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# CSHC ENewsletter

## News and Updates for June 2007

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## Policy Updates

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### **Governor's School Health Center Advisory Workgroup**

To launch his initiative to expand school health centers to 500 elementary schools, the Governor's office is convening the long-awaited advisory group on June 25 and 26! Approximately 40 organizations will be represented. CSHC's ED, Serena Clayton, was invited to bring three school health center representatives. These will be: Roberta Bavin, Clovis USD; John DiCecco, LAUSD; and Elisabeth Chicoine, Roseland Children's Health Center in Santa Rosa. The California Endowment, the California Health Care Foundation and the California Wellness Foundation have jointly funded Bobbie Wunsch and Catherine Teare to facilitate the meeting. Recommendations are expected by the end of July. We will keep you posted!

### **SB 564: School Health Center Expansion Act of 2007**

SB 564, which would create a state grant program for school health centers, passed the Senate Floor on June 4th and moved on to the Assembly Education Committee on Wednesday, June 29th where it passed with a straight party-line vote. The bill will next be heard in the Assembly Health Committee on July 3rd. To see how your Senator voted and stay up to date on the status of SB 564, [click here](#).

CSHC, along with our co-sponsors the California Primary Care Association and the Latino Coalition for a Healthy California, would like to thank all of you who have written support letters, made phone calls, and hosted site visits for legislators and/or their staff. Given the tight state budget, we need to continue to convince legislators that school health centers are a priority! [Download](#) a sample support letter from our website and send it in today. To find out more about SB 564 and what you can do to help support the expansion effort, visit our [website](#), or contact Kristin Curran, Deputy Director, at [kcurran@schoolhealthcenters.org](mailto:kcurran@schoolhealthcenters.org).

### **AB 898: Promotores de Salud (Community Health Worker) Pilot Program**

AB 898 (Saldaña) would provide grants through the state's new Department of Public Health for school health center obesity prevention programs delivered by Promotores de Salud - community health workers that provide culturally appropriate care. AB 898 has recently been converted into a two-year bill and will continue through legislative process next year. As this bill continues into the next year, CSHC will keep you posted. In the meantime, please contact Kristin Curran, Deputy Director, at [kcurran@schoolhealthcenters.org](mailto:kcurran@schoolhealthcenters.org) with any questions.

### **S. 600: Federal School Health Center Grant Program**

School health staff and supporters from across the country (including over 40 from CA) will travel to Washington DC on June 29th to advocate for Senate Bill 600, the School-

Based Health Clinic Establishment Act, which would authorize a federal grant program for school health centers. The rally on Capitol Hill, where Marian Wright Edelman, CEO and Founder of the Children's Defense Fund, will speak in support of school health centers is part of the National Assembly on School-Based Health Care's Annual Convention. Following the rally, the California delegates will meet with their Senators and Representatives to educate them about school health centers and deliver constituent signatures gathered by many of you in CA. For more information about the bill and how you can help support national advocacy efforts, visit the [NASBHC website](#).

**S. 1669: Medicaid (Medi-Cal) and SCHIP (Healthy Families) Legislation for School Health Centers**

On Wednesday, Senator Stabenow (D-MI), along with six co-sponsors, introduced S. 1669 - the Healthy Schools Act of 2007- on behalf of the more than 1700 school health centers nationwide. With the passage of this bill, school health centers around the country would receive the reimbursement that they need and deserve for providing health and mental health services to children and youth enrolled in these government insurance programs. Hundreds of advocates will be on Capitol Hill on Friday June 29th, however SCHIP decisions are likely to be made the day before, on Thursday June 28th, in the Senate Finance Committee. Therefore, NASBHC is asking California school health center supporters to call Senators Feinstein (202-224-3841) and Boxer (202-224-3553) in the next few days and ask them to support S. 1669 by signing on to the bill. For more information on S. 1669 and how you can help, visit [NASBHC's website](#).

**News**

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**CSHC Increases Capacity for Technical Assistance**

CSHC is currently developing its capacity to provide technical assistance for its members. In May, a California contingency consisting of Michael Baxter of the San Francisco Department of Public Health, Bonnie Trinclisti of Alameda High School Health Center, and all three CSHC Field Coordinators, attended a NASBHC-sponsored "train-the-trainer" conference on continuous quality improvement and social marketing for school health centers. Look out for announcements on training offerings in the late summer and fall. If there are specific areas of training you are interested in, please contact Tamar Kurlaender, Technical Assistance Coordinator, at [tkurlaender@schoolhealthcenters.org](mailto:tkurlaender@schoolhealthcenters.org).

**Los Angeles' Hyde Park Holds School Health Center Grand Opening**

St. John's Well Child and Family Center and the Los Angeles Unified School District invite you to the Grand Opening celebration for their new school based health center at the Hyde Park Family Center Complex to be held Tuesday, June 26th, 2007 from 9am to 11am. The celebration will be held on-site at 6519 8th Ave in Los Angeles. Please RSVP to Sonya Muniz at 323-541- 1660, ext. 4001.

**Announcements**

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**CSHC Annual Conference: Partners in Guiding Change**

The CA School Health Centers Association is pleased to announce its annual conference:  
Monday October 29, 2007  
9:00 AM - 5:00 PM  
The California Endowment's Center for Healthy Communities  
Los Angeles, CA

The theme of this year's conference is **Partners in Guiding Change**. California is on the verge of major health care reform, and school health centers are positioned to carve out a unique role. The conference will help us generate new relationships and take advantage of these new opportunities. We hope to see you there, so don't forget to save the date! To find out more, please [click here](#).

If you are interested in presenting at the conference, please [click here](#) to download the details. The deadline for presentation proposals is June 30, 2007.

**Wellness Conference: Keynote Speaker Selected**

CSHC, in partnership with the California School Boards Association, the California Department of Education and the California Department of Health Services, is delighted to announce one of the two keynote speakers for the 2007 School Wellness Conference to be held on October 1st and 2nd in Anaheim. Jim Ellis, a former swim coach and youth mentor who built a successful swimming program in one of Philadelphia's most impoverished and predominantly African-American neighborhoods in the 1970s, will address attendees. For conference details [click here](#).

**Tools & Resources**

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**Workforce Diversity: Make it in Scrubs Campaign**

CSHC is partnering with the Make it in Scrubs Campaign, which is working to diversify the healthcare workforce by encouraging youth of diverse ethnicities to pursue a career in the health care field. To access the Make it in Scrubs Campaign resources, please [click here](#).

**Report: Costs of Inconsistent Health Care**

A new report commissioned by The California Endowment finds that gaps in health coverage for children enrolled in Medi-Cal cause a dramatic rise in costs. Results show that the total cost of care after the gap were almost twice as much as before the break in coverage. To read the report, [click here](#).

**Policy Brief: School Health Centers and Adolescents**

The California Adolescent Health Collaborative has produced a new policy brief highlighting the importance of school health centers for the adolescent population. The brief provides up-to-date information about the opportunity California has right now to increase access to services for all of California 's children and teens. [Click here](#) to read the brief.

**Brochure and Wallet Cards: Reproductive Rights for Teens**

The ACLU is happy to announce the availability of materials addressing reproductive health care for teens, "Your Health, Your Rights", "Tu Salud, Tus Derechos". A downloadable English copy of the brochure is available online, and a Spanish version brochure and bilingual tri-fold wallet card are coming soon. [Click here](#) to see the materials.

**Spotlight on a School Health Center**

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CSHC is proud to introduce a new component of ENews: the "Spotlight". [Spotlights](#) will focus on one school health center and tell the stories of the centers, staff, students and other key people that make California's School Health Centers a source of inspiration

and wellness. Please enjoy this month's Spotlight on the Vallejo City Unified School District Health Center, and feel free to send us your ideas for a school health center that you think we should Spotlight by contacting Cynthia Harding, Administrative Coordinator, at [charding@schoolhealthcenters.org](mailto:charding@schoolhealthcenters.org).

### **Vallejo City Unified School District Health Center**

Kathy Hahn, RN, MSN, CPNP, established and manages the Vallejo City USD Health Center located at Pennycook Elementary School in Vallejo, California. Hahn is a pioneer in opening a new school health center and a champion for providing health care in schools. Her story of opening a school health center and building partnerships among funders and the community is an inspirational model.

The Vallejo USD Health Center primarily sees uninsured children from ages 1-19 for physicals, necessary lab tests, immunizations, sports physicals, minor injury and illness treatment, insurance enrollment, as well as referrals to dental and eye doctors. "The patients we see are, for the most part, those who are not accessing healthcare through the traditional methods, and I think the school centers will continue to fill a void in that way," says Hahn.

Hahn first encountered the concept of school health centers when she was a nursing student in Fresno, and one of her rotations was with a PNP in a school- based clinic. Hahn reflects "I learned so much from my preceptor, the PNP working in the clinic, and saw the huge affect the center had on families that had no insurance or primary MD. When I got to Vallejo, as a School Nurse, I saw that there was a similar need here and knew that I had to help to bring healthcare to the schools and the families."

Motivated by her vision for a school health center in Vallejo, Hahn spent three years making presentations, writing letters and writing grants to get the funding needed to open the center. (Spotlight Continued Online. To read the entire Spotlight, please [click here](#).)

### **Contact Information**

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