CHIEF DOCTOR LARRY WOLK DELIGHTS CROWD

“The world of health care revolves around school-based health centers!”

Larry Wolk, executive director of the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) and our state’s chief medical officer, knew how to wake up—and warm up—the crowd in his keynote address opening up the CASBHC 2014 conference.

The founder of Rocky Mountain Youth clinics and past executive in numerous health care agencies, Wolk knows about the challenges and rewards of school-based health centers. He offered attendees a wide-ranging overview of ways that they can take advantage of rapid changes in health care.

Wolk focused on changes in delivery systems, payment reforms, and technological advances. Recent changes in all these aspects of health care will benefit SBHCs, Wolk said.

For example, the Affordable Care Act gives CDPHE funding and incentive to build on health care models that SBHCs are already great at: providing a medical home for patients, integrating primary and behavioral healthcare, and providing dental care.

Wolk noted that SBHCs can get better about evaluating their impact and incorporating new technological tools.

“Donna Shocks is a leader in our focus on the whole child in DPS,” said Simmons, executive director of Student Services at DPS. “In her 18 years of service to the children of Denver, she has pioneered a variety of health improvements within our schools.”

These improvements include expanding and improving the SBHC system at DPS and significantly improving the ratio of school nurses to students.

Shocks, the manager of the Department of Nursing and Student Health Services at Denver Public Schools, told the crowd how happy she was to receive this award. Her family, friends, and colleagues were delighted to see

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Donna Shocks, continued

her receive this honor recognizing her years of contributions to the health of Denver’s children.

CASCBH Executive Director Debbie Costin shared reflections from Shock’s nine years serving on the CASCBH board.

“I was thrilled that CASCBH was able to present Donna with the Lifetime Achievement award. She served on the CASCBH Board for as long as the rules allowed and was president in 2007 and 2008. But her greatest legacy in my mind is her ongoing work building health programs for students of Denver Public Schools, and her support of school-based health centers in the district, which are now at 15 and growing.”

Costin continued, “The award she received reads ‘For visionary leadership, tireless advocacy and extraordinary success in keeping children healthy, in school, and ready to learn’ and I think that sums Donna up perfectly.”

Past Lifetime Achievement award winners are Nina McNeill, from Adams City Middle School in Commerce City (2013) and Shannon Wells, from Southwest Open School in Cortez (2012).

Time to Brag!

Do you have news to share? Has your clinic recently received a grant? Have you been recognized for your great work? Do you have a provider that deserves to be recognized or a new program that is showing successful results?

We want to hear about it!

Help us share your success with our community! If you have a news tidbit or a story to share, e-mail Elizabeth Freudenthal, freudenthal@casbhc.org. Don’t forget to connect with us so you can keep up with CASCBH’s latest in the children’s health community.

Facebook.com/CASCBH
@CASCBH
www.casbhc.org

OTHER 2014 INSPIRATION AWARD WINNERS

Outstanding School-Based Health Center Provider

Nancy Riordan, clinic manager at Denver Health

“She takes on pediatric residents from Children’s Hospital Colorado each month and has time and again established herself as an excellent clinician-teacher.” –Sonja O’Leary

Outstanding School-Based Health Center Administrator

Devra Fregin, director of practice management at Kids First Health Care

“Since she joined our agency in 2012, Devra has made a significant contribution to the delivery of our health care services, sustainability of our programs, and she has gone above and beyond to ensure that we operate at the top of our game.” –Amber Picnic

Outstanding School Health Professional

Christie Miller, health aid at Summit Middle School

“Christie is a link between the school counselors, SBHC behavioral health and medical providers and Summit Middle School staff. She can easily tell us right away which teachers are not going to be happy if we pull a student from their class for an appointment!” –Erin Major

School-Based Health Center Champion

Randy Everets, director of Safe and Healthy Schools at Pueblo School District 60

“He has effectively integrated SBHCs with other services including mental health, mentoring, and prevention. In doing so, he has made SBHCs a critical piece of the whole student school experience.” –Judi Hamlin

Kids First Health Care Staff: (L-R) Nina McNeill, Becky Lusk, Devra Fregin, Norma Portnoy, Amber Picnic, and Deb Crennen
**SCHOOL-BASED HEALTH CARE PROGRAM UPDATES**

- **New School-based health center Sites Planned:** Seven new awards were given in the Request for Applications process that ended last month: Start-up awards went to Aurora Public Schools for Delta County School District and Denver Health for Thomas Jefferson High School. Planning funds were awarded to Aurora Central High School, Lake County School District, Montezuma-Cortez School District, Pagosa Springs Medical Center, and Rocky Mountain Youth Clinics for a new school-based health center at Carbondale. Boulder Valley School District has received a “quick start” award as well.

- **New Staff Contacts:** Bonnie Moya is currently serving as the primary SBHC program contact for all CDPHE contractors. She can be reached at bonnie.moya@state.co.us and 303-692-2469. Esperanza Ybarra will continue to supervise the program, and Francesca Isabelle is the fiscal officer. Moyabring deep expertise in operations and clinic management. Greta Klingler, from the CDPHE Family Planning program, will join the SBHC program part-time starting in July. Klingler will help SBHC sites build long-term sustainability. Maureen Daly will continue as a contractor for the program.

- **Free Training:** CDPHE is providing free training in intermediate-level motivational interviewing for clinical health care providers, including SBHC providers, on July 14. Contact CASBHC’s Elizabeth Freudenthal to register.

**New Eligibility Rules for Medicaid and CHP+**

New income eligibility guidelines for Medicaid and CHP+ began April 1, 2014. The Affordable Care Act (ACA) required states to update the methodology for calculating eligibility, using the Modified Adjusted Gross Income (MAGI). The Colorado Benefits Management System (CBMS) is being updated to reflect these new income guidelines.

**Feedback about the Accountable Care Collaborative**

The Department of Health Care Policy and Financing (HCPF), along with the Colorado Health Institute, are holding open meetings about the impact of this new health care delivery system. If you want to help shape the future of the ACC, inform the development of the next Request for Proposals for the Regional Care Collaborative Organizations (RCCOs), consider attending a meeting. Find a schedule of locations and times here.

**Has Medicaid or CHP+ Changed Your Patient’s Life?**

HCPF is looking for personal stories about the impact of its programs on the lives of Colorado families. These stories can help educate the public about the importance of health insurance coverage and the positive impact these programs have on our community. Share your story—with your patient’s permission—here.
2014 LEGISLATIVE SESSION WRAP-UP

CASBHC entered the 2014 Colorado legislative session with three priorities:

1. Approval of a roll-forward authorization for unused funds from the fiscal year (FY) 2013-14 state budget appropriation for school-based health centers.

2. The inclusion in the FY 2014-15 state budget (“the Long Bill”) of a line item appropriating $5,260,817 to school-based health centers.

3. A footnote to the Long Bill containing clear wording that primary care providers will receive reimbursement for conducting oral health risk assessments and fluoride varnish application for patients aged 5 and older, up to three times a year. A similar footnote was attached to the FY 2013-14 budget, but the Department of Health Care Policy and Financing did not fully implement the reimbursement.

CASBHC is proud to announce that all three of its legislative priorities were met.

SBHC FUNDING


Thanks to the hard work of our lobbyist Fofi Mendez and her team at Mendez Consulting, the newly passed Long Bill includes a $5,260,817 appropriation to fund school-based health centers in FY 2014-15.

CASBHC-supported oral health care reimbursement language was included in the final version of the Long Bill. This new, stronger wording should push HCPF to fully implement the new policy reimbursing primary care providers for oral health care.

VACCINATIONS

CASBHC took a strong stand supporting the controversial immunizations bill, HB 1288, which passed in a significantly altered form. It originally would have required all parents seeking an exemption from immunizations to either get a doctor’s note or take an online training module. According to Fofi Mendez, the bill would never have passed with that mandate, given political pressures on key legislators.

The bill as passed requires that schools and day care centers make their vaccination rates available to anyone upon request. The state health department is now required to create online materials educating families about the benefits of vaccination. CDPHE must work with other state agencies to develop a common policy about collecting immunization data. They must create rules regarding how frequently schools and child care centers should collect exemption forms. And they must help schools and child care centers analyze immunization data.

MARIJUANA TAXES AND FEES

In an additional boon for the SBHC community, the bill designating how to spend marijuana revenue—from taxes as well as licensing fees—includes school health funding. Several million dollars will be funneled into school-based substance abuse prevention and intervention programs through multiple funding mechanisms. CASBHC will inform members of ways that SBHCs can benefit from this funding as details of the state’s procedures emerge.

The legislature also passed bills that will support the SBHC community’s efforts to address the risks of widely available marijuana products. There are now new rules regulating edible marijuana packaging, a ban on synthetic marijuana products, and funding for studying the health effects of marijuana.
The Colorado Coalition for the Medically Underserved (CCMU) announced its new Health is Local project at the organization’s recent annual meeting.

For each area, CCMU provides health statistics and resident stories to highlight the unique regional factors contributing to the health of its community. Check out their findings at www.healthislocal.org.

NEW CASBHC INTERNS

This summer, CASBHC will welcome two interns: University of Colorado medical students Hannah Pederson and Ted Timothy.

Beginning June 6, they will conduct a 6-week research project investigating the challenges and benefits of using electronic health records to facilitate integrated health care at SBHCs. CASBHC will use their final recommendations in its ongoing advocacy for improving the efficiency and quality of integrated care in the school-based health care setting.

The Leadership, Education, Advocacy, Development, Scholarship (LEADS) program is an academic track at the University of Colorado School of Medicine. The program helps Colorado’s future doctors learn how to treat the health needs of underserved and disadvantaged populations. LEADS scholars take three electives, participate in an internship, and complete scholarly research on a topic related to public health and health equity.

Pederson and Timothy both plan to use their LEADS experience to decrease health disparities either in clinical practice or through policy leadership.

CASBHC HELPING IMPROVE HEALTH CARE INTEGRATION

CASBHC Executive Director Debbie Costin was invited to participate in a high-level collaboration to improve state rules about integrating physical and behavioral health care in Colorado.

The collaboration was convened by the executive directors of the three state departments that fund health care in Colorado: the Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE), the Department of Health Care Policy and Financing (HCPF), and the Department of Human Services (DHS).

The Tri-Department Rules Alignment Steering Committee represents the Colorado government’s efforts to focus on improving behavioral health in our state. The committee will spend the next few months identifying specific rules and policies that create barriers to full integration of physical and behavioral health care. They will also create recommendations for changes to policies, rules, and statutes governing integrated health care.

Other nonprofit organizations on the committee include the Colorado Rural Health Center, the Colorado Children’s Campaign, and the Colorado Behavioral Healthcare Council.