



RUCD Mission Statement

**To create an environment of opportunities where
Head Start & Early Head Start children and
families are empowered to change their lives.**

Health Advisory Committee Members in Attendance:

Kaycee Asay, TriCounty Health

Katherine Barrington, Department of Workforce Services

Staff Members in Attendance:

Laneea Cowley, Misty Valdez

Call to Order:

Laneea Cowley called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone.

New Business:

- a) Agency Updates: Laneea Cowley informed the Health Advisory Committee (HAC) of the updated RUCD COVID-19 plan. She also updated the HAC about the progress of Conscious Discipline courses for parents as previously discussed at the October meeting.

- b) Volunteer Vaccinations: In November 2021, RUCD Head Start received information from the Office of Head Start (OHS) which included proposed updates to the Head Start Program Performance Standards. Volunteers working in classrooms or directly with children would be required to be vaccinated for COVID-19 by January 31, 2022. Due to litigation in Utah regarding this matter, compliance with this mandate is on hold. Laneea asked for input from the HAC about expectations for vaccination and safety measures to limit exposure of children. Katherine stated that Workforce Services is following guidelines from the Governor's office, masking is optional and vaccines are not required. Katherine also stated that they are seeing an influx of families applying for services at Workforce Services. Kaycee shared that the TriCounty Health Department is encouraging families to wear masks. Staff that have been vaccinated are not required to wear masks. Staff that work directly with the public are encouraged to be vaccinated. Kaycee stated they did see a drop off of services during the pandemic and that they are now seeing an increase in services. Laneea asked for information about how TriCounty Health Department is tracking vaccination statuses for employees. Kaycee shared the procedures.

- c) Payor of Last Resort Policy: Lanea asked for any information the HAC has about options for families that don't have Medicaid or services that aren't covered. Katherine shared that they have an eye doctor and audiologist that comes once a month. Lanea asked for more information about these screening days to pass on to families.
- d) Hemoglobin Result Range: Lanea asked for the ranges of a hemoglobin result that are acceptable for the Women, Infants, and Children Program (WIC) and the TriCounty Health Department. Kaycee stated that TriCounty has processes in place for when a hemoglobin result is too low, but she would have to look up the acceptable range. Kaycee shared that TriCounty has a machine to do hemoglobin screenings. TriCounty is able to test, but would have to bill families for the tests. Medicaid would not pay for the tests.
- e) Record Requests: Lanea asked Kaycee for any information about medical records requests in the Vernal area. Dinosaurland Pediatrics office closed due to Covid-19 and it has been difficult for parents and staff to get copies of physicals and other medical records. Kaycee stated that families can call Ashley Regional Hospital to request old records.
- f) Additional Topics: Katherine informed the HAC that the Department of Workforce Services (DWS) is not requiring new enrollment this year. DWS is not closing out any Medicaid benefits unless a client moves, passes away or requests it closed. Some customers have reported getting notices that their Medicaid account is closed and received another notice that it is open. To avoid confusion, the DWS will not be closing any Medicaid accounts until further notice. Lanea asked to clarify if Medicaid or insurance is billed first for families that have both. Katherine explained that private insurance is billed first and then Medicaid picks up the remaining balance. She will send the website with all the information to Lanea.

Next Meeting:

The next meeting will be October 12th, 2022, at 12:00 pm

Adjournment:

Lanea Cowley adjourned the meeting.