

Need Assessment, Results-Based Accountability, & Evaluation

While we anecdotally know that there is a need for increased rates of utilization of services at School Based Health Centers (SBHC's) in the state, a needs assessment is necessary to identify expansion of services that are data-driven. Such a needs assessment will be conducted specifically to identify new SBHC sites and improvement of service hours for existing sites. Needs assessment factors include the following: YRRS data specific to the school district, demographics of the target population, health insurance status, access to medical and behavioral health sponsorship, support of the school district's administration, families and students, involvement and support from school nurses and counseling staff.

Results Based Accountability is a methodology that determines if a program is meeting its stated mission. NM SBHCs have identified key indicators for optimal health and well being for NM children and youth. The key indicators are the following: regular comprehensive well-child exams (EPSDT), children's health insurance status, healthy weight, behavioral health screening (risk of suicide, alcohol use by age 13 and history of being bullied), school success measured with graduating on time, and resiliency factors such as having a caring adult who listens and an engaged family.

Evaluation of a SBHC is an on-going process which includes the following: assessment of the business plan, cost/benefit ratio, number of students, school and community members served, the type and frequency of evaluations of job performance, on-going continuing education for SBHC providers and staff, maintenance of professional licensure, permits and required inspections.

Conduct and Study Readiness Assessment

Although there may be data-demonstrated need for a SBHC in a community, effective delivery of services happens when a community is ready for the center. A readiness assessment is a comprehensive evaluation to assess how the SBHC is progressing to expand their operations or open a new SBHC. Intensive support and coaching of the SBHCs is a joint and complementary process involving the Office of School and Adolescent Health, the NM Medicaid Assistance Department, and several key partners such as the NM Alliance for SBHCs, Envision NM, UNM Department of Pediatrics, and Apex Education. The OSAH Standards and Benchmarks document is utilized to inform, define, and document the assessment and establishment of all required policies, practices and tools.

Identify and Open New Clinics

Based off of the Needs and Readiness Assessments, a combination of variables will be considered in the identification of communities and enterprise zones in which to open new clinics. Criteria includes balancing urban/rural access, regional concentration of primary care and behavioral health providers, school grades (with a focus on schools with lower grades), socioeconomics of the community, local health facilities available to partner with OSAH, and primary and mental health needs of the children and youth determined through Department of Health Data such as The Youth Risk and Resiliency Survey. A total of twenty new SBHCs will be opened over the course of 5 years at a cost of \$100-150,000 each.

Maintain Sustainability of Existing School Based Health Centers

Additional funds are needed to provide intensive coaching on sustainability strategies, including management, for the existing 52 SBHCs.

Increase Hours at 5 Existing School Based Health Centers

Many existing SBHCs operate only part time as a result of lack of funding despite a need for more behavioral and primary care services. Each year, five existing SBHCs from enterprise zones will receive an extra \$50,000 to extend hours and services to three full days a week of both primary and behavioral health care. Careful consideration of capacity and need (using variables listed in template above) will be employed during this process.

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