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ADOLESCENT HEALTH PROJECT A SUCCESS

In July, CASBHC completed a five year project aimed at reducing unintended pregnancy and sexually transmitted infections among adolescents in Colorado. This project, which was part of a larger Colorado initiative, has seen outstanding results: a recent national report ranks Colorado among the top seven states that have experienced the greatest declines in teen birth rates between 2007-2011. ([Declines in State Teen Birth Rates by Race and Hispanic Origin, National Center for Health Statistics, CDC](#))

Through community and youth engagement, program planning, service provision and training and evaluation, CASBHC focused its work on increasing access to comprehensive reproductive health services in the SBHC setting. This approach resulted in important improvements and successes. In 2008 only seven SBHCs in Colorado offered contraception on-site. In just five short years, that number more than tripled and is now at 24.

An important lesson learned during this time was that much of the concern about community resistance to contraception in SBHCs is unfounded. While there were individuals in the community that opposed offering comprehensive services, the overwhelming majority of student, parents, community members, and school personnel were supportive. When SBHCs were prepared to handle controversy, opposition was quickly addressed and the need for access remained the focal point.

Throughout the project CASBHC created written tools, provided on-site technical assistance, and conducted regular trainings. Recognizing the diversity that exists among SBHCs, these resources were designed to be highly customizable and successfully allowed communities to address access to reproductive and sexual health services from their specific vantage point.

While the five year project has been completed, CASBHC's commitment to improving access to comprehensive reproductive health services continues. Resources are available online, training will continue to occur at CASBHC's annual conference, and partnerships with state-wide organizations working to reduce unintended teen pregnancy and increase education promoting healthy sexual and reproductive development remain strong.

Adolescent Health Resources

- [Adolescent Health Toolkit](#)
- [Patient Education Resources \(18 patient brochures\)](#)
- [Dispensing Contraceptives and Other Prescription Medications in Colorado](#)
- [Cost Recovery and Cost Reduction Strategies for Providing Reproductive Health Services in SBHCs](#)
- [Understanding Minor Consent and Confidentiality in Colorado](#)
- [Consent and Release Forms](#)



COLORADO SBHCs IN WASHINGTON, DC FOR NATIONAL CONVENTION

This summer school-based health care advocates from across the nation gathered in Washington, DC for the 18th annual National School-Based Health Care Convention. In addition to attending dozens of innovative workshops, advocates met with more than 140 offices on capitol hill – making it a record-breaking Advocacy Day!

The Colorado delegation met with staffers from the Offices of Representatives Scott Tipton, Jared Polis and Diana DeGette.

Thank you to all who were able to attend the meetings with the congressional offices, especially Steve Federico, Erin Major, and Haidith Ramirez who served as team leaders for the meetings.

As a result of the information and insight shared with the congressional offices, both Representatives Polis and DeGette have signed on as co-sponsors to the recently introduced School-Based Health Centers Act which would reauthorize the only source of federal funding dedicated to the operations of SBHCs.

SBHC legislation that was originally introduced in 2009 and included in the 2010 Affordable Care Act is set to expire at the end of 2014 if not reauthorized.



Photos courtesy of Haidith Ramirez



Census Report of School-Based Health Centers

This summer, the School-Based Health Alliance (formerly known as NASBHC) unveiled a one-of-a-kind, national census report of the school-based health care field. Data for the report were collected for the 2010-2011 school year and show that school based-health centers are adapting to a transforming health care system and, in many instances, are early adopters of health care reform. The full report can be accessed [here](#).



Webinar: The Current State of School-Based Health Care!

Hear about the current state of school-based health care and how SBHCs are keeping pace with an evolving health care system. Thursday, September 26 at noon MDT

[Register here.](#)



Action Alert: School-Based Health Centers Act

Thanks to a terrific Advocacy Day, Rep. Lois Capps (D-CA) introduced H.R. 2632, a bill to reauthorize the school-based health center program in federal law. The next step to passing this bill into law is securing the support of as many legislative co-sponsors as possible.

CASBHC thanks both Representatives Polis and DeGette for signing on as co-sponsors and for supporting the work of SBHCs in Colorado.

If your federal representative hasn't yet signed on as a co-sponsor, you can send him a message and ask him to support SBHCs by becoming a co-sponsor of H.R. 2632.

Go to the School Based Health Alliance [Action Center](#) to send an e-mail to your representative.

COLORADO SCHOOL-BASED HEALTH CENTER GRANT PROGRAM: FUNDING UPDATES

Over the summer, CASBHC, the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) and other community partners worked together to outline a plan of action for the distribution of \$5.3 million in the state appropriation for the SBHC Grant Program for the current fiscal year.

CDPHE awarded \$995,000 of these funds to 15 contractors through a competitive RFP process in the spring and has earmarked \$30,000 for “Quick Start” funding that will assist six communities that are in the very early stages of planning a new SBHC (see the box on the right). Less administrative costs, there is roughly \$3.7 million available for distribution to the 15 contractors for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2014.

At time of publication, it is CASBHC’s understanding that these funds will be distributed through an RFP process this fall.

FAQs on “Quick Start” Funds

What is “Quick Start” Funding?

Quick Start funds are intended for communities not currently planning and/or operating a school-based health center but have an interest in exploring the possibility of opening a school-based health center. Up to \$5,000 may be requested.

What can “Quick Start” Funds be used for?

Examples of what funds may be used for include, meeting-related costs for convening a Community Advisory Council, hiring a consultant to help a Council complete a readiness assessment, or in engaging a medical sponsor.

How do you apply for “Quick Start” funds?

If you are interested in applying, please contact Nicole McWhirter for more information: mcwhirter@casbhc.org; (303) 399-6380 x106

CASBHC COMMENTS ON DRAFT RFP FOR BHO RE-BID

Recently, the Colorado Department of Health Care Policy and Financing (HCPF) issued a Request for Information (RFI) to solicit feedback and comments from stakeholders on a draft RFP for the Medicaid Community Mental Health Services Program -- the Medicaid carve-out for mental health services.

HCPF currently contracts with five regional Behavioral Health Organizations (BHOs) to provide or arrange for mental health services to Colorado’s Medicaid population. The state is required by law to rebid these contracts every five years; the current contracts expire June 30, 2014.

Essential Community Providers

are providers that historically serve medically needy or indigent patients and demonstrate a commitment to serve low income and indigent populations who comprise a significant portion of the patient population.

CASBHC encourages all SBHCs to apply for the ECP designation. For more information on ECP designation or to find out if you are already designated as one, visit the HCPF website at <http://www.colorado.gov/cs/Satellite/HCPF/HCPF/1251568596003>

In response to the RFI, CASBHC submitted comments on August 29, 2013 on behalf of SBHCs statewide.

In its comments, CASBHC commended HCPF’s focus on changes and innovations supporting greater integration of care and alignment of systems of care. We were also pleased to see SBHCs specifically mentioned in relation to the requirement that bidders develop relationships with community partners. In other sections of the draft, especially those dealing with provider contracting and network adequacy, SBHCs are included under the designation of “essential community provider”.

CASBHC’s concerns were focused around the definition of, and language used to describe, “essential community providers”, and their relationship with the BHOs. The comments submitted suggested changes, that if incorporated into the final RFP, would go a long way in ensuring the awarded BHOs offer all essential community providers in their geographic service area an equal opportunity to contract.

CASBHC will continue to monitor the process as it moves forward.



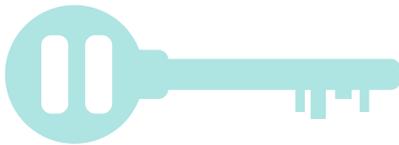
Action Alert: Conference Planning Committee

CASBHC is currently forming the planning committee for the 2014 Annual Conference.

Committee members will assist staff in developing a theme for this year's program and help identify 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 Nicole McWhirter at mcwhirter@casbhc.org.



COMMUNICATION IS KEY FOR CASBHC

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SAVE THE DATE!



2014 Annual Conference

Thursday, May 1, 2014 -
Friday, May 2, 2014

DoubleTree by Hilton Denver-Aurora
13696 E. Iliff Place
Aurora, CO 80014

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

Keep us informed...

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

We want to hear about it!

Help us profile your work on facebook, twitter, our website and our newsletter. If you have a news tidbit or a story to share, e-mail Nicole McWhirter at mcwhirter@casbhc.org