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SBHC PROFILE: NEW BUILDINGS WILL ALLOW KIDS CLINICS TO EXPAND SERVICES TO STUDENTS IN AURORA

A young mother holding a baby wrapped up in a pink blanket held the door open as two children exited the clinic. I waited as they left then entered the converted space currently home to the Kids Clinic at Laredo Elementary School. I was there to meet with Rachel Haynes, the primary care provider at the clinic, to learn more about what the new expansion into a modular building would mean for the clinic and its patients. Before we could even exchange the initial pleasantries of two people who are meeting for the first time, she quickly picked up the phone trying to catch the young mother I had just encountered before she left the building. The clinic is participating in a Holiday Assistance Program and Rachel wanted to make sure the family had an opportunity to participate.



A few hours later, upon visiting the Kids Clinic at Crawford Elementary, I quickly realized that what seemed like Rachel's above-and-beyond concern for her patients and their families was anything but the exception for the [Rocky Mountain Youth Clinic \(RMYC\)](#) providers staffing the SBHCs. Recognizing that the mother of one of her patients may not have completely understood the directions she had given regarding an over the counter medication, provider Julie Zavala jumped up to catch the mother before she made her way too far down the hallway to offer additional instructions and support.

To hear Anne Taylor speak of the clinics she manages is like listening to a proud parent speak of her growing children. When asked what programs she is particularly proud of at either of the clinics, she instead turns the focus to the staff and the partners that make the work at the clinics possible. "Our staff at Crawford and Laredo are so dedicated to the students they serve. We have a very diverse population of kids and our staff work very hard to meet every unique need, which can require a lot of time and attention, but they make it happen." Addressing the partnership between Aurora Public Schools, Aurora Mental Health and RMYC, Taylor shares, "In my 27 years [working in healthcare], I have never been part of such a successful and productive collaboration."

The Kids Clinics at Crawford and Laredo opened in 2008 and 2010, respectively.

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Representative Jenise May recently visited the Kid's Clinic at Crawford Elementary School, which lies within the boundaries of House District 30. Elected to the Colorado General Assembly in 2012, May heads into her second legislative session as a member of the Joint Budget Committee. The former Deputy Director of the Colorado Department of Human Services, Rep. May has dedicated her life's work to helping underrepresented populations. Reflecting on her visit, Rep. May wrote, "I was happy to learn of this wonderful access point to healthcare in my district. Getting to see the clinic in-action and meet the people who are dedicated to serving our most vulnerable population where they are at, in school, provided me a deeper understanding of the important work being done by school-based health centers not only in my district but across the state." The visit to the Kids Clinic was the first time May had been to a SBHC.



SBHC Profile, continued.

Last year the clinics combined handled over 11,000 visits. Impressive considering both clinics operate out of converted classrooms. In 2014, both clinics will more than double in size as they move in to modular buildings located just outside of the current schools they call home.

Most notably, the new buildings will allow both clinics to stay open outside of traditional school hours, including over holidays and summer months. But the expansion doesn't only mean extra hours. The increased space will allow the clinics to host, on-site, much-needed services such as insurance outreach and enrollment, case management and care coordination, dental care and more mental health support. Permanent walls will mean more privacy for patients, while dedicated space for new pharmacy grade refrigerators and a laboratory will free up medical assistants from surveillance duties.

A recent increase in state funding, combined with a \$475,000 federal capital grant that Aurora Public School's received in 2011, has made this expansion possible.

DENVER'S SBHCs SUBJECT OF NEW STUDIES FROM UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO RESEARCHERS

Two new studies presented at the American Academy of Pediatrics National Convention suggest that both parents and adolescents are highly satisfied with the quality of care from school-based health centers and that SBHCs can potentially serve as patient-centered medical homes (PCMHs) for students. Both studies, conducted by researchers at the University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus, surveyed parents and adolescents from Denver Health School-Based Health Centers. Information on what was presented at the convention as well as a video interview of the lead researcher, Sean O'Leary, can be found [here](#) and [here](#). News about the studies were also reported in the Denver Post's health blog, Daily Dose and can be found [here](#).



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 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, mcwhirter@casbhc.org

Since we are all now in the sharing mood ('tis the season) make sure you are connected with us too so you can keep up with what CASBHC's sharing.

 facebook.com/CASBHC

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 www.casbhc.org

• **NOTES FROM THE FIELD:**

• Lynn Bakken, Associate Medical Director of Pediatric & Adolescent Services at Metro Community Provider Network (MCPN) and provider at Stein Kids Clinic in Lakewood, reports that the MCPN sponsored SBHCs in the Jefferson County School District received funding to build a garage for their dental van. "This will free up the van and staff to serve more children during the hours that they were actually having to drive long distances to and from the rental garage site." Lynn also shared that the SBHC staff is growing with the addition of a health educator and a new operations manager, who will be responsible for the oversight of all three SBHCs and for increasing the collaboration and partnership with the school district.

• Norma Portnoy, Executive Director of Community Health Services (CHS), was happy to report that as a result of the expanded funding from CDPHE the SBHCs at both Adams City High School and Kearney Middle School will expand their hours to have the clinics open 5 days/week. The SBHCs will see an increase in staffing to accommodate the new hours and to meet demand, especially for behavioral health services. The new monies will also be put to use in care coordination and in fully integrating CHS's six SBHCs into the organization-wide electronic medical record system.

• Malinda West, Clinic Manager for the Grand River Student Health Centers reports on two new and innovative programs. The SBHC in Parachute is working with Garfield School District's summer school program to create a behavioral health camp that will be integrated into the summer school day. This program will reach a large number of students and keep students engaged in the SBHC through the summer months. At the clinic in Rifle, Walter Holak, the behavioral health provider, has implemented a successful karate program. Walter teaches Japanese Shotokan Karate to his patients once a week in a group setting. Research studies have shown that karate improves mental, moral and physical development.



In our continued effort to bring you relevant and important news, CASBHC has teamed up with our colleagues at CDPHE to bring you the latest news from the department. Each quarterly newsletter will include an update on CDPHE's SBHC Program and, when available, updates from other state agencies that may impact or be of interest to SBHCs.

COLORADO DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT (CDPHE)

In FY 13-14 the SBHC state appropriation increased to \$5,260,817. This was a 429% increase from the previous year. Charged with the administration of the SBHC Program and the state dollars attached to it, CDPHE staff convened with key stakeholders, to discuss an appropriate investment of additional SBHC funds and the strategic direction of the program going forward. The following outlines some of the work that has come from this process.



- **ADVISORY COMMITTEES:** To help guide its strategic efforts, the SBHC Program recently formed two new advisory committees -- a Quality Improvement and Standards Committee and an Investment and Sustainability Committee. Each committee is comprised of eight to ten members who represent diverse stakeholders -- medical sponsors, schools, foundations, and health advocacy organizations. The committee members are tasked with providing relevant insights and recommendations to SBHC Program staff.
- **EXPANSION FUNDING:** In late September, an RFA for expansion funding was issued by the SBHC Program. Approximately \$2.6 million was awarded to 14 of the 15 agencies currently receiving FY13-14 funding under a state contract. Two programs that did not include all of their centers in their initial funding applications were able to add them into the expansion application upon demonstrating that these centers were meeting the state quality standards. For purposes of the RFA, expansion funding was defined two ways: service expansion funding and one-time center enhancement funding.
- **DATA COLLECTION:** With the significant increase in SBHC funding comes a heightened expectation by legislators for CDPHE to report on the use, outcomes and benefits of the funding. To that end, CDPHE is exploring the creation of a new system that will provide better data collection and reporting in order for the SBHC Program to meet its reporting obligations. In an effort to solicit feedback and gather ideas on this topic, CDPHE plans to release a survey relative to the data system in December.
- **RFA FOR FY14-15:** In February 2014, CDPHE plans to release a FY14-15 Request for Applications for funds beginning July 1, 2014. Unlike the expansion funding, this application will include opportunities for new communities/sites. It is expected that there will be various levels of funding including grants for planning (up to \$25K), start-up (up to \$250K) and implementation grants (up to \$100K). For sites receiving funding for the first time in FY14-15, the plan is to provide funding for FY14-15 and FY15-16.
- **FY14-15 FUNDING FOR EXISTING SBHC CONTRACTORS:** Current SBHC Program contractors will be entering into the second year of a three year contract cycle and will not be expected to submit a new application for continuation; only a revised budget document will be required. SBHC Program staff will contact the current contractors to discuss FY14-15 budgets as well as the potential opportunity to receive additional funds to address unmet technology needs that may be use to strengthen the collection of electronic health data, allow for integration into Colorado's health information exchange or enhance billing systems.

COLORADO DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH CARE POLICY AND FINANCING (HCPF)



STATE HEALTH INNOVATION PLAN

In March 2013, Colorado received a State Innovation Model Pre-Testing Assistance Award from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS). This six month grant helped the state improve and enhance its innovation proposal to CMS and work to refine its model of integration of behavioral health and primary health care. The result is a new State Health Innovation Plan that lays out a vision for making Colorado the healthiest state in the nation. [A copy of the Draft SHIP document is available on the Colorado SIM website.](#)

CHANGES TO SUBSTANCE USE DISORDER BENEFIT

Beginning January 1, 2014 the substance use disorder (SUD) benefit currently available in Medicaid fee-for-service (FFS) will be integrated to an existing managed care delivery system currently operated by Behavioral Health Organizations (BHOs). As a result, providers seeking to render SUD treatment services to Medicaid clients must enroll with the BHO in their service area. Questions and concerns may be sent by email to Alex Stephens at alex.stephens@state.co.us

NEW REPORTS CONCLUDE HEALTH FOUNDATION'S SBHC INITIATIVE



Recognizing the important role school-based health centers (SBHCs) play in the well-being of Colorado's children, the Colorado Health Foundation has supported the planning and implementation of clinics throughout the state since 2009 through its SBHC Initiative.

[School-Based Health Care Initiative 2012-13 Evaluation Report](#) presents the final evaluation of the SBHC initiative in moving its grantees toward self-sustainability.

As part of the initiative evaluation, two case studies were conducted to share best practices with the field. [School-Based Health Care Initiative: Evaluation Case Studies](#), presents these case studies.

In addition to these reports, the foundation hosted a webinar on December 11th when evaluators for the initiative highlighted areas where SBHCs have been successful as well as identified areas that need continued focus going forward.

2013 COLORADO HEALTH ACCESS SURVEY RESULTS RELEASED

[The Colorado Health Access Survey](#) (the "CHAS") is the most extensive survey in Colorado of health care coverage, access and utilization. The survey is administered every other year by the Colorado Health Institute providing detailed information that is representative of the state population. The project is made possible through the support of The Colorado Trust.

The CHAS provides insight into how Coloradans get health insurance coverage, how they access health care services and how they use health care. This information helps policymakers, and health care, business and community leaders more fully understand health challenges and advance shared solutions to improve health coverage and care.

There is a plethora of information and data available on the Colorado Health Institute website: www.coloradohealthinstitute.org



COLORADO LEGACY FOUNDATION PUBLISHES SCHOOL BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SERVICES FRAMEWORK

Last month, The Colorado Legacy Foundation released [The Colorado Framework for School Behavioral Health Services](#). The framework includes a best practices blueprint plus tools and resources to help schools effectively address the social, emotional, and behavioral health needs of students and guides the integration of support systems in schools with support systems in the community.

The Framework includes three models for specialized delivery of comprehensive school behavioral health services. One of these models focuses on the delivery of early intervention and evidence-based intervention services through a SBHC. Page 20 of the Framework includes a "spotlight" on Pueblo City Schools and its successful efforts co-locating school-based mental health therapists at the four SBHCs in the district.

The development of the framework was guided by a leadership advisory committee comprised of education and behavioral health professionals and was informed by a literature review, interviews and focus groups, and a statewide gaps and barriers analysis.



LIBRARY FOR THOSE WORKING IN BEHAVIORAL, SCHOOL AND PUBLIC HEALTH FIELDS

The Health and Learning Resource Center at RMC Health is a professional support library that includes a comprehensive cutting-edge collection of books, journals, curriculum, and visual aids to benefit professionals in the behavioral, school, and public health fields.

The resource center has been operated by RMC Health since 1994 and offers a large collection of resources available for three-week loan, without cost to Colorado residents. Sign up to receive borrowing privileges -- [apply for a card today!](#)

Browse the extensive resources on site at the Lakewood location: 7525 W. 10th Avenue, Lakewood, CO or access the services and resources through the resource center's website: trc.rmc.org.

Not in the Denver metro area? No problem. You can also go online to check out resources and have them delivered to you at no cost if you are outside the Denver metro area.



UPCOMING OPPORTUNITIES TO ADVANCE YOUTH SEXUAL HEALTH IN COLORADO



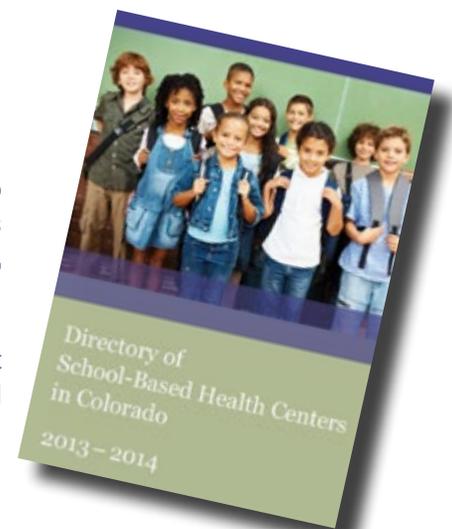
Colorado Youth Matter (CYM) has two upcoming opportunities to get involved in advancing youth sexual health in Colorado:

- Schools and school districts across Colorado are invited to apply for a competitive Tutor Level Partnership Incentive Grant, which will provide selected school districts with \$3,000-\$5,000 to support sexual health education goals. The incentive funding will be accompanied by tutor level partnership support, training and technical assistance. Incentive funds and partnerships will begin work in early 2014. For more information contact Andie at alyons@coloradoyouthmatter.org.
- CYM is gearing up to host its largest annual event -- Youth Action Day. Each year, CYM brings together high school and college students from across Colorado to train and empower them to make their voices heard through advocacy and civic engagement. Youth participants take their energy and passion to the state capitol where they meet with policy makers to discuss the importance of increasing access to comprehensive sex education and sexual health services for all young people. This year Youth Action Day will take place on March 17th. For more information about how to get youth involved, contact Megan at mmunroe@coloradoyouthmatter.org.

CASBHC'S 2013-14 SBHC DIRECTORY NOW AVAILABLE

CASBHC has updated the Directory of School Based Health Centers in Colorado for 2013-14. The Directory is the only comprehensive listing of all 54 of Colorado's School-Based Health Centers and provides information such as SBHC location, hours of operation, services offered, etc.

[The Directory is available online at the CASBHC website.](#) If you would prefer a print copy, please send a request to mcwhirter@casbhc.org with the subject of the email "directory request" and make sure to include your mailing address!



ANNUAL CONFERENCE UPDATES

CASBHC's 2014 Conference will be held on May 1 and 2, 2014 at the DoubleTree Hotel in Aurora.

This year's theme is **Connection, Collaboration, Care: Growing School Based Health Centers one Community at a Time.**

With a focus on improving access to health care for Colorado's school-age children, this year's program will address building partnerships, working together, and creating a coordinated system of care.

With presentations and workshops offered by leaders in the field and ample networking opportunities, this year's conference will have something for everyone: From using data to inform best practices and influence policy, to strategies for billing to maximize revenue, to how to position SBHCs as both an important part of the health care safety-net and a vital partner for school-districts.

The conference planning committee is currently in the process of reviewing the program, selecting breakout session topics and finalizing the agenda. If you are interested in presenting at this year's conference, there may be a few open slots available. Please contact Nicole McWhirter ASAP if you would like to submit a proposal to present at the conference.

Updates about the conference, including the agenda, session topics and speakers will be posted to http://casbhc.org/2014_conference.html in the new year and updated frequently. So check back often!

Registration will be open in early March.



**CONNECTION
COLLABORATION
CARE**
*growing SBHCs
one community at a time*

SPONSORSHIP AND EXHIBITOR OPPORTUNITIES AVAILABLE!

CASBHC's annual conference regularly attracts over 100 attendees from across the state, including primary and behavioral health care providers, SBHC administrators, state government representatives, health policy experts and school and community leaders.

We invite you to support the 2014 Conference through sponsoring and/or exhibiting. [Information about sponsorship and exhibitor opportunities are available on CASBHC's website.](#)

Only 15 exhibit spots are available -- reserve yours today!

Contact Nicole McWhirter with any questions.

**DURING THE HOLIDAY
SEASON MORE THAN
EVER, OUR THOUGHTS
TURN GRATEFULLY
TO THOSE WHO HAVE
MADE OUR PROGRESS
POSSIBLE.**

**AND IN THIS SPIRIT
WE SAY, SIMPLY BUT
SINCERELY,**

**THANK YOU AND
BEST WISHES FOR THE
HOLIDAY SEASON &
HAPPY NEW YEAR**



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