Summary of Skyline HSEPC Meeting - November 5, 2026

The Health, Safety, and Emergency Preparedness Committee (HSEPC) meeting began with routine business, including approval of the agenda. Approval of the October meeting notes was deferred because members had not yet had sufficient opportunity to review them. Paul Cassidy thanked attendees and moved the committee into campus and district updates.

Health and Wellness Updates

Emily Risk reported on several successful health initiatives. The recent campus health fair hosted 31 vendors and provided 54 flu vaccinations administered by Skyline nursing students, giving students valuable practical experience. The event also established a partnership with San Mateo Health to bring an STI testing van to future health fairs so eligible participants can access free testing during the event.

Emily Risk also announced progress on a Narcan distribution program. A Narcan vending machine is expected to be installed near Public Safety in Building 6, while an outdoor Narcan dispenser will be placed near the bus circle to ensure access when buildings are closed. Additional upcoming events include a blood drive scheduled in Building 6 and the Personal Counseling Center's "Stress Less Week" planned for November 16–19.

Facilities and Infrastructure Updates

Representing Facilities, Michele Rudovsky provided an update on the Distributed Antenna System project designed to improve cellular service across Skyline College. Installation is progressing with three carriers: T-Mobile, Verizon, and AT&T. T-Mobile activation is expected first, followed by Verizon and later AT&T. The project is intended to address longstanding cell reception challenges on campus.

Michele Rudovsky also shared a brief update on districtwide student housing, noting that construction is underway and the facility is currently scheduled to open in 2028. Students from all three colleges in the district will be eligible to utilize the housing.

Public Safety Communications

During the Public Safety discussion, committee members examined emergency communication procedures. Nadia Tariq suggested that employees, particularly newer staff members, would benefit from reminders regarding emergency response protocols and Public Safety contact information. Thommy Reyes reiterated that employees should use extension 7000 for Public Safety dispatch and call 911 first when an immediate emergency response is required.

Michele explained that new employee orientation includes instruction on emergency procedures, including programming the emergency number into personal phones and enrolling in RAVE emergency notifications. Paul Cassidy committed to working with campus communications staff to periodically distribute reminders regarding emergency contact procedures to the broader campus community.

Emergency Preparedness and Safety Enhancements

Ben'Zara Minkin provided a comprehensive emergency preparedness update. He reported that the annual Great ShakeOut earthquake drill was successful, with strong evacuation performance and improved radio communications. Newly implemented radio protocols allow campuses to separate communications channels during large-scale emergencies, improving coordination and resource management.

Lessons learned from an actual Building 2 fire alarm activation revealed challenges related to building access for evacuation personnel. These issues are being reviewed to improve evacuation effectiveness and ensure building captains can access all necessary areas during emergencies.

Ben'Zara Minkin also discussed the rollout of advanced bleeding control kits throughout district facilities. These kits will be installed in all buildings and connected to monitoring systems that notify Public Safety when accessed. Additional training has been incorporated into the Building Captain program.

Another significant update involved building lockdown systems. Skyline's newer third-generation lockdown buttons can secure an entire building and automatically alert Public Safety, representing a major improvement over older systems that only locked individual areas. Ben emphasized the importance of employees understanding the capabilities of their specific facilities and emergency equipment.

The district is also introducing LifeVac airway obstruction devices for choking emergencies. These devices will be placed in Child Development Centers and cafeterias and incorporated into future training for building captains and designated staff.

Looking ahead, the district is developing a multi-year training and exercise plan (MTEP) that will provide colleges with a three-to-five-year schedule of emergency drills and preparedness activities. Ben further announced plans to implement RAVE's new desktop emergency notification platform, which will deliver emergency alerts directly to computers and digital signage across the district.

First Aid Resources and Future Agenda Items

The committee also discussed first aid kits. Ben'Zara Minkin explained that standardized first aid and Narcan cabinets will eventually be installed in every facility, while departments with elevated risk profiles may request additional kits. He noted that the kits are highly specialized and costly but that procedures have been established for inventory control and restocking.

Adjournment

In closing, Paul Cassidy noted that there were no action items requiring committee action. Future meetings may include discussions regarding Zoom phones, student conduct and support issues with Perry Chen, and the district's Workplace Violence Prevention Survey. The meeting adjourned with the next committee meeting scheduled for December 3, 2026.