

NM School Health in the Time of COVID-19

School-Based Health Centers: An Update

November 4, 2020

Nancy Rodriguez, Executive Director

Our discussion today

- I. NMASBHC: Who We Are
- II. SBHCs: What They Are
- III. SBHCs: NM History of Centers and Funding
- IV. SBHCs: Spring/Summer 2020 Response to Pandemic
- V. SBHCs: Fall 2020 Status and School Reentry
- VI. SBHCs: Recommendations
- VII. Questions & Follow Up

Who We Are

Our Vision

New Mexico Students are healthy and ready to learn.

Our Mission

Represent school-based health centers (SBHCs) in New Mexico and collaborate with other partners to promote, facilitate and advocate for comprehensive, integrated, and culturally competent health care, including health education, in schools.

NMASBHC: Who We Are

Our Organization's Services:

- NMASBHC provides training and technical assistance to SBHCs, their sponsors, and related field partners.
- NMASBHC creates and disseminates SBHC tools and resources.
- NMASBHC supports and leads policy development and revision related to the school health field.
- NMASBHC provides legislative education and does local, state and federal advocacy in support of the school-based health care field.

The National Picture:

- NMASBHC is an affiliate of SBHA; 48 states have SBHCs and 34 have Alliances

SBHCs: What They Are

SBHCs: “The Model”

- Provide care in schools: a uniquely convenient and helpful access point
- Provide integrated primary and behavioral healthcare to children/youth
- Provide special expertise and resources to the school community
- Collaborate with school health partners, including nurses and social workers
- Improve health AND academic outcomes



SCHOOL NURSING

- Registered nurses who practice in schools and lead the delivery of student health services
- Serves the entire student population and school community
- 82% of schools report they have a school nurse¹
- Practices within the *Framework for 21st Century School Nursing Practice*^{TM 2}
 - ◆ Standards of Practice
 - ◆ Care Coordination
 - ◆ Leadership
 - ◆ Quality Improvement
 - ◆ Community/Public Health
- Funding Models:
 - ◆ Local school district
 - ◆ Local public health department
 - ◆ Children's hospital
 - ◆ 3rd party payer

SCHOOL-BASED HEALTH CENTERS

- Multidisciplinary healthcare teams located in schools or on school grounds
- Serve enrolled students and families
- 4.6% of schools have a school-based health center⁴
- Provide primary care including the following:
 - ◆ Laboratory services
 - ◆ Medical diagnosis and treatment
 - ◆ Medication prescriptions
 - ◆ Oral health care (optional)
 - ◆ Mental health care (optional)
- Funding Models:
 - ◆ Foundations
 - ◆ Healthcare systems
 - ◆ 3rd party payer

School nursing and school-based health centers complement care provided at school. One does not replace the other.

Collaboration between school nurses and school-based health centers enhances students' health, overall well-being, and academic success.

¹U.S. Department of Health and Human Services & Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (2015). *School policies and practices study*. Retrieved from http://www.cdc.gov/healthyyouth/data/shpps/pdf/shpps-508-final_101315.pdf

²National Association of School Nurses. (2016). *Framework for 21st century school nursing practice*. NASN School Nurse, 31(1), 45-53. Also available at <https://www.nasn.org/portals/0/resources/21stCenturySchoolNurseFramework2015.pdf>

SBHCs: What They Are

The Operating and Funding Structures

- In NM (though not in all states), schools DO NOT operate SBHCs. Instead, medical and community agencies operate SBHCs in partnership with schools.
- SBHCs are federally authorized, but HRSA only provides capital cost grants.
- The majority of SBHCs bill Medicaid and private insurers; however, not all of their services are billable, including health education and providing confidential services to the privately insured.
- NMDOH provides multi-year contracts to SBHC sponsors via an RFP process; these monies come from the General Fund. Contracts cover only 1/3 to 1/2 of operating costs. About 70% of NM SBHCs are receiving this funding.
- DOH-contracted SBHCs provide care to students regardless of ability to pay.
- HSD/DOH receive a federal Medicaid match that is part of what is available for contracts to SBHCs.
- SBHCs do not bill for MSBS services; these are separate and different services.

SBHCs: NM History and Current Status

Number of Clinics

- 1978 – First NM SBHC opens and numbers begin steadily increasing
- 2004 – Governor & Legislature double SBHCs from 34 to 68, with all receiving DOH funding
- 2012 – Due to recession-era funding cuts only 52 of 70 NM SBHCs receive DOH funding
- 2015 – 5 SBHCs funded by NMDOH have contracts cut
- 2017 – 2018 – DOH funds 48 SBHCs
- 2019 – SBHC expanded funding via PED, moved to DOH and 54 SBHCs are contracted.
- 2020- Legislature increases funding to DOH for SBHCs by \$2M; DOH learns that DFA changed 2019 increase to non-recurring requiring 2020 funding to offset loss; budget remains flat through special session.

NM History and Current Status

New Mexico School-Based Health Centers

79 SBHCs in New Mexico

54 SBHCs funded by NMDOH OSAH



School-based health centers provide quality, integrated, youth-friendly and culturally responsive health care services to keep children and adolescents healthy, in school and ready to learn.

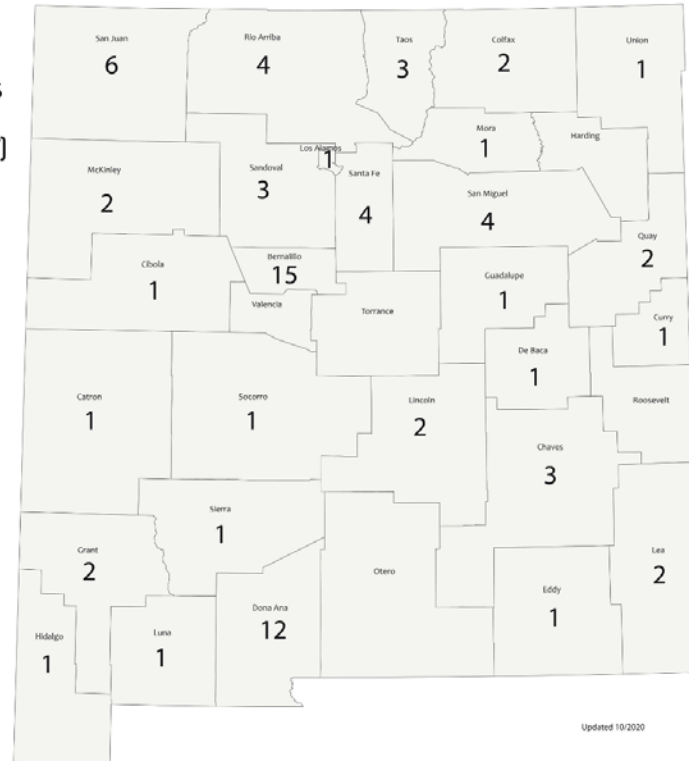
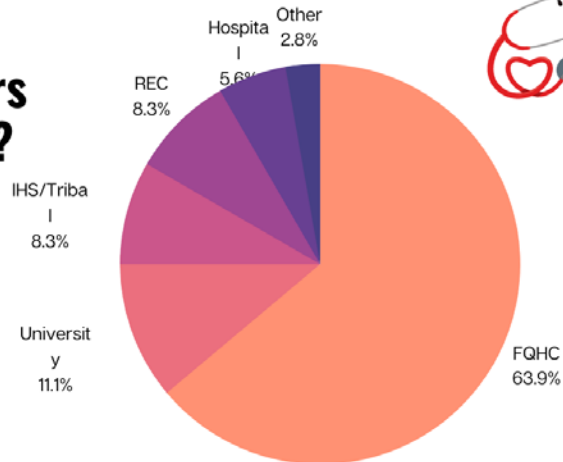
Where are SBHCs located?

- 48 high schools
- 11 middle schools
- 4 elementary schools
- 16 combined grade campuses

What Services are Provided?

- Acute care for minor illnesses & injuries
- Behavioral health care
- Comprehensive wellness exams (EPSDT)
- Immunizations
- Prevention, diagnosis, treatment & management of chronic diseases
- Reproductive health care

Who Sponsors SBHCs?

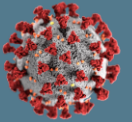


Updated 10/2020

Pivot Required by School Closures in Spring:

SBHC RESPONSE SPRING/SUMMER 2020

Many SBHCs were forced to close in March 2020 due to COVID-19, but that did not stop them



JULY 19–MAR 15, 20 TELEHEALTH VISITS

July 2019 - March 15, 2020,
56 telehealth visits were billed by SBHCs



*Preliminary data, not finalized yet

56*

1,924* MARCH 16, 20 – JUNE 20 TELEHEALTH VISITS



*Preliminary data, not finalized yet

March 16, 2020 - June 2020, NM SBHCs logged
1,924 telehealth visits

PRIORITIZATION

SBHCs focused on outreach to existing patients. They prioritized students at their sponsoring community clinics with same providers when possible and with no co-pay.



CONNECTIONS

SBHCs provided continuous care - ie, prescriptions, counseling, chronic conditions. They collaborated with schools for additional marketing of telehealth services for families.

WE ARE A COMMUNITY

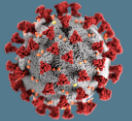
For more information about NM SBHCs, go to www.nmasbhc.org

Pivot Required in Summer:

SBHC RESPONSE

SPRING/SUMMER 2020

Many SBHCs were forced to close in March 2020 due to COVID-19, but that did not stop them



8-10 COVID-19 TESTING

8-10 SBHCs partnered with schools to provide on-site COVID-19 testing.



RE-ENTRY PLANNING

NMASBHC worked with sister organizations in other states to develop a Re-Entry Guide for SBHCs at the end of July.

Some SBHCs worked with school nurses and administration to detail logistics of rapid response planning



FT. SUMNER SBHC STAYS CONNECTED



"In order to make contact with our school population, the SBHC team rode the school bus routes several times during April and May and dispersed nearly 200 oral care health packages as well as patient information regarding proper hand washing techniques, COVID-19, remaining mentally and physically healthy, etc..."

WE ARE A COMMUNITY

For more information about NM SBHCs, go to www.nmasbhc.org

SBHCs: Fall 2020 Status and School Reentry

Pivot Required in Fall:

- Eight – ten SBHC operators CONTINUE to offer COVID-19 testing on-site.
- At a handful of schools, SBHC teams are supporting school staff surveillance testing in collaboration with DOH – where there is not a nearby public health clinic.
- About half of SBHCs are open on campus, at least part-time, with the rest of their time available for telehealth. The other half are offering a combination of telehealth and referrals to the operator’s community clinic.
- Many SBHCs are working with school administrations to address needs for special immunization and flu shot efforts.
- SBHCs are especially focused on behavioral health and reproductive health for adolescent patients, due to concerns about increasing trauma, suicide risk and “COVID pregnancy” risks.

NMASBHC School Health Recommendations

- Preserve or expand SBHC funding for hours of services
- Expand funding to stabilize the DOH staffing of an SBHC program (e.g. only 1 staff person in DOH dedicated to SBHCs vs. similar states with 3-7 staff).
- Maintain telehealth funding parity beyond public health emergency, including (and importantly) telephonic care.
- Support utilization of PED-funded and LEA-funded computers for telehealth purposes.
- Support and fund mandate of one school nurse per district with long-term goal of a nurse in every school.
- Maintain Medicaid provider rates to preserve healthcare access and provider network.

Questions & Feedback

NMASBHC wants to hear from legislators about how we can help improve health and educational outcomes for New Mexicans:

What questions do you have for us?

What feedback do you have for us?

Wrapping Up

Staying in Touch

Tools: www.nmasbhc.org or email NMASBHC

Information: Nancy Rodriguez, nancy@nmasbhc.org
(505) 404-8059

THANK YOU FOR INVITING US TO BE HERE