

An Update From the Central Valley Coalition for School Health – Feb. 2016

Join Us in Sacramento May 5-6 for *Advocating for Equity in Education & Health Care*

Please plan to attend our 2016 statewide school health conference May 5-6 at the Sheraton Grand Sacramento. Remember that members of our organization receive a discount on our conference in addition to access to valuable resources and technical assistance. Visit bit.ly/schoolhealth2016 to learn more and register.

What Does the Change to the ‘Free Care Rule’ Mean for California’s Schools?

The federal government has reversed a long-standing policy (called the “Free Care Rule”) that impeded the ability of school districts to get reimbursed for the health services they provide to students. This reversal removes a major barrier for schools to obtain federal Medicaid funding for student health services and creates an opportunity for schools to expand the role they play in improving the health of low-income students. We are actively tracking the implementation in California and supporting schools as they plan next steps. Please visit the Policy section of www.schoolhealthcenters.org for details on this change or contact Lisa Eisenberg, Senior Policy Analyst, at 510-268-1033 or leisenberg@schoolhealthcenters.org.

Get Resources to Educate Students About Vaping & E-Cigarettes

Do you have adequate information to educate students about new forms of tobacco use? You can learn about how your school can strengthen anti-tobacco messaging for students. Contact Janine Saunders, Senior Project Director, at 510-268-1038, or jsaunders@schoolhealthcenters.org.

Opportunities for Nutrition Education in School-Based Health Centers

Learn about the link between adequate nutrition on overall health and academic success. Identify resources to support you in improving healthy eating behaviors of the adolescents and families in your community. An introduction of the upcoming nutrition education toolkit the Dairy Council of California is producing for school-based health centers will also be provided. Visit healthyeating.org for nutrition education resources. **Join the Dairy Council at our conference in Sacramento to attend a workshop about this resource!**

How Well Is Your School-Based Health Center Serving Students?

The number of school-based health centers (SBHCs) in California is growing, but with that growth comes a wide variation in practices – including varying degrees of connectedness to host schools. Are you delivering a level of access to care, prevention, and individualized support that makes a unique contribution to children’s health and educational outcomes? Learn how you can determine where your SBHC stands and how you can improve outcomes. **Go to www.schoolhealthcenters.org/sbhc-best-practices-checklist.**

Starting a Successful SBHC: Spotlight on Partnerships & Collaboration

The first collaborative goal that school-based stakeholders should pursue is to develop a mutual understanding of their shared work. We have resources on our website that can help you start this process. These include: the “Create a Blueprint for Collaboration” resource, Areas of Intersection, Guiding Questions, Letter of Agreement, Sample Roles and Responsibilities, and Consent and Confidentiality. **Go to www.schoolhealthcenters.org/start-up-and-operations/start-an-sbhc.**