

## **TALKING POINTS FOR CLARK SCHOOL BASED HEALTH CENTER**

School Based Health Centers help keep students healthy and in class so they can learn what they need to know to succeed in life

- Response to expressed parent needs, to community needs
- Makes life easier for parents and students
- Supports families and students' learning
- Makes it easier to meet student school health requirements for sports physicals, immunizations. Parents don't have to take time off work to transport students to another clinic or provider to meet these requirements. Students don't miss school for falling behind on immunizations, and don't miss out on participating in school sports for lack of a physical.
- Makes it easier to meet other health needs of student. For example, strep throat could be diagnosed, medication prescribed without both parent and student taking extra time to visit another clinic, and extra spending from the family's budget for the visit.
- School based health care is more convenient for the parent and student. For example, health care will likely be received earlier in an illness, possibly reducing the time the student may have to be absent from school to get well.
- Supports family work ethic by providing services where the student 'works' so adults can stay at their work during the day.

This is a community solution that partners ASD with medical/health organizations without affecting property taxes

### **FAQs**

#### **HOW DID THE CLARK MIDDLE SCHOOL HEALTH CENTER COME ABOUT?**

- The planning, community meetings held in 2006 and 2007 for the new Clark building identified a student health center as part of the vision for the new school building.
- Starting in 2008, Municipality of Anchorage and Anchorage School District staff, along with health care providers, health care advocates, elected officials, and other community organizations worked together to determine how to offer services in the health center

space being constructed. Additionally, ASD sent staff to meet with Juneau school personnel to learn about their nearly 15 year successful teen health center and to the National Assembly for School based Health Care annual meetings; MOA staff also went to Juneau.

- This coalition prepared a proposal in consultation with Clark Middle School and a business plan. ASD Board approved a pilot project in October 2009 to begin during the semester starting in January 2010.

#### WHAT ABOUT OTHER SCHOOLS?

- West-Romig renewal planning has embraced “school as center of community” concept. Accessible health services for students and community has been part of these discussions. This campus re-development master plan should be completed in 2010.
- As success is documented at Clark, other interested schools would have to demonstrate community support and initiate discussions with community health care providers through the ASD Nursing and Health Services Department.

#### WILL THIS PILOT PROJECT BE EVALUATED?

- Yes, UAA (Gabriel Garcia, PhD, is lead) is assisting with the evaluation process. Data are already being gathered to provide an evaluation at the end of the pilot project in 2011.

#### DOES THIS HEALTH CENTER FIT INTO OTHER SCHOOL SERVICES AND ACTIVITIES?

- At Clark Middle School, this health center is part of the integrated 21<sup>st</sup> Century learning model. Enrichment academies, including health, introduce students to career and practical opportunities as well as elevating academic skills.

#### WILL THIS/THESE HEALTH CENTERS RAISE MY TAXES?

- Initially, Clark Middle health center will operate with memorandum agreements from medical/health providers who will provide services and with some start up grant funding from philanthropic organizations, and then move into a model that collects from health insurance and seeks federal grant funding. There is no plan to use municipal tax dollars for these services.

#### DOES MY STUDENT HAVE TO PAY FOR THESE SERVICES?

- No, services will be available at no cost to students. Even if the health center begins later to bill public and private insurance, there will be no cost to the student, nor will students be required to have insurance to receive services.

## WHAT IF I WANT MY STUDENT TO VISIT THIS HEALTH CENTER?

- Parental consent is required for a student to use the services at a school based health center. Parents can decide whether they want their child to receive school required immunizations, sports physicals, diagnosis and treatment of minor illness and injury, or any combination of the three services.
- Parent consent forms will be part of the school registration package at schools with health centers.
- Parents will not need to make appointments for their student to receive services. Students will receive services as needed (for example, when they become sick during the school day) as long as parent consent for those services is already on file.

## WHO PAYS FOR THESE SERVICES THEN?

- During the pilot project at Clark, services will first be provided by medical/health organizations and volunteers in partnership with ASD. The business plan calls for phasing in billing health insurance and seeking foundation, civic philanthropy and federal grants to sustain these services.

## WHAT SERVICES WILL BE AVAILABLE?

- Initially, sports physicals will be offered; immunizations and diagnosis and treatment of minor illness and injury will follow in the fall of 2010. Any additional services will have to be approved by the Anchorage School Board.

## WILL MY STUDENT'S MEDICAL RECORDS BE KEPT PRIVATE?

- Yes, the records system will be managed by MOA/Department of Health & Human Services that already manages health records for residents who use their services. Each student's record will not be part of his/her school record keeping system.

## CAN MY STUDENT'S SIBLINGS USE A SCHOOL HEALTH CENTER?

- No. A school health center is only for students enrolled at that particular school.

## CAN HEALTH CENTER STAFF WRITE PRESCRIPTIONS FOR MEDICATIONS THAT MY CHILD NEEDS ON AN ONGOING BASIS?

- No. The school based health center will only write prescriptions for conditions treated in the school health center. If your child is being treated by another health care provider for a chronic health problem like asthma, you will still need to see that health care provider for a prescription to treat that condition.

## WHAT WILL THE HEALTH CENTER DO TO ASSIST FAMILIES WHO SPEAK LANGUAGES OTHER THAN ENGLISH?

- Key documents will be translated into the non-English languages most commonly spoken by Clark families. Interpretation services (via phone) will be available during health center visits.

## HOW DO THE SCHOOL NURSE WORK WITH THIS CENTER?

- The school nurse will act as ‘gatekeeper’ to determine when students should be referred to the health center (for example, the student has a condition that can be treated in the health center and has a signed parent consent for that service on file). Any staff person can suggest a child see the school nurse for possible referral to the health center.

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