

THE CASBHC CHRONICLE

January 2015

Keeping children healthy,
in school, and ready to learn



Laredo Kids Clinic Grand Opening

Congratulations to the staff and patients of Laredo Kids Clinic on their new, freestanding clinic space!

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CASBHC LAUNCHES NEW PROJECT CREATING DENTAL HOMES IN SBHCS

In collaboration with The Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE), the Colorado Association for School-Based Health Care (CASBHC) has initiated a project to increase the number of children and youth who have a dental home at SBHCs. The project puts portable dental equipment in SBHCs so that dental professionals can treat patients on site.

Participating primary care providers will perform oral screenings and apply fluoride varnish. With this project, however, they will also be able to refer patients to dental providers who work on site or at a community-based dental clinic.

"I'm excited that we are collaborating with CDPHE," said Deidre Callanan, CASBHC director of clinical programs and the Creating Dental Homes project manager. "And I'm most excited that we now have the means to make some real change, to help more children get dental care."

Participating sites are Northside Child Health Center at Northside Elementary School in Montrose, Roaring Fork School Health Center at Basalt Middle School, Kids Care Clinic at Avon Elementary School, Adams City High School Wellness Center in Commerce City, and Summit School-Based Health Center at Summit Middle School in Frisco.

"It's nice that we have elementary, middle and high school represented in this project," said Callanan. "Often older kids are overlooked in oral health projects."

Each participating site will follow one of two models. In both models, medical providers will offer preventive services—oral health screenings and applications of fluoride varnish—as necessary. Those SBHCs electing the collaborative model will either offer exams, X-rays, and sealants on site through a contract with a dental hygienist, or will refer patients to a community-based facility for these services. A dentist will also be available at the community-based site to provide restorative services.

However, some sites will follow a "direct" model, with dental hygienists and dentists providing all preventive and restorative services onsite. Participating sites following the direct model will receive a portable unit with both restorative and hygiene equipment. Collaborative model sites will receive a portable dental hygiene unit.

CASBHC and CDPHE are currently evaluating participating sites, including examining the need for services and ability to collaborate with community dental partners.

All sites are experiencing high levels of need for dental services. A major barrier for patients seeking dental services is a shortage of local dentists that accept Medicaid patients. Patients in Basalt, for example, may have to drive 30 to 50 miles to see a Medicaid-enrolled dentist.

"A lot of the SBHCs are already doing some wonderful, great work," said Callanan. "And this will help push them along to offer even more. We are so excited about this project"

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NEW SURVEY SHOWS LGBTQ TEENS FACE BIG HEALTH CHALLENGES

The latest **Healthy Kids Colorado Survey** has found that students identifying as lesbian, gay, or bisexual (LGB) experience significantly worse mental and physical health challenges than their straight-identifying peers.

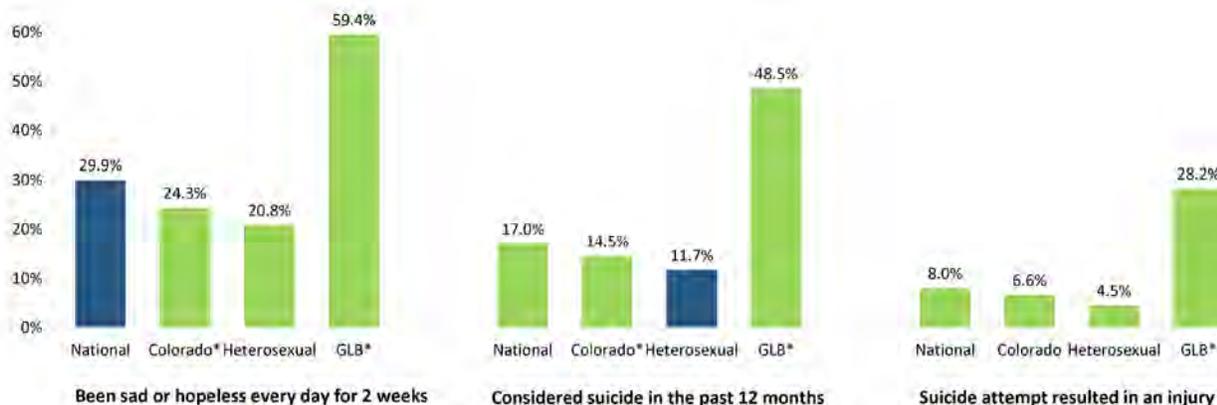
The 2013 survey, which collected data on LGB teens for the first time, found that such students are six times more likely to attempt suicide, five times more likely to be forced into sex, and twice as likely to be bullied as their classmates.

In fact, on just about every measure—physical activity, drug and alcohol use, sexual health, mental health, and personal safety—LGB teens experience significantly greater barriers to health than their heterosexual peers.

“SBHCs play a key role in improving the health and wellbeing of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and questioning (LGBTQ) students in Colorado,” said Sarah Nickels, CDPHE school health specialist and co-director of the School-Based Health Center Improvement Project. As part of her new role, Nickels manages the Healthy Kids Colorado Survey.

“These survey results show how important it is for school-based health centers to provide inclusive and culturally-relevant services that engage all youth in their own care,” Nickels added.

Nickels noted that while the 2013 survey did not ask about the experiences of transgender or gender non-conforming students, “research indicates that these youth face even greater health disparities than their LGB peers.”



CASBHC’s own recent survey data, collected in partnership with the Colorado Health Institute, show that many SBHCs are providing LGBTQ-inclusive health care. According to the 2013 SBHC report, nearly all SBHCs use health history and risk assessment forms that do not presume the heterosexuality of patients. Between 82 and 92 percent of SBHCs provided other common LGBTQ-inclusive services, which include routine screening of sexual minority youth for depression and other mood disorders, providing contraceptives to all teens regardless of sexual orientation, and screening sexual minority youth for substance abuse.

Safe, inclusive SBHCs can make a major difference in the lives of LGBTQ youth. The Healthy Kids Colorado Survey also found that LGB teens that reported having someone to talk to about serious problems were less likely to have attempted suicide in the past year.

Leo Kattari, health policy manager at One Colorado, said in a statement that the health challenges facing LGB youth are not due to their sexual orientation, “but rather the bullying, societal stigma and unfair barriers they face each and every day.” School-based health centers can be an important ally in treating the ongoing health impacts of bullying and stigma.

The survey data broken down by race show that American Indian students and those identifying as multi-racial also experience higher rates of health challenges across categories.

“We hope these data will help SBHCs learn more about the health of youth in their communities so they can tailor their efforts to meet the greatest needs,” said Nickels.

The Healthy Kids Colorado Survey is administered every two years to middle and high school students. The 2013 survey was administered to over 40,000 randomly selected youth from 220 schools across Colorado. The survey is produced in partnership among the Colorado departments of Public Health and Environment, Education, and Human Services, and the University of Colorado Denver. In addition to capturing data by sexual orientation, the 2013 survey collected data by region for the first time.



Aurora Public Schools Nurse Liaison Suzy Rosemeyer and Health Services Coordinator Mary Beth Rensberger enjoy the party celebrating Rocky Mountain Youth Clinics' new SBHC building at Laredo Elementary School.

LAREDO KIDS CLINIC GRAND OPENING

In December, Rocky Mountain Youth Clinics and Laredo Elementary School staff held a grand opening party for the new building housing the Laredo Kids Clinic in Aurora.

Over the summer, Laredo Kids Clinic moved to a new, freestanding clinic near Laredo Elementary School. Formerly located in a small space inside the school, the SBHC is now located in a mobile unit on the grounds of the school. The new location provides more space, more services, and expanded hours to treat students enrolled in Aurora Public Schools.

FREE ORAL HEALTH TRAINING

Cavity Free at Three is providing preventive oral health training to medical providers at the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment: 4300 Cherry Creek Drive South, Denver, CO 80246.

Thursday, January 29, 2015 from 8:30 am to 12:30 pm

Medical providers who complete this training will receive certification needed to bill Medicaid and CHP+ for oral health services. Participants will learn how to: Incorporate children's preventive oral health services into your practice; prevent dental disease; assess caries risk; deliver anticipatory guidance and patient education; provide oral health evaluations.

[Please click here to register.](#)

WEBINAR ON OFFERING BIRTH CONTROL AT SBHCs

The School-Based Health Alliance is offering a webinar presenting lessons learned when Neighborcare Health, an agency that operates 12 SBHCs in Seattle, Washington, attempted to offer long-acting, reversible contraceptives (LARC) at their SBHCs.

Thursday, January 22, 2015 from 1:00pm to 3:00 pm, Mountain Time

Registration requires membership in the School-Based Health Alliance.

STATE AGENCY UPDATES



MENTAL HEALTH FIRST AID PROGRAM GOING STRONG

CDPHE has contracted with the Colorado Behavioral Healthcare Council (CBHC) and the Mental Health First Aid Colorado initiative to provide Youth Mental Health First Aid (MHFA) training at school-based health centers statewide.

Mark Lanning, the school-based specialist with CBHC, is coordinating the project, which provides MHFA training for anyone who works with students.

“MHFA is designed to give lay people skills to recognize and support others with mental health difficulty,” Lanning said. “We’re not going to make people therapists, any more than first aid makes citizens ER doctors, but we are going to help increase mental health literacy and early intervention in our communities.”

MHFA trainings are also an opportunity for SBHC staff to connect with educators at their school to promote a school-wide culture of wellness. CASBHC encourages SBHC staff to invite their respective medical and school sponsors, school and district faculty, students (16 years and older), parents and other interested community members.

CDPHE is providing funding for local MHFA trainers to administer the eight-hour trainings. Lanning will connect interested schools with local trainers, support schools with logistics, and answer any questions.

Several SBHCs have already connected with Lanning to plan MHFA training events. CASBHC staff encourage the rest to do so. Lanning can be reached at mlanning@mhfacolorado.org.



TARGETED REIMBURSEMENT RATE INCREASE FEEDBACK

The Department of Health Care Policy and Financing (HCPF) plans to submit a request to the Joint Budget Committee to increase Medicaid reimbursement rates for targeted high-impact CPT codes. HCPF has developed its own request to increase reimbursement rates for six procedures and has solicited feedback from providers for additional procedures.

HCPF’s current list of targeted rate increase (TRI) requests includes one procedure that will impact SBHCs: The department is requesting an increase in dental sealants for children, C1351. The current reimbursement is \$23.90 per tooth, and the request is to increase that to \$45.00 per tooth, which is the 50th percentile of reimbursements tracked by the American Dental Association.

CASBHC has been collaborating with stakeholders including SBHC administrators and CDPHE staff to submit a proposal to increase another high-impact procedure: depression screening for patients aged 11 to 20.

HCPF has also announced that beginning January 1, 2015, Colorado Medicaid will reimburse covered office visit (E&M) and vaccine administration procedure codes at a rate equal to the December 2014 Medicare rate. These increased rates will be paid through routine fee schedule claims, rather than as quarterly supplemental payments.

CASBHC WINS FUNDING FOR NEW PROJECTS

CASBHC was recently awarded two major grants to fund projects to improve behavioral health care offered in SBHCs.

Rose Community Foundation awarded CASBHC a \$29,000 grant to facilitate a series of meetings with behavioral health organizations and community mental health centers. The goal of these meetings will be to develop a plan for financing behavioral health care services offered to students in SBHCs.

CASBHC was also awarded a grant by the Colorado Department of Health Care Policy and Financing under the School-Based Substance Abuse Prevention and Intervention Program (SAPI) to pilot a screening, brief intervention, and referral for treatment program for SBHC patients. CASBHC will also assist participating SBHCs and their host school districts to develop school policies that offer assessment, intervention and treatment in the SBHC as an alternative to suspension.

“We keep hearing from members that behavioral health care is one of the areas where they face difficulties meeting their patients’ needs,” said Deborah Costin, CASBHC executive director. “With these two programs, we will be able to strengthen both the quality and the long-term sustainability of mental health and substance abuse care at school-based health centers.”

2015 CASBHC CONFERENCE WILL FOCUS ON INTEGRATION

The annual CASBHC conference will be held May 7-8, 2015, with pre-conference activities scheduled for May 6.

“School-Based Health Centers: The Forefront of Team-Based Care” will present tools for providing better integrated health care, clinical training on cross-disciplinary topics, and sessions on integrating SBHCs into their education communities.

The conference will be held in the same location as last year: Doubletree by Hilton in Aurora, 13696 East Iliff Place, Aurora, CO 80014-1319.

CASBHC staff wish to thank 2015 conference committee members **Deidre Callanan, Cassie Comeau, Norma Portnoy, Nancy Riordan, Julie Spies, and Juliana Vergaray.**

Stay tuned for more information as the committee finalizes the program.



School-Based Health Centers: The Forefront of Team-Based Care



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