



A Part of History: Congratulations Bruce Randolph School

On January 25, 2011, President Obama delivered his State of the Union to address an estimated 26 million viewers. When the topic of education reform surfaced, the Colorado delegation stood, with our Senator Michael Bennet, as the president delivered plaudits for Bruce Randolph School in Denver.

You see, we know what's possible from our children when reform isn't just a top-down mandate, but the work of local teachers and principals, school boards and communities. Take a school like Bruce Randolph in Denver. Three years ago, it was rated one of the worst schools in Colorado—located on turf between two rival gangs. But last May, 97 percent of the seniors received their diploma. Most will be the first in their families to go to college. After the first year of the school's transformation, the principal who made it possible wiped away tears when a student said, "Thank you, Mrs. Waters, for showing that we are smart and we can make it." That's what good schools can do, and we want good schools across the country.
—President Barak Obama

Bruce Randolph, a school now widely acknowledged for improving the academic success of students and dramatically increasing graduation rates—not surprisingly—has a flourishing school-based health center.

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SAVE THE DATE!

The 2011 CASBHC Conference

On May 5 (full day) & 6 (half day), CASBHC will hold its annual conference at the Holiday Inn Select Denver—Cherry Creek, located at 455 South Colorado Blvd. This year's conference will focus on ways to sustain school-based health care through topics ranging from best practices in health care delivery to maximizing revenue through billing. Please mark your calendars and look for information on registration in February. You can also visit www.casbhc.org/Events.asp for continual updates. We look forward to seeing you in May!





Cover Story Continued

Since 2005, Bruce Randolph's SBHC, part of the Denver Health network, has been an integral part of the efforts to improve student lives. There are 799 students at Bruce Randolph School. 97% of the students are enrolled in the Free and Reduced-Price Student Lunch Program and 90% identify as Hispanic. In addition to the students at Bruce Randolph, the school-based health center serves students in 5 other schools in the community including Columbine Elementary, Garden Place Elementary, Harrington Elementary, Pioneer Charter, and Swansea Elementary.

The SBHC is open 5-days a week for 8-hours a day. During the 2009-10 school year, 700 students received services. Of these, 36% were uninsured and 49% were covered by Medicaid or CHP+. The health team includes a nurse practitioner, a mental health therapist, a health aid, a health educator, and a Medicaid and CHP+ outreach and enrollment technician. Of the 2,572 visits provided by the SBHC, 62% were for primary health care, 20% were for mental health care, and 8% were for health education. A total of 964 immunizations were given.



The school's namesake, "Daddy" Bruce Randolph, a pioneer for service in the Denver community.

The national media is clamoring for details about Bruce Randolph School and U.S. Education Secretary Arne Duncan and New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg have visited Bruce Randolph high to study the details of the school's overhaul efforts. As more leaders throughout the nation turn to this school as an example, CASBHC will work to ensure Bruce Randolph's SBHC is recognized as a key ingredient in the recipe for school reform success.

The 2011 Advocacy Objectives

CASBHC is starting 2011 off with a bang at both the federal and state capitols. CASBHC is staying abreast of federal policy as it relates to school-based health care. On the top of our list is continuing to partner with NASBHC to garner an appropriation for the SBHC grant program authorized by the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act. CASBHC is also seeking possible additional sources of federal funding through the reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act and education reform efforts. In addition to monitoring policy at the federal level, CASBHC supports HB11-1019 *Concerning the Waiver of Copayments and Deductibles by School-Based Health Care* and will follow other health and education bills throughout the legislative session.

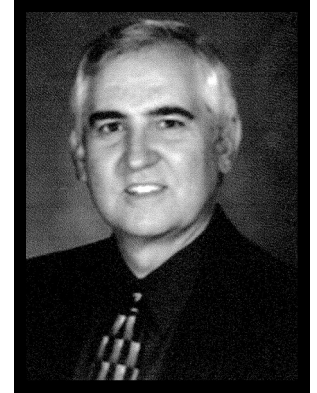


Profiles in Excellence: Newly Elected Board Members

On February 1, CASBHC welcomes two new board members.

Steve Marantino

As the current Executive Director of Student Services for the Harrison School District in Colorado Springs, Steve Marantino brings a wealth of experience. Steve's career began as a teacher in Texas—teaching industrial arts to middle school and high school students. Steve earned his Master's degree in educational administration at Texas Christian University and worked as an assistant principal in Texas for several years. Then an assistant principal position opened up in Rifle and Steve jumped at the chance to move to Colorado. He would quickly move from assistant principal to principal and superintendent positions in Leadville, Trinidad, Westcliffe, and Gunnison before coming to his current position in 2007.



Steve Marantino

For the past three and a half years, Steve has been actively involved with Entrada School-Based Health Center at Carmel Middle School. Through his experience with this SBHC, Steve has developed an interest in advocating for a holistic approach to health, including mental health. When asked what he thought about the Entrada SBHC, Steve said, "I am pretty darn proud of it and I think it's a model facility."

Nina McNeill

Nina arrived in Colorado in 1979 through a career in the Army and a placement at Fitzsimons Army Medical Center. While at Fitzsimons, Nina enrolled in the nurse practitioner program and began her work with newborns. After retiring from the Army in 1992, she started the school-based health center at Adams City Middle School in Commerce City. Nina enjoys working in middle schools because she believes middle school is a "unique time when a young person truly begins to make life choices." Nina notes that by the time a student reaches high school, those key decisions often become more difficult to make.

Nina enjoys being able to combine acute illness treatment with preventive care and education. She worries that the students she currently sees face greater levels of stress than previous generations, particularly in the realm of standardized tests. "With the teachers and students facing added pressures due to test scores, school-based health centers have become even more important," said Nina. "A student will come in for a physical problem but may actually have some mental concerns. Last week I saw two cases of bullying. Because the students were able to tell someone through a visit, I was able to coordinate with others in the school to get that essential support for the student." Nina is looking forward to working on issues related to mental health and substance abuse through her time on the board.



Nina McNeill



Policy Broadcast: News From the State



In Defense of School-Based Health Care: What SBHCs Need to Know About State Politics

Contrary to what you may have heard, lobbyist is not a dirty word. In fact, one of the best ways to sustain school-based health care is through lobbying. SBHCs currently receive grants through an almost one-million dollar line item in the state general fund budget. Colorado SBHCs have come to depend on this vital stream of assistance, but it is not guaranteed. Times of economic distress make all programs vulnerable to the chopping block—including school-based health care. To ensure SBHCs continue to receive state financial support, CASBHC employs a team of lobbyists: Kathy Oatis, Betsy Murray, and Dianna Orf. Each member of the team comes with over 20-years of lobbying experience. Before working in policy, each woman had a career in special education, local government, and labor, respectively. Their diverse professional backgrounds, in addition to their varied political affiliations, helped to create a team capable of monitoring and influencing multiple issues and representatives at one time. They currently work to protect state funding for SBHCs, in addition to keeping a watchful eye on those bills most likely to impact SBHCs. For some, policy is a daunting business. For this team of lobbyists and for CASBHC's director of policy and communication, Melissa Field, lobbying is labor of love. "Every non-profit organization needs to have a lobbyist or a person tracking policy," said Betsy Murray. "It's simply a matter of being able to defend yourself." CASBHC has a policy committee which, in addition to the lobbyists and CASBHC staff, includes Steve Federico, Liz Clark, and Erin Major, all members of the CASBHC board.

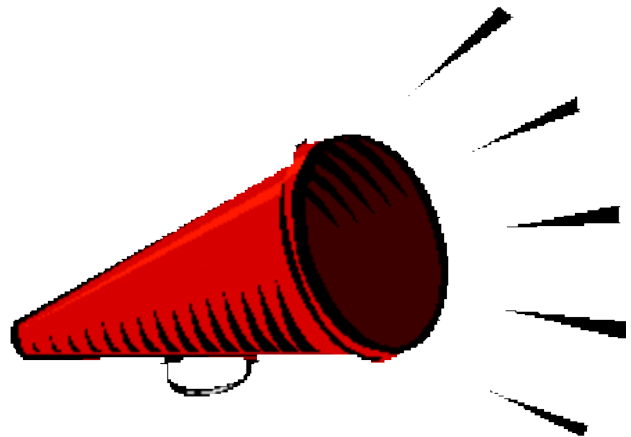


CASBHC's policy team (from left to right) Dianna Orf, Betsy Murray, Melissa Field, and Kathy Oatis.

A Stellar Start to the 2011 Legislative Session: HB11-1019

The 2011 legislative session started off with a success for school-based health care. HB11-1019 *Concerning the Waiver of Copayments and Deductibles by School-Based Health Centers* would allow SBHCs to waive co-payments for all students insured by private insurance carriers. Denver Health led the bill and secured support from the Colorado Children's Campaign, Colorado Community Health Network, All Kids Covered, Public Nurses Association of Colorado, Mental Health America-Colorado, Kaiser, and The Children's Hospital among others. On January 25, Representative Daniel Kagan introduced the bill to the House Finance and Economic Development Committee. Steve Federico testified on behalf of CASBHC and the bill passed in the committee unanimously 13 to 0. The bill is now on its way to the House floor and we look forward to its continued progress. Thanks to all the SBHCs who reached out to their local representatives serving on the House Finance and Economic Development Committee.

Spotlight on School-Based Health: Celebrating National SBHC Awareness Month



February is SBHC awareness month and a great time to think about new ways to market and gain support for your SBHC. Here are some suggestions from the National Assembly on School-Based Health Care to help you engage students, families, and members of the community.

Students

- Hold an open house for students who have never been to the SBHC.
- Host a student contest (poster, video, essay) on health promotion and give winning entries a reward.
- Ask a student to write a special feature about the SBHC in the school or local newspaper.
- Coordinate a youth advisory group for the purpose of conducting a school-wide health needs and assets assessment: what does the student body have to say about its own health?

Families

- Host an open house or virtual tour for families.
- Send a brochure, postcard, or poster home to remind parents about the health center and the need for regular check-ups.

School Communities

- Host an open house for faculty and staff.
- Conduct a forum on typical health concerns of students (e.g., asthma, obesity, bullying, and depression).
- Ask the principal to declare a “special SBHC recognition” day or week in February.
- Use the school’s routine public announcements as an opportunity to promote health issues.
- Honor elected officials or champions who have supported the SBHC with an award.
- Promote and incorporate a fitness and nutrition day in school.

SBHCs across Colorado have already developed numerous ways to promote their centers throughout the year. At CASBHC, we enjoy hearing about these ideas. If you have an idea you would like to share, contact Melissa Field at field@cabhc.org.



Good News in Reproductive Health: Teen Birth Rates Decline to a Record Low

New data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reveals that teen birth rates have declined 6% since 2009. This decline puts teen pregnancy rates at a record low. The rates fell for teens in all age groups and in all racial and ethnic groups. Though this is good news, further research suggests that many teens still lack essential knowledge about pregnancy prevention. 34% of teens agree with the statement “it doesn’t matter whether you use birth control or not, when it’s your time to get pregnant, it will happen” and 49% said that they knew “little or nothing” about condoms and condom usage. The data shows that teens are largely influenced by their parents. Nearly half said that parents most influence their decisions about sex and 63% agree that the primary reason they don’t use contraception is because they are afraid their parents will find out. 46% of teens wish they were getting more information about both contraception and abstinence.

Welcome New CASBHC Members

Several new organizations have joined CASBHC so far in 2011:

Aurora Mental Health Center
Jefferson Center for Metal Health
Jefferson County Public Schools
The Center for Mental Health (Montrose)

CASBHC thanks all members, both old and new, for their continued support and commitment to improving and expanding school-based health care in Colorado. If you haven’t submitted your dues for 2011, please see:

www.casbhc.org/about/membership.asp.

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