

The mission of the Citizens for School Based Health Care Coalition is to facilitate a process by which community members and stakeholders can define their health care needs, identify ways school based health care can meet those needs and to incorporate school based health care as a model for increasing health outcomes among students in the Anchorage School District.

The Citizens for School Based Health Care Coalition (CSBHCC) formed around the common interest of exploring and implementing options for community initiated and supported school based health services at Clark Middle School. School based health services have the potential to provide the following community benefits:

- ◆ A national multi-site study of school based health centers conducted by Mathematica Policy Research found a **significant increase in health care access by students who used school-based health centers**. (1)
- ◆ Adolescents who received counseling services in a school-based health center significantly **decreased their absenteeism and tardiness**, while those not receiving counseling slightly increased their absence and tardiness rates. (2)
- ◆ A study by Johns Hopkins University found that school based health centers **reduced inappropriate emergency room use** among regular users of school-based health centers. (3)

Who are the members of the CSBHCC?

A diverse group of stakeholders, including local elected officials, Anchorage School District policy and health curriculum staff, public health officials, members of the All Alaska Pediatric Partnership and health care advocates, has begun to seek funding and begin planning for engagement of the Clark Middle School community to determine options for school based health services.

Next Steps:

- ◆ Develop plan for community engagement and schedule community meetings
- ◆ Identify funding sources and initiate partnerships with local health care providers

How You Can Help:

- ◆ Contact the CSBHCC at contact email address or contact phone number
- ◆ Attend a community meeting and help identify health care needs

1. Kisker EE, Brown RS, Do SBHCs improve adolescents' access to health care, health status, and risk-taking behavior? *J Adol Health* 1996;18:335-343.
2. Gall G, Pagano ME, Desmond MS, Perrin JM, Murphy JM. Utility of psychosocial screening at a SBHC. *J Sch Health*. 2000;70:292-298.
3. Key JD, Washington EC, Hulse TC, Reduced emergency department utilization associated with SBHC enrollment. *J Adol Health* 2002; 30:273-278.
