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Save the Date: CASBHC’s Annual Conference

On May 2 (full day) and May 3 (half day), CASBHC will hold its annual conference at the DoubleTree Hotel in Aurora. We plan to cover a range of topics, including Colorado refugee populations, type 2 diabetes screening, children’s dental emergencies, and how to develop a marketing program for a school-based health center. Sandra Stenmark of Kaiser Permanente will open the conference on Thursday as the keynote speaker.

Registration information will be available on March 15. For continual updates, visit www.casbhc.org/conference.

The SBHC Movement Spreads to Neighboring Wyoming!

Wind River Schools in Freemont County, Wyoming will house the state’s first school-based health center following action by the local school board in late January.

“Wind River is isolated from health care and response time is high and this clinic will improve health care needs of students there,” Fremont County Board of Cooperative Education Services (FC BOCES) Executive Director Sandy Barton said upon the announcement.

According to Barton, FC BOCES has received a foundation grant, and has applied for a federal grant to fund the operation of the clinic. They have been working with CASBHC to get the clinic up and running, at which time it will be available to all students with a focus on preventive health.
55th School-Based Health Center Opens in Colorado

After a four-year journey to open a school-based health center in the Eagle County School District, Doctors Plus Executive Director Jill Kovacevich searched for a thought that would accurately reflect the mission and vision of the new Kids Care Clinic located at Avon Elementary School. She found it in saying “Start Small, Dream Big, Change Lives.”

The “aha” moment for Avon Principal Melisa Rewold-Thoun came while working with a first grade boy who didn’t want to come to school, spent most of his day crying and exhibiting behavioral issues. Sitting in the lunch room one day, the boy told Rewold-Thoun that his “mouth hurt.” Shocked by what she saw upon examination – molars worn down to the point of nerve exposure – she knew from that moment on that something had to be done. “A healthy child is what we can take and mold into an active community member” she said, addressing the audience at the opening of the health center. This clinic, she noted, would help to ensure the students in the classrooms were healthy and ready to learn.

Kovacevich, along with a committed team of educators, including Rewold-Thoun, a community level advisory board and support from the Colorado Health Foundation took a dream and made it a reality.

Construction of the clinic, which includes, a separate entrance, two exam rooms, a conference area, space for behavioral health and a waiting area, was made possible by a Health Resources and Services Administration grant of $221,408, one of more than $2.4 million in competitive grants given to schools in Colorado to create school-based health centers.

The Doctors Plus Kids Care Clinic is the 55th school-based health center to open in Colorado and will provide affordable health services to any Eagle County student, ages 3 to 18. The clinic will be open year-round, Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Earlier this year, another school-based health center was unveiled at Pueblo County High School, becoming the first clinic to open its doors in Pueblo School District 70. The clinic is open to students enrolled in any school in the district ages 3-21. It is operated by Pueblo Community Health Centers and Parkview Medical Center, and provides a range of services from lab tests to medications and prescriptions, as well as nutrition counseling, tobacco prevention/cessation, and reproductive health.
New Additions to the CASBHC Team

In January, Agnes Dwenger joined the CASBHC team as Accountant/Office Manager. Agnes has experience in both accounting and office management with non-profit organizations, as she worked previously for the Colorado Parent Teachers Association and Advocacy Denver, formerly ARC of Denver. Born in France and raised in South Africa, Agnes studied accounting at Metropolitan State College. Agnes is eager to lend her many skills towards helping keep CASBHC organized and efficient.

CASBHC also welcomed Nicole McWhirter this month as the Director of Engagement. Nicole came to CASBHC from the Office of Policy and Fiscal Analysis at the University of Colorado Denver / Anschutz Medical Campus, and has worked over the past decade for various nonprofit organizations with experience in the areas of health and education. Nicole will be working to build partnerships and promote the vision and mission of CASBHC to key stakeholders and decision makers. She will also manage the annual conference in May and advocate for policy issues important to children’s well being. Nicole holds a Bachelor of Arts from Barnard College and a Master of Public Policy Analysis from George Mason University. When she’s not at work you can typically find Nicole in Centennial, where she lives with her husband, two children and elderly Siberian husky, quilting, practicing yoga, and living the life of a very reluctant dance mom.

Outreach and Enrollment Toolkit Now Available on CASBHC website

CASBHC recently published a technical assistance brief titled “Linking Kids to Health Coverage and Health Care: A Toolkit for School-Based Health Center Outreach and Enrollment in Medicaid and the Children’s Health Insurance Program.” This publication explores the development of outreach and enrollment activities to enroll children in Medicaid and CHIP. It is designed to provide guidance, ideas, and tools that SBHCs can consider when designing an outreach and enrollment strategy. It provides key steps for implementation of programs, and marketing ideas to support SBHC outreach. It also suggests various revenue sources that can support SBHC outreach efforts. The document can be found at: http://casbhc.org/Publications/Toolkits/outreachEnrollment_FINAL.pdf.

Cripple Creek Victor Mountain Health Center Honored at Local Awards Ceremony

The new and improved Cripple Creek Victor Mountain Health Center at Cresson Elementary School, which was featured in CASBHC’s November 2012 newsletter, recently received the Teller County Cares Health Award! The clinic was honored at an awards ceremony on January 29th at the Heritage Center, says Program Director Laureen Murray. Teller County Cares awards are given to reflect the efforts of people who help improve the lives of others in the county. After receiving this recognition, the El Pomar Foundation of Colorado agreed to provide Cripple Creek Victor Mountain Health Center $10,000 over the next two years for operational support.

The grand opening of the Cripple Creek Victor Mountain Health Center.
February is Children’s Oral Health Month

Each February, the American Dental Association (ADA) sponsors National Children’s Dental Health Month to raise awareness about the importance of oral health. In order to encourage the idea of developing good habits at an early age, Delta Dental of Colorado has released a series of humorous video “vlogs” targeting teen dental health. The videos feature a curious teen named Jake and highlight a different risky habit each week, from smoking to mouth piercings to consuming candy and energy drinks. Pediatrician Patty Braun, MD, and Doug Berkey, DDS, respond to Jake’s questions and give him the facts so that he understands the importance of oral hygiene. The videos are being released through YouTube and promoted via social media.

Futures without Violence Resources

As SBHCs strive to bring the issue of teen pregnancy prevention into the forefront of adolescent health care, it is important to investigate intimate partner sexual violence. There are many resources available through the Futures Without Violence website at www.futureswithoutviolence.org. Specifically, the IPV Screening and Counseling Toolkit gives excellent advice on reaching women and children with preventative messages and improving the health and safety of current victims of abuse. Also available is a youth-specific guide for clinician screening for sexual and reproductive coercion, which can be accessed here:


BeforePlay Offers Sexual Health Resources in Spanish

Beforeplay.org, an initiative by the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment aimed at reducing unwanted pregnancies, now offers resources in Spanish. The recently launched Beforeplay.org/es provides useful information on a range of sexual health topics, including tips about different contraceptive methods, STD facts and figures, and videos about local teens.

Beforeplay.org has also recently announced that sexual health information can be accessed via cell phone. People struggling to find information on certain topics regarding contraception now can simply text b4play to 57890 and have their questions answered within 24 hours by a trained health professional.