



### CASBHC's Annual Conference: Registration Now Open

On May 5 (full day) & 6 (half day), CASBHC will hold its annual conference at the Red Lion Hotel Denver Southeast in Aurora. The address is 3200 South Parker Road. Speakers will address a wide-range of topics including bullying, obesity, high blood pressure, child abuse reporting, and oral health care. Keynote speakers include Allison Summerton, Research Associate at the Colorado Health Institute, and Finessa Ferrell, Director of the National Center for School Engagement. A pre-conference on May 4 will look at improving sustainability through maximizing patient revenue, and an awards banquet will be held on the night of May 5.



To register for any or all of these events, visit <http://www.blacktie-colorado.com/rsvp>. The event code is **casbhc5411**. For room reservations, call 1-800-RED-LION or 303-695-1700 and identify yourself as a conference attendee.

The full program is now available online at:

<http://www.casbhc.org/CASBHC%202011%20Conference%20Program.pdf>

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Melissa Field at [field@casbhc.org](mailto:field@casbhc.org) or 303-399-6380 x 103.

### H.B.1019 Passes!

#### What SBHCs Need to Know about the New Law

H.B.1019 *Concerning the Waiver of Copayments and Deductibles by School-Based Health Centers* was signed into law by Governor Hickenlooper on March 17. Under the previous law, it was a crime of health insurance abuse to knowingly waive a patient's copayment or deductible and then seek payment from third-party payer. The new law exempts SBHCs from this violation. Denver Health was the lead organization for the bill and Sarah Sills, Manager of Government Relations at Denver Health, recently offered insight into what SBHCs need to know about the new law.

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## Policy Broadcast: News From the State and Federal Governments



*Governor Hickenlooper signing H.B.1019 with Dr. Steve Federico and Elbra Wedgeworth of Denver Health.*



*Sarah Sills, Dr. Steve Federico, and Elbra Wedgeworth of Denver Health.*

### *H.B. 1019 Passes! continued*

“The language of the bill is intentionally permissive,” explained Sills. “If a SBHC has a system that’s already working, that’s fine. This bill is intended for SBHCs with an inability to collect copayments.”

The bill met early success in the House Committee on Business and Economic Development thanks to Representative Daniel Kagan’s efforts. “Rep. Kagan met with everyone on the House Committee individually and distributed a factsheet about school-based health centers,” said Sills. The bill passed the House Committee without any opposition and continued on an unopposed and unamended track through the Senate. Dr. Steve Federico worked with Sills, Kagan, and legislative legal services to draft the bill language. Throughout the process, Federico also provided essential testimony needed to explain the difficulties SBHCs face with this issue.

Before joining Denver Health, Sarah Sills was a Budget Analyst in Governor Ritter’s Office of State Planning and Budgeting. She worked tirelessly on H.B.1019, which was her first bill in her new role at Denver Health. Dr. Federico serves on the CASBHC board and policy committee. He is a pediatrician with Denver Health and the Director of Denver Health School-Based Health Centers. Rep. Daniel Kagan is currently serving his first term representing House District 3. He advocates for sensible health care reform, a balanced budget, and transparency in health care and banking.



## Federal Funding for SBHCs Under Siege: H.R.1214

The Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, signed into law by President Obama on March 23, 2011, included Section 4101(a)—a mandatory emergency appropriation for capital improvements and equipment for SBHCs. On March 9, 2011, the Health Subcommittee of the House Committee on Energy and Commerce considered H.R. 1214—a resolution that would change the funding from mandatory to discretionary, and then potentially eliminate it. NASBHC worked tirelessly to lobby key representatives but on March 31, the Subcommittee voted in favor of the resolution 14 to 11. Before the vote went to the House Committee on April 5, CASBHC reached out to Colorado committee members Rep. Diana DeGette and Rep. Cory Gardner. As expected, the vote fell clearly along party lines with DeGette (D) voting against H.R. 1214 and Gardner (R) voting for it. The final vote was 15 to 27 in favor of the resolution. CASBHC will continue to join forces with NASBHC—lobbying and educating key elected officials—as H.R. 1214 moves toward a vote in the House as a whole. At this point, however, NASBHC does not believe H.R. 1214 will become law because it is unlikely to pass the Senate or to be signed by the President.

An estimated 350 SBHCs have already applied for grants under the School-Based Health Center Capital Program administered by the Bureau of Primary Health Care. The budget continuing resolution agreement that passed on Friday, April 8, protects the capital grants for the remainder of the fiscal year (though September 30, 2011).

## The Federal Budget and Threats to Medicaid

In the recent federal budget debates, Representative Paul Ryan, the Republican Chairman of the House Budget Committee, proposed turning Medicaid into a federal block grant program in an attempt to reduce the federal deficit. In a speech on April 13, President Obama rejected this proposal and stated:

*Now, we believe the reforms we've proposed to strengthen Medicare and Medicaid will enable us to keep these commitments to our citizens while saving us \$500 billion by 2023, and an additional \$1 trillion in the decade after that.*

*But let me be absolutely clear: I will preserve these health care programs as a promise we make to each other in this society. I will not allow Medicare to become a voucher program that leaves seniors at the mercy of the insurance industry, with a shrinking benefit to pay for rising costs. I will not tell families with children who have disabilities that they have to fend for themselves. We will reform these programs, but we will not abandon the fundamental commitment this country has kept for generations.*

The Congressional Budget Office (CBO) conducted an analysis of the impact of Ryan's proposal and stated, "To maintain current service levels in the Medicaid program {under Ryan's proposal}, states would probably need to consider additional changes, such as reducing their spending on other programs or raising additional revenue. Alternatively, states could reduce the size of their Medicaid programs by cutting payment rates for doctors, hospitals, or nursing homes; reducing the scope of benefits covered; or limiting eligibility." Though it is unlikely Ryan's proposal will pass, it has resulted in a new debate over Medicaid. As the discussion between the GOP and Democrats heightens, CASBHC will continue to monitor and report on key developments related to any proposed federal changes in Medicaid.



## CASBHC NEWS:

### National Day to Prevent Teen Pregnancy

The National Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy—founded in 1996 to help ensure that children are born into stable families—started the National Day to Prevent Teen Pregnancy ten years ago. For the past three years, CASBHC has offered mini grants of up to \$400 to SBHCs working with teens to create programs, activities, and events aimed at preventing teen pregnancy in a school community. This year’s grantees include Lamar High School’s Whell Clinic, Sheridan Health Services Youth Group with clinical interns, and Adams City High School’s VOIHCE Youth Advisory Board. This year, the National Day to Prevent Teen Pregnancy falls on May 4. The mini grants provide an opportunity for SBHCs to partner with teens on a vitally important issue. The CASBHC summer newsletter will feature project pictures and details from this year’s grantees.

### Now on Twitter

CASBHC recently joined Twitter and will be using the account as an additional venue to communicate up-to-date information. Follow CASBHC on Twitter by searching for “CASBHC” on the Twitter homepage. CASBHC will provide updates related to school-based health care news, policy, events, and publications. CASBHC will also use Twitter as a way to educate others about school-based health care in Colorado. If you have ideas or comments you would like to see on Twitter, contact Melissa Field at [field@casbhc.org](mailto:field@casbhc.org).



### Welcome Karen Leamer

Dr. Karen Leamer recently joined the CASBHC board. She has been the Medical Director of School Based and Mobile Health Care for Rocky Mountain Youth Clinics since October of 2010. Before this role, Karen spent 19 years as a Denver pediatrician in private practice. Although she didn’t grow up here, Karen attended the University of Colorado for her undergraduate and medical degrees and her residency. She is actively involved with the Colorado chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics and serves on several Medical Home initiatives.

“I am excited to serve on the CASBHC board and to learn more about school based health care,” said Leamer. “Particularly as it relates to access to care for underserved children and to linkages with medical homes.”



Dr. Karen Leamer



## Profiles in Excellence: Magna Award for Adams County School District 14

The Magna Awards are part of a national program co-sponsored by the *American School Board Journal*, the National School Boards Association, and Sodexo School Services. The Magna Awards recognize school district leadership in best practices and innovative programs working to increase student achievement. For the past 17 years, the Magna Awards have offered funding to schools in categories based on student enrollment. This year, Adams County School District 14 won first place in the student enrollment category of 5,000-20,000 for the creation of school-based health centers. During the 2009-2010 school year, the five SBHCs in the district, operated by Community Health Services, Inc., treated more than 4,400 children and adolescents



*A sign in the SBHC at Adams City Middle School encouraging students to retain positive self-esteem.*

in this designated Title I district. The SBHCs held more than 350 education sessions on topics such as smoking and the importance of wearing a seatbelt. These SBHCs further exemplified the role health plays in reducing absenteeism and fostering learning. Congratulations to Adams County School District 14 for this prestigious national award.

## NASBHC Grant from Kaiser Permanente

On March 29, NASBHC received a \$600,000 grant from Kaiser Permanente (KP) to increase access to oral health care for approximately 3,000 children and adolescents with demonstrated need. NASBHC will utilize a competitive grant process to distribute funds to 20 SBHCs interested in expanding their scope of care through existing staff. KP operates health insurance plans in Colorado, California, Oregon, Washington, Georgia, Ohio, Washington, D.C., Maryland, and Virginia.

Funding for the grant came from Kaiser Permanente's employee wellness program, Healthy Workforce. The program asked KP employees to complete an online health risk assessment. For each employee who voluntarily completed the assessment, KP donated \$50. Almost 23,000 KP employees participated in the survey, which generated \$1.2 million. The funds were split between NASBHC and Wholesome Wave based in Bridgeport, Connecticut.

Of the more than 1,900 SBHCs nationwide, 57% offer on site or by referral oral health screenings, 20% provide on site or by referral fluoride varnish, and 10% provide more comprehensive dental care. For the selected SBHCs, NASBHC will train staff to expand the scope of their practice to include oral health risk assessment. Selected SBHC staff will also receive assistance in creating a referral network, and additional training in healthy mouths, teeth, and improved nutrition.



## Spotlight on School-Based Health: 2009-2010 Survey Results

Each year since 2006-07, CASBHC has partnered with the Colorado Health Institute to gather information about SBHC practice and financing. Surveys are sent out in October to collect data from the previous school year. The survey results provide important information for CASBHCs public education and policy efforts.

Results from the 2009-10 survey showed:

- A growth in the number of SBHCs from 40 in 2007 to 47 in 2010. Three new SBHCs opened this year—The Kids' Care Clinic at Laredo Elementary School, Grand River Student Health Center at the Center for Family Learning, and Manual High School's SBHC. The goal for 2012 is a total of 51.
- The number of Colorado children who had at least one visit to a SBHC during the year increased 31% from 21,000 in 2007 to 27,560 in 2010. The goal for 2012 is 29,000.
- The number of physical, mental, and dental visits grew 26% from 67,000 in 2007 to 84,100 in 2010. The goal for 2012 is 90,000.
- The percent of total SBHC revenue obtained from billing patients and third-parties (public and private) increased from 22% in 2007 to 28% in 2010. The goal set for 2012 was 25%, which means the goal was surpassed 2 years prior to the expected date.

As part of CASBHC's advocacy efforts, factsheets will be published on various components of the data. Future newsletters will present the information published in each of the factsheets.

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