



YOUTH ADVISORY COUNCIL

In-Person Meeting

In conjunction with Madison High School Job for American Graduates (JAG) Program

Date: Tuesday, May 7, 2024

Event Time: 12:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m.

YAC Time: 12:45 p.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Location: **Madison High School, 1234 Madison High Drive, Tallulah, LA 71282**

1) Welcome and Introductions

- a. Lucille Lovette, Madison High Principal, welcomed all students and staff, went over expectations, and turned the meeting over to ACLA.
- b. Frank Newsome III, ACLA Member and Community Engagement Educator Region 8, introduced himself and gave an overview of the agenda for the meeting. Newsome spoke about and gave the mission of ACLA and how it related to the event. Newsome also introduced Mrs. Shauna Morris, ACLA Mobile Wellness Unit Administrator.
- c. Hazel Suluki, Madison High School's JAG coordinator, introduced herself and spoke about the importance of the essential life knowledge and skills that the meeting was about.

Number of Members in Attendance—12

Number of Community Partners: 2

Number of Meeting Participants—123 in person

Overall attendance— 125

- #### **2) Introduction of Meeting Participants and Community Partners—**
- Participants were ACLA staff, ACLA community partners, ACLA student-members, general students, and school staff. The community partners who were present both were able to present to students and educated them about available resources. Brittny Sims-Washington of Southern AgCenter in Madison Parish educated students on fitness and nutrition programs available to all Madison Parish residents. Rodger Puckett, RN and staff of the Madison Parish Student-Based Health Center educated students and staff on various topics. These included sex-education, pregnancy, abstinence, mental health, counseling services, immunizations, and regular wellness exams. All available resources were offered to students. Some ACLA student-members chose to identify themselves as members during the Q & A portion of the meeting.

3) ACLA Announcements

- a. **Medicaid Unwinding—** Newsome gave an update on Medicaid Unwinding asking the members, community partners, and other guests if they were updated on the process and if they had any questions about it.
- b. **ACLA Mobile Wellness Center—**Newsome announced the Mobile Wellness Center and Morris gave the aim and purpose of it. Morris also invited everyone to tour the unit at the end of the meeting.

4) “YAC Chat” with Members and Community Partners about AmeriHealth Caritas Louisiana’s programs and services—

- a. **Youth Forum**—Newsome engaged the students and educated them more about ACLA. Newsome gave an overview of ACLA benefits and services and talked about ACLA’s mission. Newsome then split students into groups, and asked them questions related to community, education, health, and ACLA. Newsome gave the students one (1) minute after each question to discuss with fellow-students, and the students reported their responses to each question. The following questions were asked and answers from each group (3) are recorded below:

i. **What, if anything, would you change about Madison Parish for the better?**

1. Clean and consistent running water for city (Tallulah) residents.
2. Fighting, drama, and guns.
3. Organic food options.

ii. **Aside from people, what is the most important element that a community needs to thrive?**

1. More places to work in Madison Parish.
2. A better education system.
3. Safety.

iii. **In what ways does the education level of a community’s members relate to future predictions about the community?**

1. The number of jobs and businesses for the future.
2. The amount of money that Madison Parish will have.
3. More education equals more opportunity.

iv. **How prepared are you to take full control of all of your health needs in the next 5 years? Explain.**

1. All three groups expressed that they were not ready and didn’t know what the next steps were.

v. **Open Question (for individuals) - Let’s assume everyone in the room is an ACLA member—If money was not a worry, how would you hold ACLA accountable to their mission?**

1. Providing dental services that would pay for veneers for those who wanted them. No more cavities, root canals, etc.
2. Transportation services around the parish.
3. Scholarships.
4. After school-programs for families with little children.
5. Requirement for all members to attend basic life skills and knowledge classes (Teacher response).

- b. **Communication Preferences**—Attendees were asked for their preferred method of communication. The methods in order of preference are:

- i. Text
- ii. Tik Tok
- iii. School Announcements

- c. **Mobile Unit Tour**—All participants were given the opportunity to tour the Mobile Wellness Unit in groups with Morris.



- i. All visitors of the mobile wellness unit received LDH Unwinding information, ACLA member benefits booklet, ACLA Care Card pamphlets, ACLA drawstring bags with ACLA incentives inside, and contact information.

5) Adjournment—The meeting and tour adjourned at 2:00 p.m.