Why school-based health care?

School-based health care is a partnership among a community health care provider, a school, and a community. Primary care and/or behavioral health clinicians employed by community health care organizations such as Health Centers, hospitals, and health departments partner with schools to deliver health care to students in school. School-based health care comes in many shapes and sizes, from screenings and brief interventions, to behavioral health counseling, to vaccination efforts, to preventive and acute primary care. School-based health care complements the important services provided by school-employed health professionals such as school nurses, school counselors, and school social workers.

A school-based health center is a robust form of school-based health care in which primary care services are available to students in a location on or near a school campus in-person, via telehealth, or through a hybrid in-person/telehealth model. Most SBHCs are open full-time, and most offer additional services like behavioral health, oral health care, and vision care. They offer an ideal model for school-based health care because they remove barriers to access, treating children in a convenient, nurturing, and easily accessible setting. The Community Preventive Services Task Force (CPSTF), an independent, nonfederal panel of public health and prevention experts established by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, recommends the implementation and maintenance of SBHCs in low-income communities to improve education and health outcomes.

What role can schools play?

Schools are a vital partner in the work of school-based health care programs! They typically provide physical space for the program, and they implement policies that facilitate students’ use of the program. They may collaborate with the health provider to conduct outreach to students and families. School staff can make referrals to the school-based health care program. Importantly, school-based health care program staff work in partnership with, rather than replace, school staff, including school nurses, school counselors, and social workers.
Our services
Using proprietary school-based health care tools and resources and based on best practices from the field, we work with teams at all stages of school-based health care program development—from clients engaging in initial conversations to identify health sponsor(s), to schools who are beginning to offer some primary care or behavioral health services in partnership with community-based health providers, to communities with fully-operational SBHCs who need support in creating improvement plans.

START-UP & CAPACITY BUILDING
For groups interested in starting school-based health care programs, we offer consulting on selecting a health partner whose services are conducive to sustainable school-based health care, advisory groups, readiness assessment, business planning, sustainability, and planning grants. We also offer capacity building through individualized coaching calls and trainings.

IMPROVEMENT ASSESSMENT AND COACHING
For existing school-based health care programs, we offer personalized and continued support for improving partnerships, sound business practices, and high-quality practice.

TRAINING
We offer trainings on a variety of topics, including SBHC 101, core competencies for school-based health centers, partnerships, marketing, quality improvement, sustainability, social determinants of health, and adolescent-friendly health care.

YOUTH DEVELOPMENT TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE
We offer technical assistance to support integrating the youth development approach into school-based health care programs and other child and adolescent health-focused programs. We help organizations create meaningful partnerships with youth throughout their programming, such as developing youth advisory councils and youth programs at conferences.

Ready to start working with us?
CONTACT US AT INFO@SBH4ALL.ORG to discuss individualized consulting options. Our team will respond to your email with a few questions to learn more about your goals and set up a call to discuss your needs and budget.

“Working with the School-Based Health Alliance was wonderful! They were responsive to the need for education in our state and fostered action among multiple school districts. We now have tools to help schools plan, implement, and sustain their efforts!”

– Andrea Shipley, Senior Project Coordinator, Wyoming Telehealth Network

To learn more about SBHA and School-Based Health Centers, visit our website: www.sbh4all.org
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