

CSHC ENewsletter - February 2008

Policy Updates

The State Budget Deficit: What does it mean for school health centers?

In response to the \$14 billion state budget deficit, Governor Schwarzenegger and the Legislature have proposed significant cuts, including major reductions in the state health and education budgets. Last month, the Governor called for 10% cuts to all state agencies, including a 10% reduction in state Medi-Cal reimbursement rates. Other proposals to eliminate dental services, optical care and other optional services remain under consideration. Cuts to education are equally as worrisome, with Senate Pro Tem Don Perata stating this week, “A \$4.4 billion cut to public schools could mean delaying the start of the school year by one month or adding five students to each classroom to offset the loss of thousands of teachers” (*Sacramento Bee*, 2/27).

<http://www.sacbee.com/111/story/742242.html>

To learn more, follow these links for: a summary of the Governor's proposed budget:

<http://www.ebudget.ca.gov/BudgetSummary/BSS/BSS.html>

And a summary of the Legislature's proposed cuts:

http://www.cbp.org/pdfs/2008/080214_Midyearcuts.pdf .

All of these proposals are difficult to navigate and equally as difficult to evaluate how they might impact each individual school health center at the local level. We encourage you to share your questions and concerns with us so that we can follow up and best advocate for you in Sacramento. Please contact Kristin Curran at kcurran@schoolhealthcenters.org.

The State's School Health Center Expansion: How will we move forward?

While we do face difficult economic times, CSHC believes it is essential that we continue to build on the momentum created by the signing of AB 2560 (Ridley-Thomas) and the Governor's School-Based Health Center expansion proposal. While our current bill to create a school health center grant program (SB 564) may be difficult to achieve at this moment (though we are still working on it!), we would like to get your ideas for regulatory changes that could potentially be made this year that might make it easier for you operate and/or receive reimbursement for services. To provide input, please contact Kristin Curran at kcurran@schoolhealthcenters.org

H.R. 4230: California Congressional Representatives Sign on as Co-Sponsors

Since December three new Representatives have signed on as co-sponsors of H.R. 4230, the School-Based Clinic Establishment Act, which would authorize a national grant program for the operation and development of school health centers. Congressman Henry Waxman (D-30), Congresswoman Maxine Waters (D-35) and Congresswoman Hilda Solis (D-32) join their colleagues Congresswoman Lois Capps (D-23), Congressman Mike Honda (D-15), and Congresswoman Lynn Woolsey (D-6) in championing school health centers. Congresswomen Solis and Waters agreed to sign on as co-sponsors following personal visits to their staffers in Washington, D.C. by Nidia Escobar, a senior at Manual Arts High School in Los Angeles (See *CSHC Spotlight* article in the “News from the Field” section). To learn more about our federal advocacy efforts, please go to:

<http://www.nasbhc.org/site/c.jsJPKWPFJrH/b.2561543/k.C944/advocacy.htm>

CMS 2287: New Federal Regulations Threaten School-Based Medicaid Reimbursements

In late December, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) put forth changes to the Medicaid program that would negatively impact program participants and providers, including eliminating reimbursement for school-based administrative activities and transportation services. This regulation will have severe negative consequences for school-based health services in California. A six-month moratorium has been placed on 2287's implementation and legislative efforts are underway to stop the proposed cuts. NASBHC is participating in a national coalition formed to prevent these cuts and CSHC is working with our California partners towards the same goal. Follow this link for an overview of the new federal Medicaid regulations <http://www.kff.org/medicaid/7739.cfm>. Please let us know how these cuts might impact you at the local level by contacting Kristin Curran at kcurran@schoolhealthcenters.org or 510-268-1160.

MHSA: CSHC's Youth Board Adds Their Voice

On February 21st, Bertrand Perdomo, a member of our Youth Board, delivered eloquent public comment to the Mental Health Services Act Oversight and Accountability Commission on the need for greater youth participation in their stakeholder process and the invaluable role school health centers play in delivering mental health services to California's most vulnerable students. Bertrand's public comment added to CSHC's efforts to build support for school health centers within Prevention and Early Intervention and Student Mental Health Initiative planning at the state and county levels. For more information and ideas about how to get youth and others involved with the local MHSA planning process, contact Michael Smith at msmith@schoolhealthcenters.org.

News From the Field

Manual Arts High School Senior Honored in Washington, D.C.

This issue's *CSHC Spotlight* article is on **Nidia Escobar**, a senior at Manual Arts High School in Los Angeles. Since her sophomore year, Nidia has been a participant and leader in all of the prevention programs run by the Manual Arts school health center. Nidia has dedicated many hours conducting community outreach, lunch discussion groups, after-school programs, and classroom presentations. Last month Nidia traveled to Washington DC where she was honored by the National Network for Youth as the recipient of a **Youth Leadership Award** for her outstanding work as a peer health educator and health advocate. Nidia accepted her award at a ceremony on January 29th and then went on to meet with Congressional staffers to advocate on behalf of HR 4230. As a result of her efforts, two new Representatives have signed on as co-sponsors of the bill!

CSHC congratulates Nidia and encourages you to read the entire *CSHC Spotlight* article by visiting:

http://www.schoolhealthcenters.org/docs/Enews_Spotlights/CSHC%20Spotlight%20on%20Nidia%20Escobar_Feb%202008.pdf

Policy Makers Tour School Health Centers Across the State

One of our ongoing goals at CSHC is to educate policymakers about the important work that school health centers do in California. There is nothing like visiting a school health center to truly understand how they operate! Several school health centers have recently opened their clinics to policymakers. In December, Linda Crawford and her colleagues at the Danbrook Elementary School in Anaheim hosted State Assemblymember Jim Silva (R- 67). That same month, State Senator Mark Ridley-Thomas (D-26) visited the school health center at Manual Arts High School in Los Angeles. The Senator who is himself an alumnus of Manual Arts, was greeted by more than 25 people, including students and school administrators, LAUSD representatives, and administrators and staff of Children’s Hospital Los Angeles (the sponsoring agency). He was awarded a plaque of appreciation for his work on behalf of school health centers.

Earlier this month, the health legislative assistant for Congresswoman Lucille Roybal-Allard (Congressional District 34) visited Gage Middle School in Huntington Park to learn more about school based health centers and what the Congresswoman can do to help protect school Medicaid reimbursement for Medicaid Administrative Activities (MAA). Lastly, CSHC’s Field Coordinators worked with 13 school health centers in Orange County, Los Angeles, San Diego, Stockton, Modesto, and the Bay Area to organize school health center tours for Dr. Jill Abramson, the Medical Officer for the California Department of Public Health. Our colleagues from the California School Boards Association also participated in some of these visits. If you have hosted legislators or other policymakers at your site, or would like to do so, please contact Kristin Curran at kcurran@schoolhealthcenters.org.

Southwest High School Opens New School Health Center

Southwest High School recently held a ribbon cutting ceremony to celebrate the opening of its new school health center! Southwest High is located in the U.S.-Mexico border community of Nestor. “For many of these students, this is their only access to health care on this side of the border,” said Dr. Shaila Serpas, the center's supervising physician and director of school-based clinics for Scripps Family Medicine Residency Program. CSHC congratulates Dr. Serpas and the Southwest High School community on opening their new school health center! Please visit the following link to read the Union-Tribune news article about Southwest High School’s new health center:

http://www.schoolhealthcenters.org/docs/Media%20Coverage/The%20San%20Diego%20Union_High%20School%20Clinic%20Fills%20Health%20Need.pdf

Riverside *Press-Enterprise* Article Supports School Health Centers

On January 11th, the *Riverside Press-Enterprise*, which serves Riverside and San Bernardino Counties, ran a four-page article about their local school health centers. The article, entitled, “Clinics put care where the kids are”, cited the benefits and need for school health centers locally and across the state. Please visit the following website to view the full article:

http://www.schoolhealthcenters.org/docs/Whats%20New/01_11_08%20Riverside%20Press%20Enterprise.pdf.

CSHC News

CSHC Youth Board Gearing up for Action!

The five inaugural youth board members met last month to outline their agenda for promoting school health centers and youth involvement: policy/advocacy; college and community engagement; and technical assistance to sites interested in youth engagement. Upcoming activities include: conducting legislative visits; developing and conducting a youth engagement presentation for the West Contra Costa Unified School District; meeting with CSHC's Board of Directors; and facilitating youth programming at NASBHC's June Convention. Questions about CSHC's youth board? Contact CSHC's Youth Coordinator, Kathleen Gutierrez, at kgutierrez@schoolhealthcenters.org

CSHC Welcomes New Field & Technical Assistance Director

CSHC is pleased to welcome Samantha Blackburn, our new Field and Technical Assistance Director, who is leading the development of CSHC's technical assistance program. Samantha is a credentialed school nurse and a pediatric nurse practitioner who started and managed a school health center at Roosevelt Middle School in Oakland, where she also recently led an initiative to develop four additional school health centers. Samantha also created and coordinated statewide after school health and safety training programs for the California Department of Education while a program manager at the California Healthy Kids Resource Center. Samantha can be reached at sblackburn@schoolhealthcenters.org.

Conferences & Workshops

NASBHC 14th Annual Conference: Taking Action Against Health Inequities

CSHC is excited to be co-hosting the 2008 National School-Based Health Care Annual Convention in *Los Angeles*. The convention is themed "Taking Action Against Health Inequities" and will take place from Wednesday, June 25th through Saturday, June 28th. The convention will also feature youth-specific programming, as well as a reduced youth registration fee (\$200). More information will be coming soon, but in the meantime, we encourage you to begin planning to bring as many youth as possible to the convention! For registration and other information about the convention, please go to: http://www.nasbhc.org/site/c.jsJPKWPFJrH/b.2708163/k.9443/Convention_Intro.htm. For questions or more information specifically about youth programming, contact Michael Smith at msmith@schoolhealthcenters.org or Tiffany Clarke at tclarke@nasbhc.org.

The California Wellness Foundation: Conference on Teenage Pregnancy Prevention

The California Wellness Foundation invites you to attend a one-day conference addressing teen pregnancy prevention in California. The conference program will take place on May 22, 2008 at the Westin San Francisco. The conference will feature a keynote from Dr. Michael Carrera from the Children's Aid Society. Registration is complimentary and travel stipends will be available. For more information, contact the California Family Health Council, Inc. with questions at (800) 428-5438 or conferences@cfhc.org, or visit: http://www.cfhc.org/assets/documents/Events/20080208_SaveDate_WellnessTeenPreg.pdf

Adolescent Health Collaborative: 2008 Youth Issues Conference

The Adolescent Health Collaborative will host its bi-annual conference on September 18th & 19th in Los Angeles. The conference, "Youth Issues 2008: Transforming Services, Transforming Communities," is for all those who work with and support youth. A special youth track is being planned by youth for youth health educators. For more information and to submit a presentation proposal (due March 5) please go to <http://www.californiateenhealth.org/>. For more information specifically about the youth track, contact the Youth Track Coordinator, Matthew Moyer, at mmoyer@chla.usc.edu.

Tools & Resources

2008 California Report Card: The State of the State's Children

Children Now recently released its 2008 California Report Card which evaluates California children's health and education status and suggests policy improvements. The report assigns letter grades for key individual determinants, such as a C in health insurance, a C- in K-12 education and a D+ in obesity. The report also outlines opportunities for progress in 2008. You can download the Report Card by visiting:

http://publications.childrenow.org/publications/invest/reportcard_2008.cfm

Disease Preparedness Training Tool: School Planning for Influenza Outbreaks

The American School Health Association announces the release of an interactive, online training course that will help school health professionals prepare for and respond to disease outbreaks. The module examines influenza facts, symptoms, types, protective measures, and more. In addition, the module describes the differences between seasonal flu and pandemic flu. Participants completing the module are eligible to receive the continuing education contact hours. You can download the training by going to:

<http://ashaweb.org/dpm/player.html> Learn more at: www.ashaweb.org/continuing_education.html

Free School Health Policy Guides Available: Fit, Healthy and Ready to Learn

CSHC has multiple copies of "Fit, Healthy and Ready to Learn, Part III: Policies on Asthma, School Health Services, and Healthy Environments" from the National Association of State Boards of Education (2005). This publication covers school asthma programs and education and staff development about chronic health conditions, individual student plans, school health services, healthy school environments, and more. Email Cynthia Harding at charding@schoolhealthcenters.org to receive a free copy.

HealthCare Volunteer Program: California Free Dental Screenings Network

HealthCare Volunteer, a non-profit organization, has launched a statewide free dental screening program to help connect kindergarten students to dentists willing to provide free screenings in their office. The program is intended too help low-income families meet the requirements of AB 1433, the kindergarten oral health assessment law. Dentists can register as volunteers and parents can register their children for a free screening using the website. To register or find out more, please visit:

<http://www.healthcarevolunteer.com/patients/dentalscreenings.php>