



Session H2

From Roadblocks to Runways: Analyzing Policies Impacting School-Based Mobile Health Care Programs

**School-Based Health Care
Conference**

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Today's Presenters



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Objectives

Attendees will:

Critically evaluate and differentiate local, state, and federal policies that shape the school-based mobile health care landscape, including:

- Identifying both supportive and restrictive measures
- Analyzing their implications for access, sustainability, and innovation

Background

How did we get here?

Background

What is School-Based Health Care?

A powerful tool for achieving health equity among children and adolescents who experience disparities in health and well-being outcomes

- Organized through school, community, and health provider relationships and administered by a healthcare agency

School-based health centers (SBHCs) are one facet of school-based health care

- Federally defined as health clinics located in or near a school facility that provide comprehensive primary health services

Background

What is *Mobile* Health Care?

A model of delivering care directly to patients who face significant barriers to accessing traditional healthcare

Operate in both rural and urban settings

Designed to reach underserved populations, to reduce health disparities, and improve equity by meeting patients where they are

Background

What is School-Based *Mobile* Health Care?

Maximizes the impact of both models

- Access to a concentrated, consistent student population of school-based health care
- Flexibility of mobile healthcare position SBMHC programs

School-based mobile health care programs represent a dynamic response to structural inequities by bringing services directly to school campuses

Partnership with the Leon Lowenstein Foundation

Prior work with the Leon Lowenstein Foundation



Site-level Approaches for Sustainable School-Based Mobile Health Care Programs

Through surveys, interviews, and focus groups with program leaders, SBHA identified:

- SBMHC as a promising approach to expanding equitable access to care
- Common challenges, such as vehicle maintenance costs, staffing shortages, language barriers, and funding instability
 - Practical solutions like cross-trained staff, referral networks, community health workers, and local champions
- A critical gap in understanding how policy environments shape the sustainability and expansion of these programs.

Current work with the Leon Lowenstein Foundation



Policy-level Supports for Mobile School-Based Health Care Programs

- Identify policy opportunities that improve the sustainability, visibility, and integration of SBMHC programs within the broader health care system
- Strengthen the capacity of key leaders and organizations to scale and sustain effective SBMHC models, particularly in underserved communities
- Share actionable strategies and replicable models to support the expansion of SBMHC programs nationwide

What Did We Do?

What We Did

We conducted:

Seven Key Informant Interviews

- Explored reimbursement structures, startup barriers, consent and liability concerns, workforce challenges, data infrastructure, and policy variation

Three Subject Matter Expert Convenings

- Connected leaders in conversation to expand their networks and collaboration

Three Coffee Chats with the field

- Provided space to network, build community, and share experiences and insight into school-based mobile health care programs

Key Informant Interviews

What

Seven key informant interviews (KIs) with:

- National leaders in mobile health care
- State officials currently implementing or interested in implementing school-based mobile health care programs
- Nonprofit leaders in health care and education
- Operators of school-based mobile health care programs

Explored reimbursement structures, startup barriers, consent and liability concerns, workforce challenges, data infrastructure, and policy variation

Who

Mission Mobile Medical

Mobile Healthcare Association

Children's Health Fund

Oregon Health Authority

New York Department of Health (NYDOH)

Truth Initiative

A Physician Representative of Wayne State University

Subject Matter Experts

What

Three subject matter expert (SME) convenings brought leaders into dialogue to share experiences, challenges, and potential solutions regarding policy solutions to supporting SBMHC

Who

Mission Mobile Medical

Mobile Healthcare Association

Health Leads

School Superintendents Association

National Association of Elementary School Principals

National Association of Rural Health Clinics

Partners for Rural Impact

Oregon Health Authority

Wisconsin Department of Health

FamilyCare (WV)

Beaufort Jasper Hampton Comprehensive Health (SC)

Coffee Chats

What

Three Coffee Chats provided space for attendees to network, build community, and share experiences and insight into school-based mobile health care programs, including local policy, planning, billing, trust-building strategies, and challenges

Who

National organizations

State-level health and education agencies

Health Care

- Hospital systems
- Local health departments
- Federally-Qualified Health Centers

School Districts

Findings

Policy Landscape: Recognition, Fragmentation, and Opportunity

Policy Landscape

Federal Context

- **Recognition – Mobile Health Care Act**
- **Fragmentation – Recognition ≠ Dedicated Appropriations**
- **Opportunity – Implement Funding Dedicated to SBMHCs**
 - School-Based Service Expansion (SBSE) Funds
 - Dedicated Appropriations

Policy Landscape

State Policy Variation

- **State-by-State Variability is a Barrier to SBMHC Expansion and Sustainability**
 - Oversight – State Program Offices, Dept. Of Health, Dept. Of Education?
 - Lack of Dedicated State Funding and Guidance
 - Regulations
- **State Successes and Opportunities**
 - Oregon's HB 2591
 - Rural Health Transformation Funds

"The patchwork of state investments treats school-based health centers and mobile health clinics as separate strategies, without explicitly recognizing that school-based mobile health care can be supported through both."

Policy Landscape

Operating Within a Fragmented Policy Context

- **Lack of a Standardized Funding Pathway Creates the Need for Multiple Revenue Streams**
 - Medicaid Reimbursement
 - Managed Care Incentives
 - State Funding
 - Philanthropic Support
- **Sustainability Requires Intentionality and Systems Thinking**
- **Significant Startup Costs Remain a Barrier**

"SBMHC programs are not operating within systems designed to support mobile school-based delivery but instead are adapting to disjointed policy and financing environments."

Emerging Pathways

Current Pathways Emerging from Fragmented Policy Systems

State-supported Pathway

Mobile expansion grows out of existing SBHC infrastructure and policy support

Sponsor-led Pathway

Sponsoring organizations independently prioritize mobile delivery and navigate fragmented systems themselves



Policy Context & Primary Drivers

State-supported Pathway

Shaped by state policy, funding, and SBHC infrastructure, with closer alignment to existing SBHC frameworks

Mobile may be incorporated into broader state strategies

Sponsor-led Pathway

Initiated independently by sponsoring organizations, with limited or no dedicated policy pathway

Operates across multiple, often unaligned systems

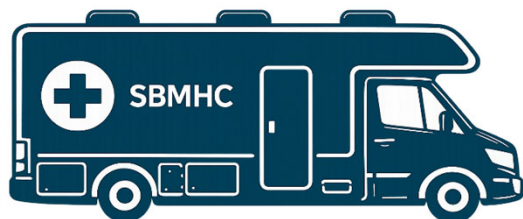


Governance, Structure, & State Role

State-supported Pathway

Structured through state agencies, SBHC programs, or cross-agency initiatives (e.g., health, education)

May include guidance, coordination, or technical assistance, with implementation varying locally



Sponsor-led Pathway

Governed at the organizational level (often FQHCs, but not exclusively), with limited state-level coordination

Requires independent navigation of Medicaid, education, and regulatory systems

Financing & Startup Conditions

State-supported Pathway

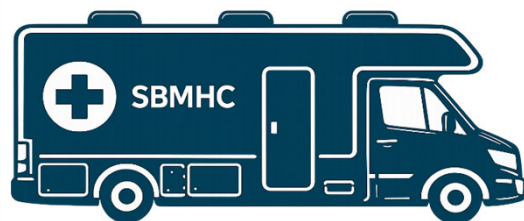
May include state appropriations, SBHC funding streams, and Medicaid reimbursement, often supplemented by other sources

In some states may include planning grants, pilot funding, or technical assistance, though not consistently available

Sponsor-led Pathway

Typically relies on blended funding approaches, including Medicaid, grants, philanthropy, and partnerships

Startup is driven by organizational capacity, with challenges in securing upfront capital and navigating requirements



Performance, Reporting, & Technical Assistance

State-supported Pathway

May include state-defined reporting requirements, quality metrics, and access to technical assistance through SBHC programs or state agencies, supporting alignment with broader state priorities

Sponsor-led Pathway

Reporting and technical assistance vary by sponsor and funding source and are not typically coordinated through a single statewide framework



Implementation & Scalability

State-supported Pathway

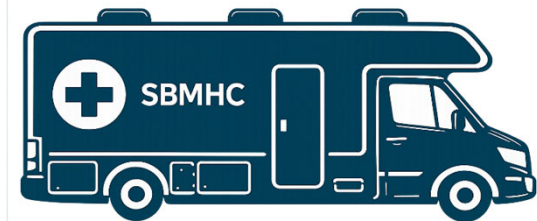
More structured within state frameworks, though implementation varies by locality and capacity

Offers potential for coordinated expansion where sustained policy and funding exist but is often limited by time-bound or pilot funding

Sponsor-led Pathway

Highly variable depending on sponsor resources, partnerships, and local context

Expansion depends on organizational capacity and ability to navigate policy and financing barriers



Key Challenges Identified by Participants

State-supported Pathway

Limited long-term integration of mobile models into sustained funding and policy structures

Sponsor-led Pathway

Navigating siloed policy, funding, and regulatory environments without dedicated support



Federal Policy Alignment

FQHCs Bridging Mobile and School-Based Health Care

- **Overlap of federal designation, funding eligibility, and reimbursement structure places FQHCs at a unique intersection of mobile and school-based health policy:**
 - *Mobile Health Care Act of 2021* (P.L. 117-204)
 - Bureau of Primary Health Care (BPHC) School-Based Service Sites (SBSS) funding
 - Medicaid Prospective Payment System (PPS)
- **The position of FQHCs presents an opportunity to be leaders and early adopters in the school-based mobile health care field, leveraging federal policy and funding structures to reduce implementation challenges that have not yet extended to other sponsoring organizations.**



Leveraging Existing Systems to Support School-Based Mobile Health Care



Embed SBMHC within SBHC systems



Align systems across sectors



Strengthen funding pathways



Support implementation through practical infrastructure



Policy Opportunities

Policy Opportunities

Federal Opportunities



Increase visibility of SBMHC including in federal funding, guidance, and technical assistance to support integration within school-based health care systems



Ensure SBHC data are identifiable within federal reporting and differentiate delivery models, including mobile



Coordinate mobile health policy with existing SBHC mechanisms to support integrated delivery models



Align federal recognition of mobile health care with dedicated appropriations that support implementation in school-based settings allowing SBMHC programs to benefit from braided funding.

Policy Opportunities

State Opportunities



Integrate mobile delivery into SBHC state program office frameworks by including mobile as a delivery option alongside other models



Align policy guidance across Medicaid, education, public health, and licensing agencies to reflect the multi-system nature of SBMHC programs and reduce fragmentation



Clarify and standardize Medicaid reimbursement pathways for SBMHC service delivery, including billing, credentialing, and site designation

Policy Opportunities

Local and Sponsoring Organization Opportunities



Align implementation with existing SBHC systems by leveraging established partnerships, workflows, and administrative structures and building on existing clinical, billing, and reporting systems



Develop financing strategies that address both startup capital needs and long-term operational sustainability within existing policy constraints



Provide supports to reduce operational barriers, such as designated no-fee parking, access to on-site electrical hookups, and shared maintenance or storage services

Conclusion

Call to Action

- **Policymakers**
 - Integrate Mobile Delivery into Established School-Based Health Systems
 - Provide Guidance and Frameworks that Bolster Sustainability
 - Eliminate Regulatory Barriers to Startup and Sustainability
- **Advocates**
 - Formation of an SBMHC Advocacy Coalition

Learn more about School-Based Mobile Health Care:

[SBHA's School-Based Mobile Health Care Toolkit](#)



[SBHA's Policy and Sustainability Landscape Analysis](#)



ON THE MOVE:

ADVANCING POLICY, FINANCING, AND INFRASTRUCTURE FOR SUSTAINABLE SCHOOL-BASED MOBILE HEALTH CARE PROGRAMS

A Policy and Sustainability Landscape Analysis

Thanks to the Leon Lowenstein Foundation for making this work possible!



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