are using their relationships to work immediately – know the culture is off and do something about it.

Shuli spoke to needing to be your best self. People have different responses – freeze, shut down – need to be real with self and know that they may need to engage another person. Rob – How one responds can be trained. Spoke to the various types of responses and how they may effect the responses of those a part of the situation.

Shuli - There are de escalation strategies and ways to address them.

Shuli asked the students if they are aware of RJ. Bibiana shared she has some knowledge and that some have been part of circles. Bibiana spoke of rules assemblies and how RJ gets spoken about in the assemblies. Tara shared that the assemblies are about Ed Code violations. RJ gets mentioned at assemblies and part of a response that may or may not involve suspension.

Jen Smith shared that teachers, after training, can incorporate strategies in classrooms that students may not recognize as RJ practices, i.e. checking in with students in a deliberate manner. Jen suggested that there be more explicit link to RJ practices. Rob thought differently saying it would give rise to something different. Bibiana shared that she sees more practices that are likely RJ strategies, but not mentioned – specifically, community building. Terance shared the sentiment that he sees it is some and not others.

Laila shared they did not believe our schools have lots of suspensions. She asked the students if they have heard of any students engaged in RJ when involved in a disciplinary process. Bibiana and Terance shared that they have not. Rob said not surprised, one of the principles is confidential. “Part of the process working, is not talking about the process.”

Pat does RJ always require involve another person, e.g. victim. Rob spoke to the example of a student vaping – there may not be harm to the community. Level II is easier from this point. If I vape and someone who does not care for me, then there is not really harm to that person and engaging them in RJ is not going to work.

Rob - behind every rule or law, there is a value – that may affect others. Shuli built on the vaping example – students won’t go to the bathroom because there are students vaping. We need to grow mindful of harm. Rob expanded on the culture conditions.

Laila asked about what vision Rob has for the impact of training and how we know it is going well – WHat does success look like? Is there anything that you want from the Committee to help vision?

Rob –Does not want RJ to be the “soup of day.” Success is that we are doing better for each other. We care for the whole, we have broken our biases. Not necessarily about no harm, but greater consciousness that I have done harm – greater care. Rob elaborated on impact here in the District and beyond, e.g. challenge Ed Code.

Rob – be willing to have conversations throughout our District, even with those whose thinking may differ..

III. Public Comments (5 Minutes) : [Health and Safety DAC Public Comment Sign-Up Sheet 2023-2024](#)

(Moved to the start of the meeting). No public comments.

IV. Report from Board Liaisons (15 Minutes)

- Richard Tahvildaran-Jesswein (5 min.) - **Absent**
- Jen Smith (5 min.)

Jen Smith - Spoke about FPM and Physical Education Specialists. The system we use is not in compliance. Need teachers to have our teachers teach PE. Staff is recommending hiring 5 certificated teachers, which means we need to eliminate 9 PAS positions. Laila asked if change needs to be implemented immediately.

VI. Report and Updates from SMMUSD Staff (15 Minutes)

- Rachel Bressler / Shuli Lotan / Tara Brown / Mark Kelly

Rachel - Have staffing issues. Nurses will need to start working on new legislation. Will need to provide menstrual products at the elementary schools. Inform parents about the HPV vaccine (gr. 6 and higher). Not required for school, but need to provide information about what it is and the benefits. Laws on emergency care - AEDs, trauma training and “stop the bleed.” Will need to provide trauma kits next to where we have AEDs. Have in AEDs epipens, narkan... will need to have all in one place.

Shuli - Uptick of suicide assessments in last two weeks. Have a waitlist at several sites. Edison down their agency counselor. Has raised questions about the role of a school psychologist. The online program is working out better at some schools than another. Rachel - One school it is the HOS who is doing the job. Why can't that happen at all schools? Students are getting to refer.

Mark - **Busy right now.**

VI. Report from Student Representatives (10 Minutes)

- Bibiana Peterson (SAMOHI), Terence Tejada-Gonzalez (MHS)

Bibiana - Update on Narkan distribution. Created a handout with QR Code. Right now it only has information. When Open House happened at Samohi. The handout was effective – gave out over 200

kits. Parents came to the table. Went to the SWAB (student wellness) meeting with Shuli and reported on what is happening with the Committee. Shuli asked if she could be given kits for her office – yes.

Terance - Responded that MHS does not have Narcan. Jen reported the PTA has it. The BGCM has it too. Marked asked if right to close school. Nice to have time at home.

Committed discussed having a meeting in Malibu. Pat said it may be easier, depending on location. If Webster, then better. Terance lives in Venice so it would be further.

Laila commented that she hoped that Terance's participation would help him enjoy school more.

VII. New Business (10 min)

- Member input

Pat asked about having the new Risk Manager come to a meeting. Mark shared that it is not our report. It is the City's. Jen shared that the report is not public because it exposes vulnerabilities. There is a report of the report that might be shared. Pat asked if she could share to persons in Malibu that she serves on this committee. Mark suggested looking at the Council agenda to see what it published.

Pat reported about an incident in Beverly Hills about mis-use of AI.

Tara shared that there is a link for members to pose future topics. Tara spoke to topics on the Google document so far.

Pat asked about the City of Malibu safety report.

Shuli reported that on Wednesday, February 28 there is a wellness fair at Samohi – information table and wellness dogs. Friday is Global Day of Unsending (?).

- Future agenda items: Please contribute topic ideas/speakers for future agendas:
<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1RolxP1bKT-IGvFy8KGAa98L9pL8XXVhtHQh8ME2tbtg/edit?usp=sharing>

Thank you for your commitment to promote nutrition and wellness in your school community!

VIII. Adjournment Next meeting: **March 18th, 2024 @ 7pm**

If you will require accommodation to participate in this activity, please notify us at least five days before the event. Si usted necesita que se hagan arreglos para que participe en esta reunion, por favor, comuniquese con las escuela de su hijo/a or el distrito 5 dias antes de la reunion.

