



# California School Health Centers Association

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### What's New

[Save the Date: March 12-13, 2012 statewide conference, Vision & Voice for Healthy Students](#)

[Welcome to our New and Returning Members: 2011/12 Members](#)

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**Spotlight on:  
Lennox Health Clinic**

## Message from CSHC Board President

**Dear Members and Friends,**

Changes in the health care delivery system, federal education reform, and shrinking budgets make this a critical time in the school health movement. Read on for more news about the obstacles and opportunities we are facing. Fortunately, CSHC is ready for the challenging times ahead. Last month, the CSHC board approved a new three-year strategic plan which leaves CSHC well-positioned to advocate for policies and funding, provide technical guidance to and increase support for school-based health centers (SBHCs).



Please join me in expressing gratitude to four veteran board members who have completed their board service: Vergia Slade, Shaila Serpas, Elizabeth Miller and Pam Wagner. Their expertise and wisdom will be missed. Replacing them on the board are three new members: Selina Escobar of Health Net, Zettie Page of Salud Para La Gente Community Clinics, and Judy Silva of Tulare Community Health Clinic. I look forward to their energy and insight as we continue to grow the school health centers movement.

If you haven't registered for our Los Angeles or Fresno regional conferences, be sure to do so quickly as space is filling up.

Sincerely,

Joel Cohen  
CSHC Board President

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## Policy Updates

### Federal Update – Construction and Equipment Funding

On April 5th the House Committee on Energy and Commerce voted to cancel the grants for construction, renovation, and equipment of SBHCs by a party-line vote



Lennox high school student receives services from Cynthia Francis, Physician Assistant at Lennox Health Clinic. [Read more](#).

### From The Capitol



### [School Health Centers in Health Care Reform](#)

of 27 to 15. This comes after more than three weeks of SBHC providers and supporters calling and faxing Committee members with requests that they protect funding for SBHCs. The National Assembly on School-Based Health Care (NASBHC) also submitted a [letter](#) to Representatives Upton, Pitts, Waxman, and Pallone that was signed by 320 national and state-based organizations. The bill will now go to the full House for a vote, and must also be passed by the Senate and signed by President Obama before becoming law. CSHC will be in contact with the field over the next weeks to let you know how you can make your voice heard to save SBHC capital and equipment grants. Read [NASBHC's statement](#) on the latest vote.



### California Budget Update

The state Legislature has already voted to make substantial cuts/shifts in a number of health and social service programs in its attempt to balance the budget. These changes include: increased co-payments for Medi-Cal and Healthy Families recipients; reductions in welfare-to-work grants; cuts to services for the developmentally disabled; and shifting of funds away from mental health and First 5 programs.

Governor Brown has halted negotiations with the Legislature, and it is unclear if a ballot measure -- to extend for another five years the sales, vehicle and income taxes -- will be placed before voters in June. These taxes would bring in approximately \$9 billion dollars, making up a large portion of the revenues needed to balance the budget. More tax cuts are likely without these extensions.

### State Legislation

On a positive note, CSHC is co-sponsoring two pieces of legislation that are part of a package of bills focusing on children's health:

*The Healthy Start Community Schools (AB760)* - Assemblymember Richard Gordon introduced this bill which makes programmatic improvements to the Healthy Start Act of 1991. Over the years Healthy Start, which emphasizes learning support services for students and families, has provided funding for many SBHCs. While AB760 does not generate any new funding, it places more emphasis on a project's ability to go to scale and on stronger school-community partnerships. The bill also provides us with an excellent opportunity to educate legislators about the success of the Healthy Start program.



*Resolution on SBHCs (AJR 10)* - Assemblymember Julia Brownley, who chairs the Assembly Education Committee, has introduced this resolution affirming the value of SBHCs. If approved, the resolution will require the Legislature to send a letter to the federal government expressing support for funding of the SBHC program authorized in health care reform, as well as requesting that SBHCs be included as a strategy in education reform.



### Health Care Reform Happenings

The federal health reform law, the Affordable Care Act, turned one year old in March. The 100% Campaign has a [new factsheet](#) that describes how millions of California kids have already benefited from the law. [California Healthline](#) also has a good overview of the law's passage and first year of implementation.

### Millions More in School Medi-Cal

The Department of Health Care Services announced recently that they are reversing

a state policy that limited drawdown of federal reimbursement dollars through the LEA Med-Cal and MAA Programs. Once finalized, the new policy will significantly increase school revenue available for health and other services because LEA reimbursements will no longer have to be excluded from Medi-Cal reimbursement programs. CSHC was among those advocating for this policy change.

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## CSHC News

### Oakland Conference – A Sold Out Success!

CSHC had the pleasure of hosting 190 people at our (sold out!) Oakland conference where we showcased four Northern California youth leadership programs. The youth-led plenary and succeeding youth-led workshops explored the challenges and invaluable benefits of incorporating youth leadership programs into SBHCs. School health youth leaders from San Mateo, Alameda, West Contra Costa, and San Francisco counties shared their school and community-wide achievements. Members of CSHC's Youth Board also spoke on their experiences as young school health advocates and the strong relationship they've built with their Y2Y sites. Youth Radio reported on the session in an article posted on their [blog](#).



Other workshops focused on Health Care Reform, building school-clinic partnerships and improving clinical practices. Here's a sampling of attendee feedback we received:

*"One of the most productive [conferences] I've been to."  
"Youth plenary was amazing."  
"Fabulous presentations and presenters."  
"Great, relevant workshop topics."*

### LA Conference Next Week on April 14th

There is still time to [register](#) for our LA conference. It's filling up fast and if Oakland is any indication, we are headed for a sell out crowd. You don't want to miss our plenary featuring youth leadership groups from John Marshall and Belmont high schools. We have an excellent line-up of workshops including how SBHCs can reduce chronic absence, improve sustainability, and communicate with families about mental health challenges. See you in LA on April 14th!

### Y2Y Continues to Grow

Eight affiliates have joined our new Youth to Youth (Y2Y) Network since it launched this fall. The eight programs, selected for their strong SBHC leadership programs, include youth leaders from 16 high schools in seven school districts. The affiliates have been connecting with one another and sharing ideas through our Y2Y Facebook Page. They will also be featured at CSHC conferences and will be leading a workshop on youth leadership.



### We're on Facebook!



Want to learn more about what our Y2Y affiliates are up to? Join the [CSHC Y2Y Network](#) Facebook page and see posts from young school health leaders from across California!

**MO Healthy Youth Leaders Project Launched at Los Angeles SBHCs**  
[California Adolescents Nutrition and Fitness](#) (CANFIT) is collaborating with



CSHC to bring the MO Healthy Youth Leaders Project to three Los Angeles SBHCs. The MO Project, a series of four leadership and social marketing workshops to help youth improve nutrition and physical fitness in their communities, will prepare its participants to train other youth on health leadership and to launch their own wellness campaign through an online social marketing contest. The participating youth teams are also Y2Y Affiliate Programs and will be presenting at our Los Angeles regional conference this April.

### Youth Teams from Five OUSD SBHCs Convene on Wellness

As a part of a wellness initiative funded by the S.D. Bechtel, Jr. Foundation, CSHC partnered with Samuels and Associates to lead a Youth Wellness Champion Academy last month. Forty Oakland middle and high school students participated along with adult Wellness Champions within the district. The event allowed youth to think critically about their environments and the policies that shape their health outcomes, speak out on wellness challenges and successes in their community and to strengthen relationships with the adult wellness champions.

### Staff Updates



**Alice Ricks**, who has been working as a policy intern for us this past year, will be joining CSHC full-time in May. She is currently finishing up coursework for concurrent master's degrees in Public Health and Public Policy at U.C. Berkeley. Alice graduated from Yale in 2001 and worked as a public school teacher before beginning her master's programs.

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## News from Around California

### Two New School Health Centers Serving Students



Despite the challenging financial times, two SBHCs have opened since January. Pajaro Valley High School in Watsonville opened a new center operated by Salud Para La Gente (run by new CSHC board member Zettie Page). In Oakland, Madison Middle School's new SBHC is operated by the Alameda County Public Health Department.

### New Tdap Vaccine Mandate

All students entering or advancing to grades seven through twelve in the 2011-12 school year are now required to be immunized with a pertussis (whooping cough) vaccine booster called Tdap. School health centers can play a lead role in ensuring all targeted students in their school district have received the Tdap booster and submit required proof to their school. For provider information and educational materials for families and schools, see our [Tdap web page](#) or go to the [www.ShotsForSchool.org](http://www.ShotsForSchool.org) website today!



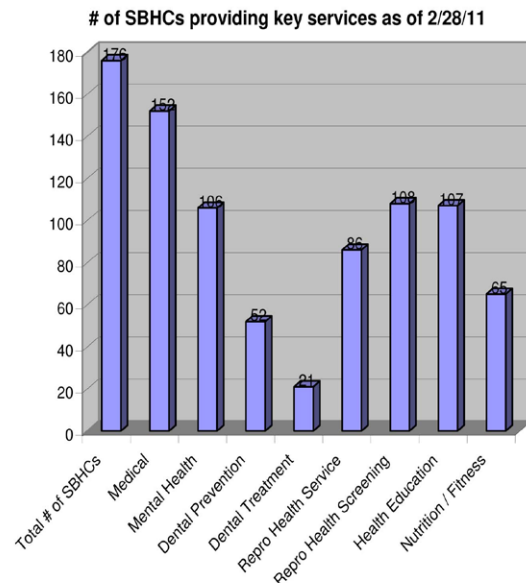
### Number of SBHCs Providing Key Services

CSHC has compiled new data about California SBHCs and has an [updated picture](#) of the kinds of health services being provided by the 176 SBHCs currently serving students in the state.

Medical services were the number one service provided (152 health centers). Reproductive health screenings were second (108 health centers) and health education was third (107 health



centers).



### LA Care Requires Partners to Reimburse SBHCs

We applaud LA Care for recently adopting a new policy requiring their managed care “plan partners” to reimburse SBHCs for services provided to plan patients. Following Health Net’s lead, LA Care’s new policy means that SBHCs will be able to get reimbursed for a large percentage of the services they provide to all students in a school.

### We Asked, You Answered: SBHC Leaders Report on Budget Cut Impacts

by Alice Ricks, Education Policy Intern



More than 200 people participated in our on-line survey earlier this year and told us how their school health programs are being impacted by recent budget cuts. Respondents included school nurses, school health center leaders, teachers, principals, superintendents, clinic administrators, and many others from a diverse set of communities throughout the state.

The survey confirmed that school health services are being reduced or even eliminated as a result of budget cuts, and that mental health services have been particularly badly hit. In addition, linking and support services (including case management and outreach and referral) are no longer available to many students and families; preventive services (such as health education, oral health services, and immunizations) have also been scaled back or cut at many schools.

Compared to schools and school districts, SBHCs have been better able to preserve many school health services in the face of budget cuts. That said, given the lack of a rational, stable funding source, many SBHCs are still struggling to provide essential services to students. For more information, please see the [2010 Budget Impact Survey: Key Findings](#) on our website.

### LA County: A Hot Bed of SBHC Happenings

by Sang Leng Trieu, LA Field Coordinator

Los Angeles County is home to 65 of the 176 SBHCs in California and the number is growing. Los Angeles Unified School District’s Joint Use School Health and Wellness Project has 13 SBHCs that will be opening or expanding, and many other districts are expressing greater interest in school health centers.

There are a number of SBHC champions driving the movement in Los Angeles. One of these, the Los Angeles County Education Foundation (LACEF), is committed to



building bridges between health and education and aims to improve the sustainability of school health centers. LACEF has made a significant investment in the school health movement. They have assumed leadership of the Los Angeles County School Health Policy Roundtable which is focusing on three main policy goals to support SBHCs including: demonstrate the value of SBHCs, increase access to preventive dental care, and work toward a different funding model for SBHCs.

LACEF also funds much of our work in the Los Angeles region including the coordination of the LA Coalition of School Health Centers. This group of SBHC stakeholders meets quarterly to receive updates on federal and state policy issues, learn about local SBHC initiatives and discuss operational issues, and network with one another. To learn more about the Coalition or SBHCs in the greater Los Angeles area, [email Sang](#) or call her at 213-440-3144.

### **Student Mental Health Initiative Set Back**

The Student Mental Health Initiative Requests for Proposals (RFP) were released in February. We had been hopeful that this would be a good opportunity for SBHCs to pursue but were disappointed to learn that both the state-wide and local RFPs were sole-sourced. The RFP for the statewide systems/policy work was sole-sourced to the California Department of Education. The RFP for local programs was sole-sourced to the California County Superintendents of Education Services Association. We will continue to follow this program and let you know if opportunities for SBHC funding do emerge.



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## **Funding Opportunities**

### **NASBHC Oral Health Funding**

[NASBHC](#) has a new oral health funding opportunity for school health centers, funded by Kaiser Permanente. NASBHC will make approximately 20 grants of \$15,000 each to school health centers nationally, with at least 10 grants being awarded in states where Kaiser Permanente delivers care. The RFP has not yet been released. Read a recent [NASBHC press release](#).



Visit our [Current](#) and [Ongoing](#) funding opportunities web pages to learn more about possible funding streams and leads on funding opportunities for school health centers. The current funding opportunities are a member resource which is updated regularly with new grants and filing deadlines.

## **Tools & Resources**

Please visit our [Resources for School Health](#) for all the latest tools and resources.

## **Conferences & Workshops**

[Family Strengthening Case Management](#)  
[Reproductive Health Care for Teens](#)  
[Healthy Environment, Healthy Child](#)

Please visit our [Events web page](#) for all the latest news on upcoming conferences and workshops.

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