Health Advisory Committee Meeting
Minutes from May 27, 2021
Virtual Meeting held Via Google Starting at 6 pm.

HAC MEMBERS:

Anthony Barber
Anthony J. Terzo, Commissioner
Brenda Galie
Delvin M. Thomas
Dr. Alina Alonso
Dr. Belma Andric
Dr. Charmaine Chibar
Dr. Jean Friedland Malecki
Dr. Leslie Diaz
Dr. Martha M. Rodriguez

Dr. Masha Fishbane
Dr. Myriam Glemaud
Dr. Olayemi Osieyemi
Dr. Tommy Schechtman
Matt Willhite
Randy Scheid
Seth Bernstein
Stacy Volnick
Thamarva Mitchell

STAFF:

Cleopatra Ortiz
Dr. Merris Smith
Ed Tierney
Glenda Sheffield, Ed.D.
Gonzalo LaCava
Jay Boggess
Joelle Cody
Kathleen Villavicencio

Keith Oswald
Kevin McCormick
Michelle Fleming
Mike Burke
Ofelia B. Chacon, M.D., Ph.D.
Paula Triana
Wanda Paul

ABSENT:

Anthony J. Terzo, Commissioner
Brenda Galie
Delvin M. Thomas
Dr. Jean Friedland Malecki
Dr. Leslie Diaz
Dr. Martha M. Rodriguez
Dr. Masha Fishbane
Dr. Myriam Glemaud
Dr. Olayemi Osieyemi
Dr. Tommy Schechtman
Matt Willhite
Randy Scheid
Seth Bernstein
Stacy Volnick
Thamarva Mitchell

SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS:

Debra Robinson, M.D.

PRESENTERS:

Dr. Alina Alonso
Dr. Belma Andric
Jay Boggess

PUBLIC NON-MEMBERS:

The public has live access by Phone Bridge
Meeting began at 6:00 pm – Jay Boggess, Assistant Superintendent, Choice & Innovation

Jay Boggess- This meeting is now being recorded. Requested all participants type their name in the chat box for record keeping purposes. Proceeded to present his screen with today's agenda.

Purpose and Intent:
Make sure our protocols and safety as related to COVID-19 are relevant keeping the safety of our students and staff paramount.

Jay Boggess- Welcome, before we begin, I’d like to turn it over to Dr. Fennoy for opening remarks and purpose and intent of today's Superintendents Health Advisory committee.

Dr. Fennoy- Thank you and I want to give a special shout out to Dr. Alonso and Dr. Andric, the safety, testing and sanitation protocols you helped us develop worked, and we have kept schools open all year. I didn’t make the mask decision on my own, I consulted with Dr. Alonso and others, and if circumstances change we have the power and right to make any adjustments. We are in a great place moving into the summer but we still need your advise and getting the most updated information. The purpose of our meeting is to make sure our protocols and safety as related to COVID are relevant keeping the safety of our students, faculty and staff paramount. Moving forward, we want to have a quarterly meeting to have a regular rhythm of information.

Jay Boggess- Thank you for your leadership Dr. Fennoy. I will present agenda and walk us through our discussion today. COVID-19 Mitigation Strategies: The cadence of meetings we’ve talked about is in conjunction to Elementary and Secondary Emergency Relief Fund dollars coming to us in the next three years. We want to make sure we utilize and maximize those dollars to the best of our ability. We will move to discuss facial masks then Social Distancing, Rapid testing and Vaccinations. We will have a collaboration session between the school district leaders, Florida department of health, Dr. Alonso, our healthcare district partners Dr. Andric and her team, and the collaboration of all our healthcare partners on this car. We will then move to action steps for our next meeting and then adjourned. Dr. Alonso came to our school board on May 19 and gave an update to the board around the strong leadership and Covid response as a system of schools. Looking at a year in review, we've had a nurse in every campus, we've rolled out antigen testing on campus, and we continue to provide vaccination opportunities. Let’s start with the mitigation strategies we’ve been using and what’s helped us combat COVID over the last few months. Face masks: Our current recommendations from CDC. I’ll open for discussion

Dr. Alonso- The face mask is the most difficult issue we’ve had, they are the primary tool in any pandemic, it’s being seen as harmful and taken away the right to be free but globally we have not stopped the pandemic and until we have herd immunity COVID will not be over. We may see some peeks but because of vaccinations we will get through it. My concern is that the CDC has suggested that vaccinated individuals do not need to use the mask out doors or indoors unless there is a crowded space. Unfortunately, the media and people stop listening at “you don’t need to wear your mask” If you are indoors, with a crowd and low ventilation the virus can become more contagious. If you are in the believe that masks are not helpful then there is no sense in discussing it. We have to adapt to people being quarantined because they are not vaccinated just like the when the measles outbreak, kids not vaccinated had to be quarantined. In the 12 & under age, we’ve seen more positive cases its been up to 15% then 11% and all this info is on the dashboard accessible to all. I’m cautiously optimistic that we will be okay. A group I would like to talk to are coaches, they will lose lots of games if they’re kids are not vaccinated, not only that but they will have to be checked for cardiac problems for the kids that are positive. Coaches have a lot of influence on children and hopefully they can get them vaccinated. The only outbreaks have been in athletics, that’s the biggest problem due to congregating.

Dr. Andric- I’m not clear with what instructions are for next year with masks but until vaccines are available for children under 12, a universal mask is critical and recommended by CDC. From May 1st to May 19th there was a 60% increase in school transmission due to the Indian variant. The younger population transmit faster.
Dr. Alonso- We’re no longer following the CDC guidelines

Dr. Andric- We are following the CDC guidelines, employees wear masks.

Dr. Alonso- But we can’t mandate it, so yes, we can recommend it but we can’t mandate it.

Dr. Andric- Why not? We’ve mandated it till now because we don’t have vaccines. CDC is very clear, if you’re not vaccinated you can-not remove your mask.

Jay Boggess- As it stands now, masks are optional for next school year. A question we’re faced with is spacing of desks, and what does that mean for school leaders as we prepare for next year.

Dr. Robinson- So we’re mandating masks till August, then optional. What is the trigger to make us require masks again?

Dr. Alonso- I recommend if it goes up over 5% positivity rate we reconsider.

Dr. Robinson- So 5% was our benchmark for reopening with 6 feet. but we’re not going to have 6 feet, so assuming we can make 3 feet it seems that the number needs to be lower than 6 feet. I can’t find anything to guide me at this point.

Jay Boggess- To Dr. Robinson’s point, I hear that 5% is when we would have a recommendation to reinforce a mandatory mask mandate, is that what we are collectively saying?

Dr. Alonso- I threw that number out there but there is no scientific number to give, I think we’ll have to consider that in terms of how can we mandate masks again if we don’t have the power as a county to do it and we’ve been prohibited from putting it into place in the future. We have a government order as of July 1st so this is political and no longer CDC.

Jay Boggess- That helps to answer some of Dr. Andric’s press as far as CDC guidelines.

Dr. Andric- I would like to raise another question, Jay listed mitigation strategies, has any attention been given to ventilation improvements?

Dr. Fennoy- We were able to put in the Merve 13 filters in and in schools that didn’t allow for it, we changed the process of how to change it and with some of the CARES ACT money we are moving to upgrade any system where we can to be fitted with the latest recommendations.

Dr. Andric- We have 2 strategies, Dilution and Filtration. What your talking about is filtration method. Hepa filters have been proven to work but I don’t want to neglect dilution method like outdoor classrooms, I don’t think we have maximized this method if there is an opportunity by moving some of the activities outside.

Dr. Fennoy- Most of our schools have outdoor space and we could do it now but when we have 3,000.00 kids return we’ll have an issue. Most people don’t understand that even with this money, we have over 200 schools so it would take over 10 years to build this and the red tape we have to go through. We are using all the ancillary space we can and purchased tables, hurricane proof shades, build outdoor covered spaces and continue using this.

Jay Boggess- Our next mitigation strategy is around social distancing. We have a fervent belief that in-person learning has the strongest impact on student achievement. Dr. Fennoy has been purposeful in making sure all schools will reopen next year for in-person learning with the option of Palm Beach Virtual. The reality is facing capacity issues, what will that look like in a school with 3,000 kids, in the cafeteria and in other spaces on campus? With optional mask next year, how do we best distance our students knowing the capacity issues we face?
Dr. Robinson- For me it’s the layers of protection, distancing, mask, hand washing and ventilation. I’ve received pushback on opening windows on busses. We are having a hard time keeping the current number of students 6 feet apart I hope we can keep at least 3 feet distance when more students come back. To me, at what point do we re-institute mandatory masks. Moving class outside will be easier in the fall.

Claudia Skeie- Dr. Robinson talked about how important layers of protection are and Dr. Andric said we have a 35% decrease if teachers wear a mask, I don’t think it will be well received.

Dr. Andric- It was just a study I mentioned.

Claudia Skeie- What’s interesting is we have far more students than we have teachers yet when we look at the dashboard the numbers are nearly as high.

Dr. Andric- Transmission of this virus among younger kids is much higher with the exception of this new Indian variant so I’m strongly in support of the CDC guidelines that children under 12 not vaccinated should wear masks.

Claudia Skeie- How soon do we expect a vaccine for children under 12?

Dr. Andric- At the end of the calendar year.

Jay Boggess- Is that a forecast or a definitive?

Dr. Andric- It’s a CDC forecast based on current status

Jay Boggess- Thank you, I think that came out in an earlier call from the Department of Health, is that correct Dr. Alonso?

Dr. Alonso- Yes, and that will help us for next year. I believe it’s for 5 and older so that will give us a good rage for schools. Like Dr. Robinson said, this is not only needed for the school, it’s needed for the county. If the numbers start going up, what’s the number going to be for us to say let’s do something? And, can we do something? Because at this point with the order we have, we can-not and that’s an issue. We had the power to do something but now we are told the governor can override local government.

Dr. Robinson- What if schools are set up with masked rooms and un-masked rooms? Can we explore that option?

Jay Boggess- Thank you for the recommendation Dr. Robinson. The next topic is rapid antigen testing. Is this still a strong piece for next year? Prior to that, for summer programs we will pause on rapid antigen testing.

Dr. Andric- Why are we not doing rapid testing during the summer?

Jay Boggess- Due to capacity issues, we are only provided with X number of your nurses and they couldn’t be provided across the board.

Dr. Andric- Why are we singling out rapid antigen testing from any other medical care? The COVID vaccine is offered like any other, if you have a nurse why is this being terminated? I am in support to provide testing if we have resources and with parent consent.

Jay Boggess- I do think this has been bedded with the school health team but at the same time, with the number of sites we are trying to staff, we did not have the health care personnel to make this happen. And, it’s not a termination, it’s a pause till August of 2021.
Dr. Andric- But if there’s a nurse already there in the schools that get a nurse and she has capacity its part of assessment... Is this already decided? Does it need to go to the board or can we discuss in another meeting?

Jay Boggess- I do think this has been decided but I will gladly have an off-line conversation as part of that.

Dr. Robinson- This is news to me too. So, during the summer, we will have nurses but not rapid antigen test, did I understand correctly? And in August, we will start the testing again?

Jay Boggess- Correct

Dr. Alonso- We have nurses and now we have funding to do not only rapid testing but also immunizations in school with a contractor. None of you have heard this yet but were discussing a plan in the next few days about opportunities to augment for a year, year and a half. Covid is not over this year, we have funding for contact tracing till 2023. I think there’s lots of opportunities.

Dr. Andric- Why would we change something we have established as medical routine? I’m disappointed and hope we can find a solution.

Dr. Sheffield- Good evening. When the decision was made about antigen testing over the summer, it was not Jay in isolation, there was a team from Health Care District, School District and others. When that conversation started, we didn’t know how many nurses we would have on all our sites this summer, we were afraid about not being consistent in having nurses in ALL our campuses and being able to provide antigen testing so we thought that would be most appropriate. We could come back to discuss but I think we still don’t have enough nurses to cover all our schools; we could come back and discuss how we can make it happen and if it’s possible.

Keith Oswald- That is exactly right. This decision was not made in haste, just recently we found out how many nurses we would get, not all of them are covered so there is a deeper conversation that has to occur before we decide to put this back in place.

Dr. Andric- I hope with more funding we can secure more nurses but, I still don’t see why if the nurse is in the school she can’t do the screening? I don’t see why the limited number of nurses affects performing test.

Dr. Alonso- Because you want to be equal to everybody

Dr. Andric- It’s not equal because if there is no nurse in the school then there is no test there.

Dr. Alonso- No, it makes a difference if one school does it and another one doesn’t.

Dr. Sheffield- That’s what the biggest rational was.

Jay Boggess- Our last talking point is around vaccinations. We’ve offered vaccinations to all employee’s multiple times to date, as a result, we have a little over 50% of our employees vaccinated. The recommendation from the board as far as student vaccination is to continue our partnership with the Heath Care District and their mobile site concept regionally speaking starting in June through the summer till the weekend before the start of school in August, having 4 different site location for student vaccination opportunities.

One of the questions is about the quarantine guidance, what does it mean for a vaccinated person vs un-vaccinated, also the vaccination age is projected to drop by the end of year.
Dr. Alonso- The CDC guidance has not changed and hopefully will not have an impact on how we are holding people that have been in contact with a positive case. Since they will be less than 3 feet, any person (Teacher or Student) around an infected individual, will need to be quarantined. Anyone not wearing a mask will need to be quarantined.

Keith Oswald- Regarding quarantine, what’s the guidance for someone vaccinated vs someone who is not?

Dr. Alonso- Yes, if the individual (Teacher or Student) is vaccinated, they will not have to quarantine.

Keith Oswald- Can we ask employees if they are vaccinated?

Dr. Alonso- No, we are the ones who know that and will tell you who needs to be quarantined and who doesn’t.

Jay Boggess- How long is CDC stating the vaccine is good for?

Dr. Alonso- We have studied it for 6 months so far and it’s held up. It’s also holding up against the variance thus far. The vaccine is 90 – 95% effective but nothing is 100% we have had less than 1% deaths

Keith Oswald- With mask being optional, is there a recommendation for those who choose to have their child wear one as to a certain kind?

Dr. Alonso- Yes, the CDC has guidelines as far as double layers that can be read online.

Jay Boggess- We have reached the 7 pm hour. On behalf of The School District of Palm Beach County and Dr. Fennoy, we thank you for your time, service and dedication.

Meeting adjourned at 7:02 pm
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>First name</th>
<th>Last name</th>
<th>Email</th>
<th>Duration</th>
<th>Time joined</th>
<th>Time exited</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Oleg</td>
<td>Andric</td>
<td>olog******@***.com</td>
<td>1 hr 10 min</td>
<td>5:53 PM</td>
<td>7:03 PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Jay</td>
<td>Boggess</td>
<td>jay.boggess@palmbeac</td>
<td>1 hr 10 min</td>
<td>5:53 PM</td>
<td>7:03 PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Valerie</td>
<td>Crenshaw</td>
<td>valerie.crenshaw@p</td>
<td>1 hr 3 min</td>
<td>6:00 PM</td>
<td>7:03 PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Vicki</td>
<td>Evans-Fare</td>
<td>vick.evans-fare@pal</td>
<td>1 hr 2 min</td>
<td>6:01 PM</td>
<td>7:03 PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Donald</td>
<td>Fennoy</td>
<td>supid7@palmbeac</td>
<td>44 min</td>
<td>5:59 PM</td>
<td>6:54 PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Michelle</td>
<td>Fleming</td>
<td>michelle.fleming@p</td>
<td>1 hr 4 min</td>
<td>5:59 PM</td>
<td>7:03 PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Claudia</td>
<td>Gressi Sleie</td>
<td>claudia.gressi@</td>
<td>1 hr 9 min</td>
<td>5:53 PM</td>
<td>7:03 PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Dianne</td>
<td>Howard</td>
<td>dianne.howard@palm</td>
<td>1 hr 3 min</td>
<td>6:00 PM</td>
<td>7:03 PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Kosta</td>
<td>James</td>
<td>kosta.james@palmbe</td>
<td>1 hr 13 min</td>
<td>5:50 PM</td>
<td>7:03 PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Gonzalo</td>
<td>La Cava</td>
<td>gonzalo.lacava@palm</td>
<td>1 hr 8 min</td>
<td>5:56 PM</td>
<td>7:04 PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Cleopatra</td>
<td>Ortiz</td>
<td>v-oritz@palmbeach</td>
<td>1 hr 5 min</td>
<td>5:59 PM</td>
<td>7:03 PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>Keith</td>
<td>Oswald</td>
<td>keith.oswald@palmb</td>
<td>1 hr 2 min</td>
<td>6:00 PM</td>
<td>7:03 PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>Wanda</td>
<td>Paul</td>
<td>wanda.paul@palmbe</td>
<td>49 min</td>
<td>6:13 PM</td>
<td>7:03 PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>Ruthy</td>
<td>Pelaez</td>
<td>ruthy.pelaez@palmb</td>
<td>1 hr 20 min</td>
<td>5:43 PM</td>
<td>7:03 PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>Kevaughn</td>
<td>Ramesar</td>
<td>kevaughn.ramesar@</td>
<td>1 hr 10 min</td>
<td>5:53 PM</td>
<td>7:03 PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>Debra</td>
<td>Robinson</td>
<td>debra.robinson@palm</td>
<td>59 min</td>
<td>6:03 PM</td>
<td>7:03 PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>Glenda</td>
<td>Sheffield</td>
<td>glenda.sheffield@p</td>
<td>1 hr 8 min</td>
<td>5:55 PM</td>
<td>7:03 PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19</td>
<td>Morris</td>
<td>Smith</td>
<td>morris.smith@palm</td>
<td>1 hr 3 min</td>
<td>6:00 PM</td>
<td>7:03 PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>Edward</td>
<td>Tiemey</td>
<td>edward.tiemey@palm</td>
<td>1 hr 5 min</td>
<td>5:58 PM</td>
<td>7:03 PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21</td>
<td>Paula</td>
<td>Triana</td>
<td>paula.triana@palm</td>
<td>1 hr 1 min</td>
<td>6:01 PM</td>
<td>7:03 PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22</td>
<td>Charmain Chibar</td>
<td>55 sec</td>
<td>6:10 PM</td>
<td>6:11 PM</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23</td>
<td>Charmain Chibar</td>
<td>55 sec</td>
<td>6:22 PM</td>
<td>6:23 PM</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24</td>
<td>Dr. Alonso</td>
<td>39 min</td>
<td>5:54 PM</td>
<td>6:33 PM</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25</td>
<td>Dr. Alonso</td>
<td>29 min</td>
<td>6:34 PM</td>
<td>7:03 PM</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26</td>
<td>Unnamed device</td>
<td>7 min</td>
<td>5:55 PM</td>
<td>6:02 PM</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27</td>
<td>Unnamed device</td>
<td>59 min</td>
<td>6:04 PM</td>
<td>7:03 PM</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28</td>
<td>+1 561.***-**29</td>
<td>51 min</td>
<td>6:12 PM</td>
<td>7:03 PM</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>