THE OPENING OF FIVE NEW SCHOOL-BASED HEALTH CENTERS BRINGS THE STATE’S TOTAL TO 61

Five new school-based health centers have opened this fall ensuring that more students in Colorado have access to high-quality health care. Four of the five new SBHCs received start-up funding from the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE), Denver Health being the exception.

A new school-based health center has opened at Montezuma-Cortez High School and is staffed and managed by Southwest Medical Group, an affiliate of Southwest Memorial Hospital. The clinic will provide immunizations, physicals, management of acute and chronic conditions, and mental health services. Dental services will be available through a partnership with the Montezuma County Health Department.

The newest Denver-area school-based health center has opened at Florence Crittenton High School with the grand opening held on September 28. The Alethia E. Morgan, MD Health Center will be Denver Health’s 17th school-based health center, and will be the first SBHC in Colorado to provide both obstetric and pediatric care. The Florence Crittenton Campus offers a truly innovative, two-generation approach that supports both the teen mother and her child.

The Lake County School-Based Health Center has opened at Lake County High School in Leadville. Well-child checkups, sports physicals, immunizations, mental health counseling and dental care will be available at the health center beginning October 5.

Trojan Wellness Center has opened in Aurora Central High School. Rocky Mountain Youth Clinics has partnered with Aurora Public Schools and community organizations to provide comprehensive care to enrolled students. This is the third SBHC in Aurora and the first in a high school.

Roaring Fork School Health Centers, in partnership with Rocky Mountain Youth Clinics, opened its newest health center at Roaring Fork High School in Carbondale on August 10th, 2015. The school based health clinic will serve students from Carbondale schools with a wide range of medical, behavioral health, dental, nutritional, care coordination and referral services. In addition, RFSHC actively collaborates with community organizations to bring many other needed services into the schools.
Action Alert: Conference Planning Committee:

CASBHC is currently forming the planning committee for the 2016 Annual Conference. Committee members will assist staff in developing a theme for the program and identifying session topics and speakers. The committee meets by conference call once a month and communicates via e-mail from October through April. If you are interested in volunteering for this committee please contact Deidre Callanan at callanan@casbhc.org.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE 2015 CONFERENCE

Tom Boasberg, superintendent of Denver Public Schools, delivered the keynote address opening the CASBHC 2015 conference.

Since being appointed as superintendent in January of 2009, Tom Boasberg has led the district’s efforts to accelerate its progress in student achievement and better serve the families of Denver. Over the past six years, the district has posted record enrollment increases (with a higher rate of enrollment growth than any other major urban school district in the country), increased its four-year graduation rate by 20 percentage points, dramatically expanded the number of preschool opportunities, and continued the student-achievement gains that began with the creation of the Denver Plan in 2005.

In his keynote address, Boasberg focused on the Denver Plan that supports the whole child through a coordinated approach which includes goals in eight areas: nutrition, physical education, health education, social emotional wellness, health services, healthy and safe school environment, health promotion to staff and family and community involvement.

Boasberg went on to explain how school-based health centers (SBHC) are integral to the success of the Denver Plan. By increasing the reach of and services provided through DPS’s 17 SBHCs, every child in DPS now has access.

The keynote address concluded with outlining steps to successful partnerships. These steps include a shared understanding of roles and responsibilities, consistent communication and joint decision making. Conference attendees appreciated how Boasberg articulated the bigger picture and provided tangible tactics and examples.

HONORING MARY BETH RENSBERGER, BSN, MPH

Mary Beth Rensberger received the Lifetime Achievement Inspiration Award at a ceremony during the CASBHC conference. Presenting her award, Suzy Rosemeyer described Mary Beth’s contributions to the field of school-based health care during her tenure at Aurora Public Schools (APS).

“When it comes to serving kids, she never gives up! Even when the odds are against her, she continues to press forward and advocates for the needs of the students.”

Mary Beth has decades of nursing experience and has been directly involved in school health for 17 years. Armed with a deep understanding that health and education are intricately linked, in 2008, she championed the first SBHC in Aurora Public Schools at Crawford Elementary School. Two years later she began advocacy for a second SBHC at Laredo Elementary School.
Her commitment to provide evidence-based quality care continued after the SBHCs were up and running. Mary Beth added coordinated mental health services and outreach workers to assist families with Medicaid enrollment. When it was time to expand the two SBHCs, she secured funding to purchase modular buildings.

Mary Beth continued to press forward. Even as she was gearing up for retirement, she worked tirelessly to advocate for the needs of APS students by planning a third, recently opened, SBHC at Aurora Central High School.

When asked what she felt was her greatest career accomplishment, Mary Beth said that the ability to help children get the health care that they needed, immediately if necessary, was what made her career a success. She stated that she felt that the highest impact in moving the health access needle came with working with school-based health centers.

Mary Beth’s retirement has just recently started and although she misses her wonderful coworkers and colleagues, she looks forward to “throwing away the alarm clock” and spending time visiting her family and friends across the country.

APS and CASBHC take great pride in all that Mary Beth has accomplished during her career. **Happy retirement!**

Recent Lifetime Achievement award winners are Donna Shocks from Denver Public Schools (2014); Nina McNeill from Adams City Middle School in Commerce City (2013) and Shannon Wells from Southwest Open School in Cortez (2012).

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**OTHER 2015 INSPIRATION AWARD WINNERS**

**School-Based Health Center Champion**

Kelly Dunkin

The Colorado Health Foundation

“Kelly’s vision for and commitment to school-based health care have had a tremendous positive impact in the state of Colorado.” - CASBHC Board

**Outstanding School-Based Health Professional**

Veronica Martinez, Ed.S

“Veronica has been extremely supportive of the school based clinic at West High School. She has never been too busy to stop and talk to a student that I have seen in clinic and identified as needing immediate mental health evaluation.” - Nancy Riordan

**Outstanding School-Based Health Center Administrator**

Erin Major

“No t only has Erin had the vision and dedication to growth and service, she has recruited and maintained care providers, assistants and patient navigators who are dedicated providers to their populations for all the sites. This is no small feat.”

- Cassie Comeau
CASBHC AWARDED FUNDING FOR SUBSTANCE ABUSE PREVENTION

CASBHC was awarded a contract from the Colorado Department of Human Services to develop, implement, evaluate and replicate a school-based trauma-informed intervention to prevent substance abuse among Colorado’s school-aged children.

This is potentially a five-year project with the first year devoted to planning. The four SBHC partners are:

- Kids Care Clinic/Eagle County RE-50 – all students in the district
- Kids First Health Care/Adams City 14/Adams County High School
- Denver Health/Denver Public Schools/Bruce Randolph School (grades 6-12) and five feeder schools
- A Kidz Clinic/Delta County 50-J/all students in the district

ASSESSING THE NEED FOR SCHOOL-BASED HEALTH CENTER SERVICES IN COLORADO, 2015

CASBHC and the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) partnered with the Colorado Health Institute to identify Colorado schools and school districts that could most benefit from the addition of a SBHC.

Among the highlights:

- Urban schools with the highest need are primarily in Denver and Adams counties. Of the top 100 highest-need urban schools, 61 are in these two counties. The other 39 schools are in Arapahoe, El Paso, Mesa, Pueblo and Weld counties.
- Of the 21 rural school districts identified as having high need, most are on the Western Slope or in the San Luis Valley. There is a pocket of four very high-need districts in the San Luis Valley, none of which has an existing SBHC. Most of the high-need districts on the Western Slope already have a SBHC.
- Only 18 of the top 100 high-need urban schools and seven of the 21 high-need rural districts already have established SBHCs, suggesting that there is a shortage of SBHCs in the places that need them the most.

This report serves as a launching point for communities to further engage and dig deeper. Assessing other factors — such as the sustainability of potential SBHC sites — will contribute to the long-term success of new SBHCs.

To read the full report, click here.

2015-16 SBHC DIRECTORY

CASBHC is in the process of updating the school based-health center directory for 2015-16. The directory is the only comprehensive listing of all 60 of Colorado’s SBHCs and provides information such as location, hours of operation, services offered, etc. In August, CASBHC began the process of asking all SBHCs to revise and confirm their listing for an October publication date. As always, we appreciate your timely response!
NURSING AWARDS

Kathy Patrick, Assistant Director of the Office of Student Health Services, received the Outstanding State School Nurse Consultant Achievement Award from the National Association of State School Nurse Consultants (NASSNC). This annual award recognizes the contributions of state school nurse consultants by honoring one consultant who has demonstrated excellence in the role. Congratulations Kathy!

Kelly Grenham, district school nurse consultant for Mapleton Public Schools, received a School Nurse Leadership Award from the Healthy Schools Campaign. This award recognizes those who have gone above and beyond by reimagining the role that school nurses play within schools and by creating and advancing school health programs and initiatives that contribute to students’ health and academic success, and to the health of the broader community. Congratulations Kelly!

KIDS FIRST HEALTH CARE IMPROVES BODY MASS INDEX OF STUDENTS

The Get Healthy! Obesity Treatment and Prevention Program is a Healthy Tomorrows Partnership for Children Program (HTPCP) and is based out of Kids First Health Care which includes six school-based health centers.

The project utilizes patient navigators who screen children for obesity, food security, and other social determinants of health. Children identified as at-risk are enrolled in a Healthy Living Program focused on obesity reduction and healthy lifestyle promotion. Additionally, children are given vouchers to participate in recreational programs throughout the community. Patient navigators ensure that patients and families are proactively engaged in their care through frequent follow-up phone calls.

All this hard work is paying off! The preliminary results from the first year of the grant show that 49% of patients have improved their Body Mass Index.

COLORADO REGIONAL IMMUNIZATION SUMMIT

The Colorado Children’s Immunization Coalition and St. Mary’s Hospital are hosting the 2015 Colorado Regional Immunization Summit on October 23, 2015 in Grand Junction.

This one-day conference provides an opportunity for Coloradoans involved in immunization delivery, education and advocacy to learn about current issues and best practices to promote vaccinations from world-renowned experts in the field.

For more information and to register go here.

SIM PRACTICE REQUEST FOR APPLICATION (RFA)

The State Innovation Model (SIM) program has released a request for applications for funding for primary care providers, including school based health centers, that are working on integration of behavioral health. For more information and to apply visit www.ucdenver.edu/practicetransformation.

MEDICAID VACCINE ADMINISTRATION REIMBURSEMENT

Effective January 1, 2015, the General Assembly approved an increase to the rate for vaccine administration. The rate for vaccine administration codes 90460, 90471, and 90473 is now $21.68, an increase of more than 300% from the previous rate of $6.59.

Providers will receive the new rate through a mass adjustment, unless their submitted charge is less than the new rate, $21.68. Any claim with a submitted charge lower than the revised rate must be adjusted by the provider.

PEAKHEALTH MOBILE APP NOW AVAILABLE

HCPF released a new mobile app for Coloradans enrolled in Medicaid and CHP+. While the PEAKHealth app is for current Medicaid and CHP+ clients and cannot be used to complete an application or apply for benefits, clients can use it to update income
and contact information, set up premium/enrollment fee payments, view medical ID cards and benefits, and find a doctor. The app also includes health and wellness tips. There are two ways to use the app; clients can log in with their Program Eligibility and Application Kit (PEAK) account or anyone can use the app without logging in. Current Medicaid and CHP+ clients can create a PEAK account at any time. To create an account, clients will still need to visit the PEAK website.

Learn more about the PEAKHealth app here.

**UPDATES FROM CDPHE**

In January 2016, CDPHE will release a new, competitive Request for Applications (RFA) for the SBHC Program. The RFA will be based on new funding criteria that result from a current sustainability study. All sites that want funding for 2016-17 and beyond are required to apply. Selected grantees are expected to receive a 5-year contract.

**UPDATES FROM HCPF**

**Colorado Medicaid Rebranding**

Beginning in September 2015, all existing Medicaid providers will undergo revalidation while enrolling into the new Colorado interChange system. All existing Colorado Medicaid and CHP+ providers must revalidate and enroll by March 31, 2016.

For more information and to register for Revalidation & Enrollment Training click here: Department’s Training Catalog.

The Department has tentatively scheduled a Vision Benefit Collaborative for fall 2015. The Benefits Collaborative is the Department’s formal policy development process. The process is used to define benefits – what is covered and who can provide it – in a manner that is transparent to and inclusive of all stakeholders, using evidence-based guidelines. Staff will work with stakeholders to draft a Vision Services Benefit Coverage Standard that will review and refine current vision services for adults and children.

The Benefit Collaborative process is open to anyone who wishes to participate. Community expertise and participation is a crucial component of this effort, and will be of great benefit to Medicaid providers and clients.

If you are interested in learning more or being involved as the effort develops, please email Kimberley.smith@state.co.us. For more information about the Benefits Collaborative, visit Colorado.gov/hcpf.

**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 Deidre at callanan@casbhc.org.