Elizabeth Learning Center’s School-Based Health Center

The Elizabeth Learning Center (formerly Elizabeth St. School) has been developed as a demonstration of one of the eight designs for comprehensive school reform established with support from the New American Schools Development Corporation and currently being scaled-up around the country. The site serves grades K-12 (with Head Start soon to be added) and has an extensive adult education program.

What makes the Health Center at this school unique is that it is thoroughly integrated into the site’s school reforms as one facet of the design’s component to address barriers to student learning. Based on Adelman and Taylor’s enabling component concept (here called Learning Supports), this component is treated as one of three primary and essential facets of the Learning Center design. (That is, it is treated on a par with instruction and governance/management.)

The Health Center represents a major community collaboration among St. Francis Medical Center, California State University at Dominguez Hills, and the Learning Center (the school nurse work is integrated into the Health Center facility). As an integrated part of the total design, the Health Center is not only school-based it is an integral part of the entire school and community effort to address barriers to learning.

The Health Center provides a range of services for students and their families, including screening and primary health care, prescriptions, care for acute conditions such as asthma, health education and nutritional counseling, immunizations, and screening for tuberculosis, diabetes, and cholesterol. An integrated Family Center provides resources for mental health counseling and related family services. Both the Health and Family Center facilitate referrals as needed. Health education in the Health Center is coordinated with the Learning Center’s health education programs, as well as with the Learning Center’s high school Health Academy program. Because of the involvement of the St. Francis Medical Center, all concerns related to contraception are handled by the school nurse and other Learning Center staff.
SAN JOSE SCHOOL HEALTH CENTERS

Site: San Jose School Health Centers, Good Samaritan Health System
Address: 102 N. 14th St., San Jose, CA 95112
Project Director: Roberto Alaniz
Phone/Fax: (408) 280-2170/(408) 289-1537
Special Populations: Children, adolescents

Services Provided: Bilingual primary health care, counseling, pharmacy, health and nutrition education, immunizations, TB testing

Partners: San Jose State University, Santa Clara University, the University of San Francisco, the Santa Clara County Departments of Public Health and Social Services, and many public and private organizations.

The San Jose School Health Centers program in San Jose, CA, provides free primary health care to 25,000 medically underserved children and adolescents who attend 30 schools in five school districts. Program staff serve on multi-agency, multidisciplinary treatment teams that assess individual needs and develop coordinated treatment plans. The benefits of the program include reductions in absenteeism, drop-out rates and number of teen pregnancies. Improved immunization rates and academic performance are also noted. Technical assistance and consultation services are available.

SCHOOL-BASED HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICE CENTERS

In South Eastern Connecticut

Site: School-Based Health and Social Service Centers, Child and Family Agency of S.E. Connecticut
Address: 255 Hempstead St., New London, CT 06320
Project Director: Rick Calvert, CISW
Phone/Fax: (860) 443-2896/(860) 442-5909
E-mail: HN4611@HANDSNET.ORG
Special Populations: School children

Services Provided: Health care, social services, physicals, immunizations

Linkages: State/local private medical and social service provider

The School-Based Health and Social Service Centers operates 12 school-based health centers in southeastern Connecticut. The centers work with school personnel, community leaders and child service providers to expedite the entry of children into needed programs. The centers provide no-cost physicals and immunizations by a school-based nurse practitioner. Upon request, nurse practitioners will accompany family preservation staff on home visits to help children living in high-risk or abusive situations. The centers have collaborative working relationships with agencies for respite care and substance abuse treatment. Enrollment and utilization rates exceed 90 percent and school absences and exclusions are reduced. Several professionally published articles and a policy and procedure manual are available upon request.
Baltimore City Health Department

School Site: Harford Heights Elementary School  
Address: 210 Guilford Avenue, 2nd floor, Baltimore, MD 21202  
Project Director: Francine Childs  
Phone: 410-396-3185  
Service Area: Urban  
Special Populations: Inner City, 99% African American

Health Services Funding: $192,078  
Health Education Funding: $59,635  
Other Funding: $134,943 from non federal sources

Partners: Harriet Lane Clinic (Johns Hopkins Hospital), School Health Advisory Board, Total Health Care, Harbel Substance Abuse, Universal Counseling, Johns Hopkins Hospital Mental Health, University of Maryland at Baltimore

Harford Heights Elementary School is the largest elementary school in Baltimore. The school-based health center (SBHC) opened to provide comprehensive primary care in April 1995. In order to make it easier for parents to attend appointments with their children, the SBHC is open late until 6:00 one night per week.

The health education program is coordinated by the health educator with assistance from an outreach worker who conducts home visits on an as needed basis. A Health Club with 100 high risk children as members meets twice a week to provide these youngsters with in depth health education. A dental hygienist provides classroom and one on one dental prevention activities. Fun and Fitness groups meet twice a week to promote healthy eating habits and lifelong physical activity. The SBHC has an active community advisory board which helps to oversee the activities of the program. The Baltimore City Health Department has been actively working with managed care organizations to develop sustainable reimbursement methods.
The school-based health center (SBHC) at Valdez elementary school is the first elementary school in the Denver Health and Hospitals system to be fully staffed to provide for the comprehensive primary care needs of the students. Individual and group counseling is provided by a mental health therapist who is bilingual. Special programs offered include "Strengthening Latino Families" which assists families in discussing what may be sensitive topics involving high risk behaviors. The Valdez SBHC also works with the University of Colorado Center for Human Nutrition on a program which incorporates nutritional concepts into the school curriculum for grades kindergarten, four and five. Each year, a dental screening program is delivered to all first graders and dental sealants are provided to all second graders. Fifth graders attend a refusal skills class. A parent outreach worker educates parents with limited English skills on how to negotiate the broader health system and about other health issues.
Family Health Center, Inc.

School Site: Edison Elementary School.
Address: 117 W. Paterson, Kalamazoo, MI 49007-2581
Project Director: Eurkres Y. Smith
Phone Number: (616) 349-2646
Service Area: Urban
Special populations: At risk for Homelessness

Health Services Funding: $270,100

Partners: Borgess Medical Center, Michigan State University Kalamazoo Center for Medical Studies, and Dental Resources, Inc.

Family Health Centers has developed extensive linkages with community health care providers. While most primary and preventive care will be delivered at the school site (including dental and mental health services), linkages have been made with area hospitals and clinics to provide care beyond regular business hours. FHC neighborhood clinics are available to students in the evenings, and emergency care services are provided 24 hours per day, seven days per week by Michigan State University Center for Medical Studies. In addition, contacts have been made with local food and clothing banks to provide assistance beyond medical care.

Madison-Yazoo-Leake Family Health Center

School Site: Nichols Middle School
Address: 1668 West Peace St., P.O. Box 588, Canton, MS 39046
Project Director: Ralph Burney
Phone Number: (601) 859-4786
Service Area: Rural Area of Madison County, MS
Special Populations: 93% African American, rural isolated

Health Services Funding: $155,700

Partners: Madison County Public School District, Mississippi Department of Health, University of Mississippi Pediatric AIDS Program.

The school-based clinic offers primary and preventive health care including reproductive, dental, and mental health services. The clinic is also involved in health education and promotion, and emphasizes the need to extend the role of physicians and nurses beyond traditional medical care. Recognizing local student needs, the clinic maintains an open door policy where students can seek support and guidance in addition to medical care. Collaborative efforts with the Canton Public School System have resulted in the creation of a Summer Youth Program, where underprivileged children are taught health, hygiene and conflict resolution.