



School Based Clinics in a Community Context

A Model of an FQHC School-Based Clinic
Serving the Community

Janet Seabrook, M.D. MBA

CEO

Community HealthNet Health Centers

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About the SBHC

- Community HealthNet is a Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC) located in Gary, Indiana.
- Community HealthNet operates five health centers locations in Lake County.
- Community HealthNet has operated a School Based Health Center (SBHC) at Calumet High School since 2008.



History of the SBHC

The SBHC at Calumet High School was developed as a community effort by the following stakeholders:

- Managed Health Services, Inc. (a Medicaid entity/Health Plan)
- Lake Ridge School Corporation (School District)
- Community HealthNet (FQHC)
- Community Leaders (pastors, businesses)
- Parents/ PTA



Planning for the SBHC

- The process to start a SBHC was a year of discussions and strategic planning
- A multifaceted work group was created composed of: school administrators, school nurses, school social workers, facilities maintenance, health center staff, legal staff, and the managed Medicaid entity (health plan)



Assessment of the SBHC

A comprehensive strategic plan to build a SBHC was put together. *SWOT Analysis vs SOAR Analysis*

Questions that had to be answered were:

- What is the overall goal of the School Health Center?
- Is it to serve students only? (Model 1)
- Is it to serve students and the public? (Model 2)



Possible Roadblocks to the SBHC

Barriers to Model 1:

- Sporadic student utilization
- School nurses might feel they are being replaced
- Variable number of referrals from the school nurse
- Concern regarding the feasibility and sustainability of a student-only health center



Roadblocks continued

Barriers to Model 2:

- Safety concerns
- Possibility of privacy concerns



The Model Decision

Community HealthNet and the Lake Ridge School District agreed to move forward with Model 2.

- Lake Ridge School District was in a unique position with the only high school in the LR school district on the state watch list with an F rating and the possibility of a state takeover
- It was a bold move but one that ultimately paid off for the high school and the district



Results

Achievements since 2008:

- Graduation rates 68% to 87%
- State grade F to a C
- State investment into the district
- School Superintendent and CEO of the health center made multiple presentations to the state, local and Congressional Representatives regarding the need for support for the SBHC



Safety Concerns

Safety concerns were addressed in the following manner:

- A separate entrance for the public was a must
- The school has a resource officer at the high school
- Community HealthNet contracts with an unarmed security personnel during clinic hours
- The clinic staff participate in the safety drills that the school conducts
- Unfortunately, we are in an age of school attacks and have to be prepared whether there is a clinic open to the public on site or not



Anecdotal Cases

- In the early days of the SBHC a popular former student of the high school committed suicide. Even though the student was not a part of the student body it had an effect on the student body. Our health center staff (clinical psychologist) in partnership with school staff were able to address the situation immediately.
- In another situation a student came for a sports physical and the provider noted the student had an infectious skin rash that if not diagnosed and treated could have caused the wrestling team to have forfeited a crucial match.



Patient visits/encounters

2017	Number of visits
Medical visits	2817
Support staff/MA/case manager	190
Behavioral health	250
Total Visits	3257



Patients numbers by age

Patients by Age	2017
Age 0-18	695
Age 19 and above	418
Unique Patients	1113



Community support is key

- A SBHC open to the public **must** have the school district support and community support
- SBHCs can be economic drivers for a community if there is support from the community
- The benefits are multifactorial for the school district and the community



Partnerships in SBHC

- Partnerships are key to a successful SBHC that serves students and the public
- Obtain the School District's leadership buy-in
- Opening an early dialogue with the parents and the PTA with the knowledge of the School District leadership is paramount to success



Options for shared resources

- Consider shared resources for security
- Training of clinic staff with the school staff on emergency situations
- Plan a separate entrance to the clinic for the public if feasible
- Consider hours of operation for the public after school dismissal



SBHC entrance





SBHC





SBHC waiting area





SBHC Exam room





Summary

- SBHCs help to engage and educate students in preventive health care early in life
- SBHCs have the ability to serve students and the public in a safe environment with advanced planning, staff training, and community support



Questions?