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Legislative Victories

School-Based Health Center Grant Program increases to \$5.3 million; Primary Care Providers to receive oral health services reimbursement

When it's all said and done, 2013 will likely be remembered as a historic and momentous year for school-based health care in Colorado. Just days before the end of the first session of the 69th General Assembly, Governor Hickenlooper signed into law the Long Bill creating the state budget for 2013-14. Included was a line item of \$5,260,817 for the school-based health center (SBHC) grant program -- a 429% increase in state funding for SBHCs over the previous year's appropriation. The legislature also included a footnote expressing its intent that this appropriation be used for the "establishment, expansion, and ongoing operations of SBHCs in Colorado." CASBHC is working closely with the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) and other stakeholders to determine how best to invest this money. These are exciting times for school-based health care in Colorado.

While CASBHC led advocacy efforts to increase the appropriation, it was a concerted effort by our members, partners and legislative champions that made it a reality. A huge thanks goes out to Senator Pat Steadman and Representative Dave

Young for their unwavering support and a special thank you to Representative Cheri Gerou who, as a JBC member, made the motion

to increase the line item and fully fund SBHCs. To the SBHCs involved in the effort to educate our legislators through site visits and outreach, your work was integral and much appreciated.

Oral health services also experienced a big win this legislative year. CASBHC was successful in lobbying to have a footnote attached to the Department of Health Care Policy and Financing (HCPF) budget instructing the department to reimburse primary care providers for oral health risk assessments and for applying fluoride varnishes up to three times per year for children five years and older. Previously, reimbursement was only available for providing these services to children aged birth through four.

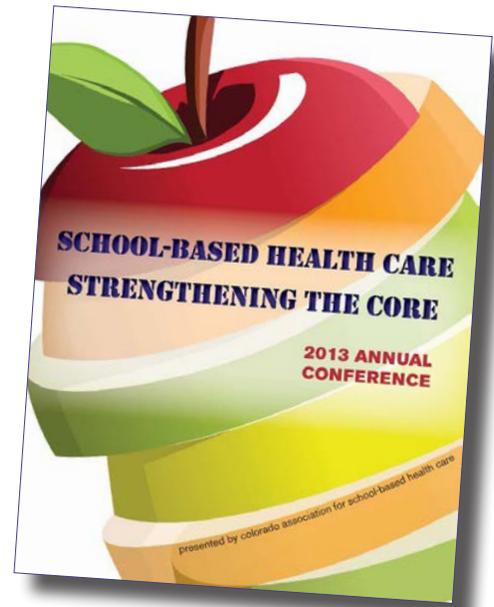


Improving Access to Childhood Immunizations

As many school-based health centers have experienced firsthand, the existing system in Colorado for funding childhood vaccines creates many obstacles. This year CASBHC was part of a coalition, led by the Colorado Children's Immunization Coalition (CCIC), supporting the passage of legislation that would help remove some of these barriers. Scheduled to be signed by Governor Hickenlooper on May 28, **Senate Bill 222: Concerning Improving Access to Childhood Immunizations** aims to increase access to vaccines by lowering the cost through such solutions as purchasing pools and making vaccine administration simpler and more effective for providers. The bill directs CDPHE to engage in a stakeholder process to discuss a wide variety of issues related to vaccine financing, ordering, and delivery and directs the Board of Health to promulgate rules based on the outcomes of this process. CASBHC will remain actively engaged in this issue, bringing to the table the concerns of school-based health centers.

CASBHC Annual Conference

On May 2 and 3, CASBHC welcomed nearly 100 providers, administrators and school-based health care supporters to its annual conference held at the DoubleTree Hotel in Aurora. The conference offered a series of workshops focused on the ways in which school-based health centers can strengthen their existing practices and support student success. Over a day and a half, attendees participated in sessions addressing current and relevant topics and learned from leaders in their fields. Workshops addressed issues related to type 2 diabetes, how to best provide health care to refugee and foreign-born students, the handling of dental emergencies, as well as how to create safe and welcoming spaces for LGBT youth. In addition, there were sessions on the Accountable Care Collaborative and the new online health insurance marketplace and what it all means for school-based health centers. Materials from the general and breakout sessions are now available online at the CASBHC website: www.casbhc.org/conference.html



Dr. Sandra Stemark, a nationally recognized pediatric wellness expert and the current physician lead of the Kaiser Permanente Pediatric Cardiovascular Health program, kicked off the program with a short clip from the HBO series *Weight of the Nation* and spoke passionately about combating the rise of obesity among children and youth. The conference ended on a high note with Jaclyn Watson, youth specialist with the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment's School-Based Health Center Improvement Project, teaming up with Denver School of the Arts Junior Alysh Lynch for a presentation about youth engagement.

With representatives from school-based health centers around the state -- coming from as far as Durango and as near as the Denver Metro area -- the conference brought together those committed to the growth and success of school-based health care. Recognizing the importance of sharing ideas and practices, attendees had the opportunity to network and connect with one another throughout the conference. CASBHC took the opportunity to thank its members for their hard work on the campaign to increase the line item and celebrate the hard fought and very successful legislative victories with a cocktail reception. The Inspiration Awards were given out as well (see page 3 for award recipients).

The conference was a great success. CASBHC would like to thank the sponsors -- Kaiser Permanente, The Colorado Health Foundation, The Colorado Trust, Delta Dental of Colorado, COPIC and Colorado Children's Campaign -- and planning committee members -- Nancy Riordan Kunzie, Erica Schwartz, Mary Kay Meintzer and Deidre Callanan -- without whom this conference would not have been possible.



Inspiration Award Winners

Each year, CASBHC celebrates outstanding leaders in school-based health care. The 2013 awardees were selected by a committee of the CASBHC Board of Directors. Awards were presented at a reception during the annual conference.



School-Based Health Center Champion

Representative Cheri Gerou
Colorado State House of Representatives

A champion for children's health care. During the 2012 legislative session, Rep. Gerou cast a vote blocking a proposed cut to the school-based health center grant program line item. This year she went a step further, publicly supporting an increase in funding for school-based health centers, citing SBHCs as a way we "take care of kids in Colorado." Rep. Gerou was instrumental in securing the \$4.2 million line-item increase.

Outstanding Medical Provider

Julie MW Zavala, DNP, CPNP
Crawford and Laredo Elementary Kids' Clinics

Julie's commitment to quality, comprehensive health care and collaboration with Aurora Public Schools health staff enabled Crawford and Laredo to earn the distinction of being the first certified patient centered medical home school-based health clinics in the state. -- Anne Taylor

Pictured from left: Dr. Karen Leamer, Anne Taylor, Phil Zavala, Julie Zavala, Dr. Larry Wolk, and Carol Saylor



Lifetime Achievement Award



Nina McNeill, PNP
Adams City Middle School SBHC

Nina has taught me about excellent school-based health care and about what a powerful and transformative place a school-based health center can be for a child, family, school and community. Nina is my healthcare hero! -- Sarah Winbourn, MD



Pictured from left: Michelle Hinneberg, Dr. Sarah Winbourn, Norma Portnoy, Becky Lusk, Nina McNeill, and Grady McNeill

Adams City Middle School Receives Grant for Oral Health Pilot Project

In March, CASBHC worked with the Roots and Branches Foundation to gain support for an oral health pilot project at the school-based health center in Adams City Middle School (ACMS) in Commerce City. The \$10,008 grant will fund provider time to render preventive oral health services including screening exam/risk assessment, application of fluoride varnish, hygiene instruction, dietary counseling, and case management.

Nina McNeill, medical provider at ACMS SBHC, points out, "Dental care is a vital part of health care, health promotion, and maintenance yet has been a missing aspect at our center. This grant will add a much needed piece to the puzzle of comprehensive health care for our students."

For more information on the Roots and Branches Foundation, visit http://www.rcfdenver.org/initiatives_roots.htm.



Dr. Steve Federico Recognized for Community Service



At the Annual Meeting of the Colorado Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics, Dr. Steve Federico, CASBHC Board Member and Denver Health's Director of Denver School-Based Health Centers, received the James E. Strain, MD Community Service Award. This award is given annually to a health professional in recognition of outstanding

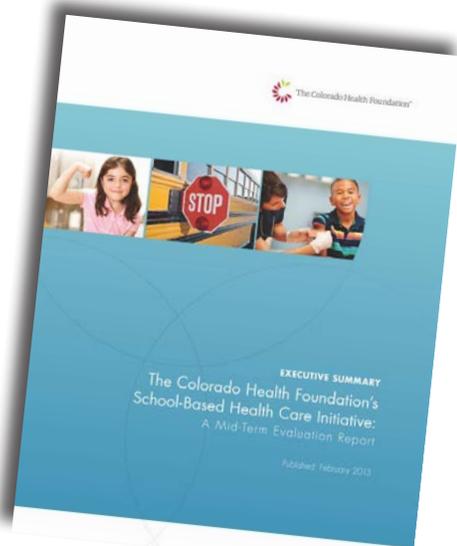
contributions to children's interest in the community. Please join us in congratulating Steve on this well-deserved honor.

Dr. Sarah Winbom Named Physician of the Year

Dr. Sarah Winbom, Medical Director for Community Health Services (CHS), was recently awarded Physician of the Year by the Rocky Mountain Chapter of the National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners. Sarah was nominated by the CHS nurse practitioners for this prestigious honor. She received the award on April 11, 2013 at the chapter's 13th Annual Nurse Practitioner Night Out Event and 30th Anniversary Celebration. Congratulations Sarah!



The Colorado Health Foundation Winds Down School-Based Health Care Initiative and Issues Mid-Term Evaluation Report



The Colorado Health Foundation's \$10.8 million, four-year initiative supporting school-based health care in communities throughout Colorado is coming to an end. The initiative began in June 2009. The Colorado Health Foundation's initiative has supported the planning and implementation of new or expanded school-based health care sites in Colorado. The mid-term evaluation report shows these centers are engaging their school and community partners in thoughtful strategic work to provide health services for students. The report shares preliminary findings from the evaluation of the first half of the initiative. A final evaluation will be available at the completion of the initiative in early 2014.

The full report can be found on The Colorado Health Foundation's website: [School-Based Health Care Initiative: A Mid-Term Evaluation Report](#)

Youth Action Day 2013



We had a great turnout and I enjoyed being able to take part in being politically active. I think we really opened people's eyes to the world of advocacy, which is awesome! -- Adrian Nava, Hinkley High School student

SAVE THE DATE: Colorado Youth Matter's Raising the Bar conference will be held October 24 -25, 2013 at the American Mountaineering Center in Golden, CO. Raising the Bar is a great conference for anyone interested in the latest research and practice in the field of adolescent sexual health. For more information please go to www.raisethebarcolorado.org.

This year CASBHC was happy to support and partner with Colorado Youth Matter (CYM) in organizing the 5th Annual Youth Action Day. Youth Action Day is an advocacy event in which young people come from across the state to meet with lawmakers and lobby for issues important to them. This year youth talked with policy makers about the importance of increasing access to comprehensive sex education and school-based health care for all youth. The event was held on Monday, March 11, 2013 at the State Capitol and was lead by CYM and Colorado Youth CREATE, a youth advocacy council of CYM. The biggest and most successful youth activist event to date, it included over 230 students, educators and parents from across Colorado. The day was nothing short of exceptional.



Reach Out and Read Colorado: A Prescription for Literacy

Reach Out and Read Colorado is a unique program that partners with health care providers to give new books to children from 6 months to 5 years of age and prescribe reading to families at well-child visits, with a particular focus on serving low-income communities. Low-income children are less likely to be read to at home and are more likely to start school behind the curve in reading, language development, and overall literacy skills. Reach Out and Read is a proven intervention, and a natural fit for school-based health care facilities that serve young children. Currently there are 11 school-based clinics in Colorado using Reach Out and Read.

"It is so rewarding to watch a child's love of books unfold with each new Reach Out and Read book that I give," says Tanya Fernandez, MS, CHA/PA-C, of the MCPN Kids & Teen Clinic. "Families often tell me that they wished their older children had received the books when they were younger and that they see big differences in their Reach Out and Read children's early education performance."

The Reach Out and Read model is an effective way to improve vocabulary, language and literacy skills, and give young children a strong developmental edge. It works because Reach Out and Read Colorado is not just a book giveaway program; it's a prescription for literacy.

Health care providers who use the program know that the gift of a book provides a seamless opportunity to assess development, and children love receiving the books. When the trip to the doctor is a positive experience, parents say they are more likely to keep future appointments.



To learn more about Reach Out and Read Colorado and to find out how your school-based health center can participate, visit

www.reachoutandreadco.org
or contact Reach Out and Read Colorado at
303-623-3800
info@reachoutandreadco.org

CASBHC Welcomes LEADS Summer Interns

Two University of Colorado School of Medicine LEADS scholars will join the CASBHC staff this summer as interns. CASBHC is pleased to welcome Amanda Neidermyer and Stephen Quach, both of whom are finishing up their first year in the MD program. While at CASBHC, Amanda and Stephen will be exploring the current system of behavioral healthcare delivery and financing within the SBHC model. They will identify best practices as well as barriers to care and propose ways to improve the delivery of behavioral healthcare services regardless of the patients' ability to pay, and the facilitation of integrated care within the SBHC.



Amanda Neidermyer earned a Bachelors of Science from the University of Colorado Colorado Springs in 2009, worked for 3 years as a research assistant on the Anschutz Medical Campus and began her medical studies at the University of Colorado School of Medicine in August 2012. Amanda's interests include working to eliminate health disparities, increasing diversity in medicine, and serving her community as a compassionate physician.



Stephen Quach graduated from Brown University in 2011 with a degree in Biology. During his time with CASBHC, he hopes to learn more about mental health care and advocacy in the community.

CASBHC Bids Farewell to Melinda Gonzales

A Message from Melinda:

Working with the wonderful people in the SBHC field in Colorado has been such a privilege. Thanks to all of you for inspiring me, teaching me, and helping increase access to comprehensive care for adolescents. Together, we have accomplished what was previously considered impossible!



On May 17, CASBHC said goodbye to its very own Melinda Gonzales. Melinda has served as the Director of Adolescent Health Programs for the past 5 years, and has been an integral part of the CASBHC family. She will be missed by not only the CASBHC staff but by the community of providers, administrators and partners that she has worked with while at CASBHC. Melinda leaves a body of work on adolescent and reproductive health that speaks volumes of her commitment to school-based health care throughout Colorado. Please join us in wishing Melinda the best of luck as she starts on the road to fulfilling her dream of becoming a pharmacist as a member of the Class of 2017 at the University of Colorado Skaggs School of Pharmacy.



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