Health Advisory Committee Meeting
Minutes from September 10, 2020
Virtual Meeting 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 Osiyemi
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

SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS:
Debra Robinson, M.D

PRESENTERS:
Dr. Alina Alonso
Dr. Belma Andric
Jay Boggess

ABSENT:
Anthony J. Terzo, Commissioner
Delvin M. Thomas
Dr. Charmaine Chibar
Dr. Leslie Diaz
Dr. Myriam Glemaud
Dr. Olayemi Osiyemi
Matt Willhite
Seth Bernstein
Stacy Volnick
Thamarva Mitchell

PUBLIC NON-MEMBERS:
The public has live access by Phone Bridge
1.01 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.

1.02 Purpose and Intent

1. Reopening of PBC Schools
   The first group coming will be September 16 ESE Cluster sites and September 21st all schools.
   We have a variety of presentations including a collaboration video between the Health Care District and the Department of Health. Before we begin, I’d like to welcome Dr. Fennoy.

1.03 Dr. Fennoy- My entire team is working hard to make sure we are ready for our students. I cannot start without thanking Dr. Robinson, Dr. Alonso, Dr. Andric, Dr. Fishbane, Dr. Schechtman, Dr. Malecki for taking time to plan and organize with the School District and help us understand the language and the reality of COVID thanked the entire HAC committee. We have an executive order from the governor stating we have to open schools for the families that choose to come. I look at providing the greatest educational experience for the ones who choose to come and the ones who choose to stay home. My hope is with our partnership with the Health Department and the Health Care District that we can keep everybody safe and respond when issues arrive. Turned back over to Jay and thanked all for participating.

Jay Boggess- I have seen incredible leadership from Dr. Belma Andric, Dr. Alonso. Brenda Galie, Dr. Chibar to make sure our nurses are well informed and ready. Asked Dr. Alonso if she would like to explain contact tracing while we wait for video to connect.

Dr. A. Alonso- Contact tracing is a very specialized function of the epidemiology and Health Department done by trained individuals. Right now, we have 140 people working contact tracing and while the numbers are down, we are in flu season and anticipate a second wave that could be coming.

1.04 Moved into the 10 min. video presentation.

1.05 Committee Discussion and Comments of the video presentation

Jay Boggess- I wanted you to see the collaboration that is taking place in making sure when we reopen PBC Schools we’ve done everything in our power to make it safe.

Dr. Belma Andric- I hope we’ve decreased the confusion for principals. This is a healthcare crisis and before schools start we have trainings that began last week and intensive trainings next week with many protocols on how to communicate with the Health Department, follow-up, how to track data, screening, incident command. We have many manuals being worked on as we speak hoping to elevate nurses’ confidence.

The best way to eliminate fear is to educate as far as what is truth, what is science and how we deal with it. We have to respect this virus but we no longer have to be afraid, we have the information and the facts and that’s how we eliminate fear.

Jay Boggess- Asked Dr. Fennoy and Ed Tierney if they had any comments to add. None at this time.
1.06 Open Discussion for Contact Tracing and Rapid Testing on School Campus

Dr. B. Andric- Before FDA approval, we were supposed to be pilot for the Abbot Rapid Antigen test however because of FDA approval, HHS purchased all national supplies. We are working with the local representative to obtain the test. I am not aware of having any now to distribute to schools but supplies are promised and coming.

Jay Boggess- One of the questions was “Symptomatic vs Asymptomatic” if and when we have this test available, who are we identifying? Dr. Robinson put that question in the chat box.
Dr. Robinson- Clarify, I want to make sure the test Dr. Andric is talking about is test to be done by school nurses for symptomatic people opposed to the test I am trying to make happen to screen people on a regular basis.

Dr. A. Alonso- Yes, the difference with the rapid test has very good numbers for symptomatic people. A positive test is reliable, if you have symptoms and test negative, you have to get a PCR.

Dr. Robinson- Thanked all for doing all this work. Another question, in the document I saw about symptomatic children going to school nurse, what about symptomatic staff? Are we making provisions or are we making them go home?

Dr. A. Alonso- The staff are a little different because we have unions, workers comp, and other issues involved. The teachers can go to any testing sites for free test. Test results usually are coming back within 2-3 days. As an agency, you would need to make that decision because of issues such as time off, administrative leave, and others that have nothing to do with COVID.

Dr. Robinson- I request that we don’t slam the door on that and consider that employees that are feeling sick can go to the school nurse when we have rapid test.

Dr. B. Andric- HCD and School District attorneys are currently working on the legality of that.

Dr. M. Rodriguez- Do we know how many children are going to show up on the first day of school? What is the ratio of nurses to students? I’m having a difficult time with the testing issues so, if you have to go to war, would you go without weapons?

Dr. A. Alonso- We have to use what we have. I would love to have tests available as they should be but we are preparing the best we can with what we have.

Keith Oswald- As of a few moments, we had 130,000 parents responding to make their choice of registration, of those 130 thousand, we have 57,440 returning to brick and mortar, 72,564 choosing distance learning and approximately 50,000 have not completed the survey at this point.

Dr. B. Andric- We have 2 nurses going to the large schools and 1 to regular size schools. I think the most important tool we have in this pandemic is mitigating risks and I see principals working hard in implementing structure in the schools. It seems like about 50% of students are coming back, social distancing, reinforcement of masks, seating maps these are all tools we have. I agree, testing is very important but we don’t have it right now.

Dr. A. Alonso- The first statement I made to the Board of County Commissioners when this started in March, was that there are 3 tools we will use, facial covering, social distancing, hygiene and contact tracing. We are learning more every day about this virus, maybe things will change in 6 months. We have to keep a close eye on this, in public health, things change every day.
Dr. J. Malecki- In lieu of testing, what other things can you review for people that would ease their mind in terms of screening? Parents and older children will be asked to screen themselves, is there a questionnaire for that? What about taking temperatures? Can you review other things related to prevention activities?

Dr. A. Alonso- I believe all those questions are in the handouts given to the parents to go over before coming to school. Many parents will not do this but we have to be ready for both.

Dr. Robinson- The issue of student to nurse ratio is something we should address at a better time. The coordinator response document says the contact tracer might also contact school, I ask that you change that to the contact tracer shall contact the school administration for additional information. The other thing is a question on reporting results. The school needs to have as much information as possible from whomever has the information on who tested positive so we can help, how do you envision that communication and last thing is, are we going to get to the conversations on deciding on closing a classroom or a school?

Dr. A. Alonso- We will not close a classroom or a school unless there is a sustained transmission among children or teachers.

Dr. Robinson- We need language we can communicate to parents and teachers.

Dr. A. Alonso- The Epidemiology Health Department will make a determination on how many people we need to take out of a school, how many need to stay out and if we see the need to close a school we will recommend that to you.

Dr. Robinson- How do we know the results of your test?

Dr. A. Alonso- We will send out a letter stating we have a case of COVID in the school.

Dr. Robinson- But how do we know?

Dr. A. Alonso- We will communicate the same way we do now as any communicable disease.

Dr. T. Shechtman- Will there be transparency to the public?

Dr. Robinson- Were working on a dashboard that will show how many cases in students and staff.

Dr. A. Alonso- We do every day now.

Dr. B. Andric- Once a nurse has positive results, she will report to the Health Department for contact tracing, when done, as per your policy, we will provide the information to the principal including recommended return day. The principal will send a letter. We are working on a blanket letter for communication.

Jay Boggess- I appreciate that conversation and I think that did lead to some of the COVID dashboard pieces we wanted to get into but I do not believe we have time today. We are at 6:55 if any of our health care professionals would like to speak to the COVID dashboard concept specific to the School District, is there any data pieces or Metrix you feel we need to incorporate?

Dr. A. Alonso- Best is to look at one that is open. The information is available as long as it’s not patient specific. Anything on our FloridaHealth.gov is open to the public.
Dr. B. Andric- I don’t have access to databases but I can share with you some of our testing dashboard since day one when we started testing March 13. We can report how many kids are screened daily, how many have screened positive recommend testing, outcomes of test and how many are identified as close contacts. These are things we are putting together.

Dr. T. Shechtman- I came in late and just want to make sure we have transparency. I don’t see that dashboard anywhere but if you email it out afterwards that would be great.

Jay Boggess- No sir. It’s not part of today’s presentation, it was a conversation topic about building out a dashboard that would align with leadership positions and public transparency. Going to the chat box and ask Dr. Robinson if there’s anything you want to further clarify before we close out?

Dr. Robinson- We’ve had a lot of conversations about the dashboard and it’s time to get it done. I will share a google doc with you because once we do testing on school campuses we can basically have our own positivity rate.

Jay Boggess- We are getting inquiries at the Board level around masks and data that supports a potential health risk with wearing a mask for an extended period of time. We are asking that students and faculty wear face covering for 6 plus hours per day. If you would email me those pieces.

Dr. T. Shechtman- The American Academy of Pediatrics, there is no research, it is totally safe it’s all a bunch of myths. The AAP fully endorses the use of masks in children over age 2 with no harm.

Keith Oswald- Is that listed on the American Academy of Pediatrics page?

Dr. T. Shechtman- I couldn’t tell you where but I’m sure it’s in there. If you go to healthychildren.org which is the parent arm of the AAP.

Jay Boggess- Dr. Fennoy, would you like to close us out with any comments?

1.07 Closing remarks - Dr. Fennoy- I want to thank everybody again for their time, I’m happy many things are getting solidified, obviously testing is a big issue but were working towards that. Thank you for everything you’re doing to help us.

Jay Boggess- The Superintendents Health Advisory Committee has come to the closure of this meeting. We will continue to update and bring back information.

1.08 Meeting Adjourned – 6:01 pm
Comments Posted on the meeting Chat Box:

00:00:21.592,00:00:24.592
Edward Tierney: Ed Tierney

00:00:25.802,00:00:28.802
Ofelia Barletta Chacon: Ofelia Barletta-Chacon

00:00:40.527,00:00:43.527
Kevin McCormick: Kevin McCormick

00:00:43.625,00:00:46.625
Paula Triana: Paula Triana

00:00:46.276,00:00:49.276
Jean Friedland: jean malecki

00:00:47.380,00:00:50.380
Marsha Fishbane: Marsha Fishbane

00:00:47.568,00:00:50.568
Dr. Martha Rodriguez: Dr. Martha Rodriguez

00:00:49.595,00:00:52.595
Michelle Fleming: Michelle Fleming

00:00:52.245,00:00:55.245
Mark Howard: Mark Howard

00:00:52.272,00:00:55.272
Paul Strauss: Paul Strauss

00:00:56.358,00:00:59.358
Brenda Galie: Brenda Galie

00:01:00.256,00:01:03.256
Dr. Martha Rodriguez: yes

00:01:08.470,00:01:11.470
Randy Scheid: Randy Scheid

00:01:12.564,00:01:15.564
Debra Robinson: Debra L. Robinson MD

00:01:15.393,00:01:18.393
Cleo Ortiz: Hello, everyone. Thanks

00:02:49.949,00:02:52.949
Dr. Martha Rodriguez: Welcome Dr.

00:07:19.773,00:07:22.773
Dr. Martha Rodriguez: no

00:09:49.859,00:09:52.859
Dr. Martha Rodriguez: give us the link to it

00:10:36.324,00:10:39.324
Dr. Martha Rodriguez: Can everyone please mute their computer

00:12:04.200,00:12:07.200
Keith Oswald: everyone please mute
Belma Andric: I think we all need to mute ourselves :-) 

Ofelia Barlett Chacon: Very nice!

Randy Scheid: How is the medical team preparing for the mental and behavioral impact that the virus has on our children and their families?

Debra Robinson: This is tests done by the school nurse for symptomatic people?

Dr. Alonso: Yes, the rapid test can be done by the nurse

Dr. Martha Rodriguez: My office, we have as many as needed, all covered.

Kevin McCormick: Up to 5000 students with disabilities are able to return to schools on 9/16/2020

Dr. Martha Rodriguez: doing the best with what we got

Debra Robinson: I suggest that you email the list of metrics that we have brainstormed and get their feedback-what's missing, what's unnecessary

Debra Robinson: outstanding!!!

Belma Andric: Dr Robinson, I will send you soon what I think will be useful and what others are using,

Keith Oswald: Will DOH alert schools if a student is living with someone that has tested positive so that we can quarantine that student? Would they also contact trace that student at the school level?

Dr. Martha Rodriguez: everyone please mute your computer

Jean Friedland: Hillsborough is a good model for us

Belma Andric: If anyone has any good example of dashboards, please share :-)
Dr. Alonso: The contact tracing would identify all people included in the household, including other children, parents or even visitors.

Jean Friedland: need a small group that will ultimately make decision for a school to shut down

Keith Oswald: Thank you Dr. Alonso.

Dr. Alonso: my pleasure

Belma Andric: Regarding Keith question—if nurse learns somehow of the household is positive, we will treat that child the same - recomend testing and report to doh

Dr. Martha Rodriguez: thank you so much

Ofelia Barletta Chacon: Thank you.