

New Mexico Assembly on School-Based Health Care

NEW S

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MEET YOUR NEW OFFICERS

A new slate of officers was elected at the Annual Membership

meeting of the **NMASBHC** held on April 14, 2004. These individuals will take over the leadership on October 1, 2004 and guide the organization over the next two years.

Nissa Patterson, the new President, earned her masters in Maternal/Child Public Health and a certificate in International Health in 1999 from the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill. Since her graduation she has worked in New Mexico – initially as the manager of the Acoma-Canoncito-Laguna Teen Centers for two and a half years. She is now employed by the New Mexico Department of Health, Office of School Health, as the coordinator for the PASS (Positive Assistance for Student Success) dropout prevention program that provides case management services in five New Mexico schools. Nissa, a new member of the NMASBHC, is excited to serve as president of this growing and vibrant organization. She is looking forward to increasing the visibility and funding for SBHCs across New Mexico.

The President-elect, **Maria Duran**, received her Registered Nursing degree from Mt. St. Mary's College in Los Angeles. She is also an ASPO Certified Childbirth Educator. After moving to Albuquerque in 1980 she taught childbirth education. In 1989 she became the Nurse Manager of three Maternity and Infant Care Clinics at UNM, including the one at New Futures School. At New Futures School she became involved with high schools and delivering services to teens. In 1994 she became the Program Manager for the UNM School-Based Health Care Project where she now manages six SBHCs. Maria is a charter member of the NMASBHC. She has served as Chairman of the Advocacy Committee for the past four years and as Secretary for the past two years. Her visions for the NMASBHC in the coming year are to expand the membership and stabilize the infrastructure.

Connie Kane is the new Secretary for the NMASBHC. She is a diploma RN who interrupted her education when her daughter was diagnosed with cancer at age 23. Connie is a New Yorker who moved to New Mexico in 2000 to be closer to her daughter and son who both live in Colorado. Her nursing career, spanning 35 years, has been quite varied. She helped start several school-based health centers in NY under the auspices of the hospital where she worked so when she moved here it seemed appropriate to continue in that direction. She is now the SBHC Coordinator at Navajo Preparatory School, a BIA residential school in Farmington. In addition to her responsibilities at Navajo Preparatory School Connie also helps her husband in his fire mitigation business, regularly speaks to community groups to educate women about ovarian cancer, and serves as the chairperson of the San Juan County Maternal Child Health Council. Connie's goal for the NMASBHC during the next term is to assure a united effort in promoting SBHCs and establishing more SBHCs in New Mexico.

The Treasurer for the next term is **Suzanne Udall**, an LMSW, who currently provides Mental Health services at the Spartan Wellness Center at Bernalillo High School. Prior to joining the team at the Spartan Wellness Center a little over a year ago she worked as a Mental Health Counselor for a school-based health center in Pendleton, Oregon. That SBHC program was highlighted at a Robert Wood Johnson Making the Grade conference because of the program they were able to put together in a very rural community. Prior to leaving Oregon Suzanne was able to secure grant funding to continue the mental health services in addition to identifying and partnering with local mental health agencies to help provide the needed services on-site at both the middle school and high school in Pendleton. Since coming to the Spartan Wellness Center she has helped to develop community bridges – a collaborative of all local agencies in order to better coordinate services for the students.

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Susie John, a member of the Navajo Nation, is the new Northwest Representative. Dr. John is a pediatrician. She received her M.D. degree from the University of New Mexico and her MPH degree from the University of California – Berkeley. Dr. John is the Medical Officer for Teen Life Center and the Adolescent Health Outpatient Program at the Northern Navajo Medical Center (Shiprock IHS) in Shiprock, New Mexico. Prior to joining the Teen Life Center in 2003 she served as the CEO of the Tuba City (Arizona) Indian Medical Center for six years, was the Director of Community and Preventive Health at the Crownpoint Health Care Facility for six years, and was in a private pediatric practice at Lovelace Medical Center in Gallup. Through the NMASBHC, Dr. John would like to offer the experiences of the Teen Life Centers (established in 1987) to other communities and work to take school-based health centers to the next level in New Mexico.

The new Southwest Representative is **Teresa Munoz**. She received her BS degree in Nursing from Texas Women’s University, an MS in Nursing (Pediatrics) and a Primary Care Nurse Specialist certificate from the University of Arizona. Most of her 26 years of health care experience have been in pediatrics, either teaching nursing or practicing as a Family Nurse Practitioner. Since nursing school Teresa has loved taking care of children of all ages, especially premature infants. However, after working for eleven years in a school-based clinic she has come to love the emotional complexity of the adolescent and appreciates the need for school-based centers to meet the unique needs of the adolescent populations. Because of struggles to keep her SBHC in Silver City afloat, as a member of the Executive Committee of the NMASBHC one of Teresa’s goals is to find ways to keep and expand new school-based clinics in New Mexico.

Connie Creswell is the Southeast Representative to the NMASBHC. After graduating from nursing school in Washington State she specialized in emergency and critical care nursing. Connie came to New Mexico as a traveling nurse, met the man who would become her husband in Roswell, and stayed. She has been working towards a BA degree for several years, but says, “life is also happening along the way”. Connie became interested in school nursing after her children started school, and since her husband is a teacher the hours were great. She has been the coordinator for the SBHCs in the Roswell School District since 1998. A member of the NMASBHC since 2000, this is Connie’s first time in an elected position. She sees this as a learning opportunity and feels that if she can pass on what she learns it might help the SBHCs in her area.

The Central (Bernalillo County) Representative is **Deb Sickler-Hart**, a Nurse Practitioner with the Spartan Wellness Center at Bernalillo High School. She was profiled in the last issue of the newsletter.

The Northeast Representative position is currently vacant.

These officers comprise the Executive Committee of the NMASBHC. They have already begun work on

projects that should reap many benefits over the next few years. On August 28th the Executive Committee met for a full day work session. Another work session is scheduled for October 30th and conference calls are planned between the work sessions.



EXCITING NEW INITIATIVE

A new collaborative project focused on strengthening school-based health centers in New Mexico was launched in July of this year. **4 Youth: Reaching Native American Youth Through School-Based Health Centers** is a collaborative effort of NM Voices for Children, the NMASBHC, the Northwest NM Champions for School-Based Health Care, the Northern Navajo Medical Center, and the Acoma–Canoncito–Laguna Teen Centers. The purpose of this initiative, funded through a 5-year grant from the W. K. Kellogg Foundation, is to improve the quality of health care services to Native American communities in New Mexico and the health outcomes of those communities; and to strengthen school-based health centers serving Native American communities. The initiative is also designed to strengthen and expand the NMASBHC in order to support school-based health centers throughout the state.

There are three components of this grant project that will directly benefit the NMASBHC. First, part of the grant money will be used to hire an Executive Director the NMASBHC. While the grant will initially support the expenses of this position new sources of income will need to be developed to fund this position in the future. The Executive Committee has already begun the recruitment and interview process. It is anticipated that the Executive Director will be hired by mid-October.

Second, NM Voices for Children, the fiscal agent and administrator for the W. K. Kellogg grant, will provide on-going technical assistance to the NMASBHC. NM Voices is the only non-profit child advocacy agency in New Mexico and has a strong history of positively affecting policies that impact families and children. The staff of NM Voices will be mentoring the new Executive Director and the Executive Committee in non-profit organization management, policy and advocacy, fundraising, marketing and communications, fiscal policies, board development, and community organization. For the next year NM Voices will also provide office space and support for our Executive Director.

Finally, the NMASBHC will work with the grant project partners to strengthen the SBHC infrastructure for Native American communities and will simultaneously apply the lessons learned in the Native American communities to SBHC development across New Mexico.

The next year will be a busy time for the NMASBHC. The good news is that members of the NMASBHC will see increased services, including technical assistance and advocacy, as a result of our involvement with this grant project.



GOVERNOR WANTS MORE SBHCs IN NM

Over the past few weeks in Albuquerque and Santa Fe there has been a certain “buzz” about school-based health centers. On September 16th Governor Bill Richardson visited the school-based health center at Capitol High School in Santa Fe. The visit was arranged by the NM Human Services Department, School Health Office.

While at the school, Governor Richardson toured the school-based clinic and met with students and state officials to discuss ways the state can combat high rates of teen suicide, obesity, and pregnancy. Over an hour and a half of discussion with the participants highlighted the need for increased mental health services and other student-centered support services in schools. At the end of the press conference, Governor Richardson announced that he would like to double the number of SBHCs in New Mexico within the next year. He said that he would work with Pam Hyde, Secretary of Health and Human Services, to find the funding for this increase.

An op-ed piece in the Albuquerque Journal on September 19th supported Governor Richardson’s commitment to funding more SBHCs. The editorial stated, “In the same way that many forward-thinking businesses are emphasizing employee well-being with a variety of on-site health programs, school-based clinics make sense.”

Other exciting developments include an inter-agency council on school health that has been meeting since July. This council is comprised of representatives from the Governor’s office; the Department of Health; Health and Human Services; the Public Education Department; the Health Policy Commission; the Commission on Aging; Juvenile Justice; and the Children, Youth, and Families Department. One of the major discussion points for this group has been how to better support SBHCs in New Mexico.

There are two ways you can make a difference and keep the momentum of support for school-based health centers:

- Send a letter to Governor Richardson encouraging him to continue his support of school-based health centers. Address letters to:
Office of the Governor
State Capitol
Room 400
Santa Fe, NM 87501

[Send a copy of your letter to the NMASBHC]

- Contact your local state senators/representatives and invite them to tour your SBHC. According to the National Assembly on School-Based Health Care this is one of the most effective ways you can get your local policy makers behind the SBHC movement.

If you need assistance in planning a SBHC visit contact Nissa Patterson at the Office of School Health. She can be reached at (505) 841-4598 or by e-mail at npatters@doh.state.nm.us.



THANK YOU

As a new slate of officers takes over the running of the NMASBHC it is important to thank those who have helped to guide the organization over the past several years. **Lynette Summers** served as President-elect from 2001 – 2004. Because of increasing professional and educational commitments she felt that she could not provide the amount of time necessary to successfully fulfill the obligations of the president and stepped down in April 2004. **Celeste Franklin** has served as Treasurer since 2001. It has been her responsibility to take care of the finances of the organization. Her term of office ends September 30th. Many thanks for their commitment and the time they have spent on behalf of the NMASBHC. We look forward to their continued participation with the organization.



MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS

In early September Membership Renewal notices were sent to all current members of the **NMASBHC**. The new membership year will begin October 1st. Don’t wait – mail your membership renewal now!

Want to do even more? Encourage just one other person who has an interest in school-based health care to join the NMASBHC! Individual dues are still only \$10 per year.

Application forms may be obtained from Sue Gowing. She may be reached by phone at (505) 523-5171 or by e-mail at Pasue1946@aol.com.



GET INVOLVED!

The **NMASBHC** needs your help. It takes more than just paying your annual membership dues to make an organization grow. It also takes the willingness to commit your time and talents. Our participation in the W. K. Kellogg grant project 4 Youth: Reaching Native American Youth Through School-Based Health Centers will provide many opportunities for involvement and growth. Pledge some time and your talents to a committee; or even better, volunteer to chair a committee. The office of Northeast Representative is currently vacant. A member from the northeast region of the state is needed to fill this position. If you are willing to take on this responsibility contact Nissa Patterson, President. Consider taking an office in the organization or serving as one of the Regional Representatives when the next election comes around. Much more can be accomplished when many hands share the work.



*Every job is a self-portrait of the person who did it.
Autograph your work with excellence.*

Author unknown



SALUD! COMES TO YOUR SCHOOL

A Pilot Project to Improve Coordination Between SBHCs and the Medicaid Managed Care Delivery System

The School-Based Health Center (SBHC)/Managed Care Organization (MCO) pilot project, "Salud! Comes to Your School" is now in its fourth and final year of implementation. The project, which is funded by a four-year \$500,000 grant from the Center for Health Care Strategies (CHCS) via a separate grant to CHCS from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, links six SBHC sites (for a total of 13 SBHCs) in urban, rural and frontier areas across New Mexico with the state's three Salud! MCOs. The goals of the project are to explore best practices for collaboration; increase access to care for Salud! children and adolescents; strengthen the provision of comprehensive and preventive care; promote the integration of systems, particularly for primary and behavioral health care; and improve the overall health of students that are served in the pilot SBHCs. The SBHC pilot sites are located in Albuquerque, Ruidoso, Santa Fe, Silver City and Tierra Amarilla.

The pilot phase of the project has been both challenging and invigorating. Guidelines have been implemented for care coordination and communication, managing asthma and depression, and providing Early Periodic Screening and Diagnostic Testing (EPSDT) screens. In addition, new processes are in development to screen for substance abuse, and protocols have recently been implemented for managing obesity and type-2 diabetes. The rewards of these challenges are already clear. Most notably, the pilot sites have successfully become Salud! network providers. Solid partnerships have been cultivated among the MCOs, the pilot SBHC sites, and multiple state agencies, which have facilitated a number of visible successes:

- The pilot sites are communicating with students' primary care providers (PCPs), other community providers, and MCO care coordination/case management staff to ensure continuity of care and help for students who need additional support.
- The pilot sites have made key policy changes to implement project guidelines, integrate behavioral and primary care services, and improve their communication, charting, coding and billing processes.
- The MCOs have worked closely with the SBHCs to develop and implement disease management protocols and to expand sport physicals, which SBHCs typically perform, to include all components of a comprehensive wellness check. They have also addresses claims and systems issues to receive and process SBHC claims effectively.

Overall, the pilot project has gained national attention for the best practice models it has developed, particularly in the areas of asthma and depression management and SBHC/Medicaid MCO collaborative partnerships. The project has been recognized as a leader for delivering EPSDT screens to hard-to-reach

adolescents. And, while the pilot project is a Medicaid managed care program, these guidelines apply to services provided to every student who enters the SBHC for care, regardless of their payer source.

As the project comes to a close, there are plans to phase in new SBHC sites to ensure their readiness as Salud! network providers by the project's end on June 30, 2004. There is a health education initiative underway for the final months as well, to include the planning and implementation of a health education plan that will complement the project guidelines and assist with the development of educational and outreach materials that are geared to the guideline focus areas for parents and students that are geared to the protocol focus areas. In addition, the project sponsored intensive training sessions on substance abuse interventions targeting adolescents, including a two-day conference on motivational interviewing and sponsored several breakout sessions during the 2004 Head to Toe conference that were applicable to project guidelines implementation.

Project staff is committed to securing an expanded role for school-based health care in Medicaid, and will issue a "best practice" manual on collaboration between MCOs and SBHCs upon the project's conclusion. A school summit is also being planned upon the project's end that will bring together the state's key leaders to discuss potential service models for providing and ensuring health care to children and adolescents through New Mexico's schools.



IN MEMORIAM

Russ Marvin Richards, age 42, died peacefully Friday, May 7, 2004, at his home. Russ was a member of NMASBHC through the Las Cruces High School/School Based Health Center where he was a member of their School Health Advisory Council. For the past 12 years he was a science teacher at LCHS and created the First Responder course at LCHS for which he recently received a state award. In addition, Russ was a fireman and Fire Chief for the Organ Fire Department. He was an EMT for the past 24 years and an EMT instructor for the last 15 years. For the past 14 years he was also a member of the NM Critical Incident Stress Management Team. He devoted the majority of his adult life educating the people of NM about injury prevention and what to do when confronted with a medical emergency.

Russ was diagnosed with cancer in February of 2003 and fought his disease with the same determination and unwavering courage that were the hallmarks of his life. His primary focus throughout his illness was to be able to continue teaching his students.

Russ's memory will live on through the students whose lives he touched and through members of the professional communities to which he belonged.



NASBHC CONVENTION

The 2004 National Assembly on School-Based Health Care Convention: *Get Jazzed About School-Based Health Care!* was held June 16-19 in New Orleans, Louisiana. The convention was held at the Inter-Continental Hotel located in the heart of New Orleans within walking distance of the French Quarter, the Garden District, and the waterfront. New Orleans has a rich history and a culture that embraces the diversity of the people who inhabit the area. Well-known for its Mardi Gras celebration, it is a city that finds a reason to celebrate every day of the year. One feature of New Orleans is that it is actually below sea level, which results in, among other things, some unique funeral and burial practices. The city has much to offer in the way of sightseeing with something for everyone no matter what your interest.

The NASBHC convention offered a wealth of continuing education sessions covering all aspects of school-based health care. The topics, as always, were carefully chosen and the presenters enlisted from among the leaders in their fields. Whether you are a clinician, nurse, counselor, manager, or administrator there were sessions of interest for you.

In addition to the continuing education sessions there was time for networking, roundtable discussions, and getting to know people from all over the country. On Friday night we were treated to a Mardi Gras Celebration in historic Algiers Point. Surrounded by Mardi Gras floats and larger-than-life sculptures we ate, danced, and had a wonderful evening. We were even treated to our very own mini-Mardi Gras parade.

New Mexico and the NMASBHC were well represented. I know you will recognize many of the faces in the photos bordering this page. Jane McGrath, the School Health Officer for New Mexico, finished her two-year term as President of the NASBHC by presiding over the convention before relinquishing the presidency to Bruce Guernsey from Denver, Colorado.

One of the highlights of the convention came during the Closing Plenary session. Terri D. Wright, Program Director for the W. K. Kellogg Foundation, unveiled the plans for a five-year collaborative project with the NASBHC and presented a check for \$2.3 million to the NASBHC. New Mexico is one of the states chosen to participate in this project. [See EXCITING NEW INITIATIVE on page 2]

The National Assembly on School-Based Health Care Convention in 2005 will be held June 15 – 18, 2005 in Providence, Rhode Island. Make plans now to attend. It is well worth the price of admission.



