

Networking Newsletter

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President's Message

By Donna Wethington

I would like to take this opportunity to formally thank everyone who participated in the 2010 conference, "The Crossroads of Healthy Schools and Successful Learners". The conference was a huge success due to the year long, behind the scenes, activities that went into the planning and preparations by Myrna Watkins and her conference committee. Sherri Reynolds once again did a fabulous job with recruiting excellent presenters and scheduling relevant topics as was evidenced by the evaluation responses from the participants. It was exciting and re-energizing to see so many of you participating in our annual school health conference in spite of the travel restrictions placed upon us due to the economic shortfalls. I only hope that during the 2010-2011 school year we will see a shift in the economic trends so that we can increase our networking and professional development opportunities across all agencies.

What I have always liked best about our annual conference is connecting with other FSHA members and being able to hear what they are doing in their work and lives. The conference is a wonderful opportunity to see many colleagues and welcome new members. A place to form life-long friendships and renew old friendships while learning about the latest research on health education, health services, and legislative updates related to our profession in school health.

I have been attending FSHA Conferences for over 15 years and have been a member of the Board since 1998. I am honored to have been elected to serve as President for the upcoming year and I look forward to serving in that capacity once again. Because I believe we have the best association in our state, my goals for this year are to spread that word to more of our colleagues within our state by increasing membership. I remember when our conference participation and active membership was over 600. We have held steady for the past two years around 150 but I need your help. Think of the possibilities if each one of us encouraged just one person to become a member of FSHA! As we gain more members, we also achieve greater influence with the State Legislature, the Department of Education, the Department of Health, and other professional organizations.

I believe that together we can help FSHA regain the momentum needed and continue to grow, allowing us the opportunity to help our students and their families, and to fulfill our mission of "providing optimal health and academic outcomes for all children and youth"....Making our Communities a Healthier Place for Everyone! Won't you join me?

Visit the FSHA website @ www.fsha.net and become a member of our outstanding professional organization for just \$20.00. You will receive access to our newsletter, networking opportunities with other colleagues, along with current trends and legislative updates as they relate to our profession of school health.



School Health Approved in State Budget

The Governor signed the state budget and both School Health and Full Service Schools were approved.

Below is a reminder of the funding in the budget:

House Bill 5001 General Appropriations Act

Line Item 446

Aid to Local Governments

School Health Services

From General Revenue Fund	3,625,057
From Tobacco Settlement Trust Fund	9,902,925
From Federal Grants Trust Fund	6,791,548

Line Item 456

Special Categories

Full Service Schools-Interagency Cooperation

From Tobacco Settlement Trust Fund	8,500,000
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“This legislation adds it as an option for staff when deciding how to fulfill their individual professional development plan.”

New Suicide Legislation

SUICIDE PREVENTION EDUCATION. - Beginning with the 2010-2011 school year, school districts will provide all instructional and administrative personnel with access to educational resources regarding suicide prevention, which are approved by the Statewide Office for Suicide Prevention through the school district professional development plan under s.1012.98. Although suicide prevention training is not mandated, this legislation adds it as an option for staff when deciding how to fulfill their individual professional development plan. Certificated personnel may use in-service points for re-certification purposes. Currently, a few school districts already include suicide prevention education in their district In-Service Plans. This legislation will afford the opportunity statewide to all school personnel.

Options include online training, self-guided training, and in-person training. Visit the Statewide Office of Suicide Prevention website at <http://www.helppromotehope.com/events/school.php> to see a list of approved trainings.

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FSHA believes that the ability to learn at school is directly related to the status of the student's health and that all children and youth have a right to have emergency health needs safely met while in the school setting.

We're on the Web!
www.fsha.net

Teen Dating Violence Legislation

HB 467 requires a comprehensive health education taught in the public schools to include a component on teen dating violence and abuse for students in grades 7 through 12. It also requires district school boards to adopt and implement a dating violence and abuse policy and provides policy requirements. The Department of Education shall develop a model policy to serve as a guide for district school boards in the development of the dating violence and abuse policy. Each district school board shall provide training for teachers, staff, and school administrators to implement the policy and procedures.

Visit www.fsha.net/FSHA_legislative.html for other current bill of interest.

Cybersafety Educational Presentation

The Office of the Attorney General has presented to over 500,000 middle and high schools students since 2007 on cyber safety. During the 50-minute interactive PowerPoint presentation, students learn about the risks and tactics used by online predators as well as what constitutes a cyber crime and how to report it.

For more information on bringing this presentation to your students, go to <http://www.safeflorida.net/SafeFL.nsf/pages/Schools> where a Cybersafety Education Brochure is available.

Mercury Quick Facts for School Nurses

For quick facts about mercury exposure at schools, following the link below:

<http://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/mercury/docs/MercurySchoolNurse.pdf>

FSHA 2011 Annual Conference

Mark Your Calendar!

The FSHA 2011 Conference will be held May 12th and 13th
Embassy Suites, Orlando – North
225 Shorecrest Drive
Altamonte Springs, FL 32701
(407) 834-2400