Advocacy to Action: Learnings from Ohio’s Journey to SBHC Funding and Expansion

Tuesday, June 27, 2023
10:30am to 11:45am

Objectives

1. Understand the types and sectors of stakeholders that need to be engaged in successful school-based health center advocacy efforts
2. Be aware of the environmental and political factors that can impede or support SBHC collective action and policy change
3. Identify how data and stories can be used to drive conversations and accelerate support for SBHC funding and policy change

Financial Disclosures

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Ohio School-Based Health Alliance “Ohio Alliance”

Serves as the only statewide organization created to advance and support the sustainability and expansion of school-based health care
• Founded in 2002 as the Ohio School Based Health Care Association
• Relaunched statewide in 2021 as the Ohio School-Based Health Alliance
• State affiliate of the national School-Based Health Alliance
**Vision**

Build a future in which **every student**, family, and community has the **equitable health services, supports and systems** they need to achieve optimal health and education outcomes

**Mission**

Improve access to **comprehensive, integrated health services through school-based health care to advance equity and improve health and education outcomes for students, their families, and communities**

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**Ohio Alliance Areas of Focus**

- Facilitate regional and statewide school-based health care learning networks and communities of practice
- Provide guidance, key resources and technical assistance to start, support and sustain school-based health care partnerships
- Develop a comprehensive assessment and inventory of school-based health centers and other school-based health care partnerships
- Educate and advocate for a strengthened school-based health care infrastructure

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**Ohio’s Journey to SBHC Funding and Expansion**

**PAST**

- Small-scale seed projects and pilots in the early 1990s
- Investment and support primarily cultivated at the local level
- Informal network of SBHCs

**PRESENT**

- ~150 SBHCs across Ohio
- ~$28 million in state allocated funding in Spring of 2022 to support SBHC expansion
- Relaunch, full staffing of state affiliate
- Strong SBHC partners and supporters

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Healthy students learn better and are better equipped and supported to reach their full potential.
Panelists

- Tabitha Jones-McKnight, DO, MPH, FACOP, FAAP, Assistant Medical Director, Ohio Department of Health
- Mary Kay Irwin, Ed.D., Senior Director of School Health Services, Nationwide Children’s Hospital
- Scarlett Bouder, President & Co-Founder, Advocacy & Communications Solutions
**Why are SBHCs important?**

- They are an effective model in improving student access to healthcare and closing the gap experienced by those who are in disparate populations.
- They deliver essential preventive and primary care services in the school setting and eliminate many barriers to obtaining care.
- Contribute to children’s health by providing access to primary and preventive healthcare services.
- Traditionally SBHC’s are located in areas where children and youth are at the highest risk of experiencing poor health and academic outcomes.

**What has Ohio done in the past?**

SBHC have been operating in Ohio for approximately 30 years.

- In 1993, Maternal and Child Health (MCH) block grant funding was used to pilot six SBHC sites.
- Since that time, there has been no state funding allocated for SBHC until recently.

As of March 2021, Ohio had more than 85 traditional SBHCs and more than a dozen additional mobile units.

**Ohio Department of Education**

- The Whole Child Framework was adopted in 2020.
- ODE hired a School-Based Health Consultant in 2018.
- ODE partnered with Nationwide Children’s Hospital to support a learning collaborative on school-based health centers.
  - Resulted in a tool-kit for schools.

**Ohio’s SBHC Program**
Ohio’s SBHC Initial Funding

- Funded by CDC’s workforce grant and ODE Geer fund.
- $18.7 million from CDC workforce for operational costs and $9 million from ODE GEERS for capital costs.

Our Three Goals for the Project

1. Develop new service sites in schools.
2. Expand services in existing sites.
3. Increase capacity of providers to offer appropriate quality care, increase organizational efficiencies and develop a consistent revenue source to ensure sustainability beyond the life of this funding.

Which Healthcare Partners Were Eligible?

- They had to be operating a SBHC and have 1 - 3 years of experience.
- Funds were to be used to expand or create new sites from the list of school districts.
- The requests for construction costs could not total more than $500,000 per SBHC site.

Who Did We Fund?

- 14 SBHC healthcare partners.
- Two contracts:
  - Ohio School-Based Health Alliance.
  - Nationwide Children’s Hospital.
Our Impact

- Provide services to 18 counties and 29 school districts, including seven rural districts.
- Offer a variety of services including but not limited to Well Child Checks, Immunizations, Behavioral Healthcare, and Vision Care.

Strong Partnerships

- Partnerships created by the healthcare provider and the school community result in safe and healthy environments that support the whole child and ensures that each child is provided the opportunity to realize their full potential.
- ODE and ODH have had a strong partnership from the beginning of the program.
- The most successful SBHC are the ones with strong healthcare and school district partnerships.

ODH and ODE SBHC Partnership

ODH and ODE SBHC Partnership

Resources

What we know: Many Ohio students do not have access to comprehensive, timely healthcare services

- 1 in 5 school-age children (21.6%), ages 5-17, did not have a place to go or consult when they were sick.
- 49% of school-age children, ages 5-17, reported they had a medical home to provide a usual source of coordinated, family-centered health care.
- 55% of school-age children reported receiving their well-child visits.

Source: National Survey on Children's Health

Connect with the Ohio Alliance

Sign up for news and updates: http://eepurl.com/b-071F

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Source: Ohio Department of Health
In support of improving patient care, this activity has been planned and implemented by the School-Based Health Alliance and Moses/Weitzman Health System, Inc. and its Weitzman Institute and is jointly accredited by the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (ACCME), the Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education (ACPE), and the American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC), to provide continuing education for the healthcare team.

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- American Dental Association’s Continuing Education Recognition Program (ADA CERP)
- American Psychological Association (APA)
- Association of Social Work Boards (ASWB)
- Commission on Dietetic Registration (CDR)