



Illinois Coalition for School Health Centers

A project of the Illinois Maternal and Child Health Coalition

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NATIONAL UPDATE:

- ?? **Have You Completed the Census?** —The National Assembly on School-Based Health Care (NASBHC) is conducting a national census on school health centers. Completing the census will provide worthwhile national data to help in advocacy efforts for school health centers AND can be used on a state level in Illinois. If you haven't submitted the census for each school health center you work with, do so today! Contact Karen Berg for a copy at 312.491.8161 or download a copy on the web at www.nasbhc.org. All surveys should be returned to: NASBHC, 666 11th St., NW, Washington, DC, 20001
- ?? **Asthma In Schools**--The National Education Association's Health Information Network web site offers guidance on asthma in schools, including a searchable database of resources. For more information go to: www.asthmaandschools.org. Also, PARI is offering a nebulizer package to School Nurses at a dramatically reduced cost. PARI TURBO and WALKHALKER compressors and LC disposable nebulizers can be purchased with savings of up to 70%. Call PARI at 800-727-4112 for a "Breathe Free America" order form.
- ?? **Register Now! Regional Clinical Institutes Meeting April 29th & 30th, Chicago**—The Institutes are a new and intensive training program designed to allow SBHC staff to advance their knowledge of key specialized clinical service areas in school-based health care. The institute provides two days of practical clinical training in five specialized areas. To register: www.clinicalmeetings.com or (888) 889-6177.
- ?? **Save the Date: NASBHC Annual Conference**—The 2002 NASBHC Annual Conference, Gaining Altitude: Taking Interdisciplinary School Health Care to New Heights, will take place June 20-22 in Denver, CO. Go to www.nasbhc.org for more information.
- ?? **ICSHC Staff Visits Capitol Hill**—On February 12th and 13th project director Karen Berg visited the nation's capitol and met with members of the Illinois delegation. Meetings were held with staff from Senators Fitzgerald and Durbin's office, Representative Danny K Davis, and staff from Representatives Jesse Jackson, Jr., Lane Evans, Jan Schakowsky, Ray LaHood, Luis Gutierrez and Jerry Costello's office. Members were asked to support federal legislation that would establish school-based health center support networks in states. Karen will follow-up with school health centers about meetings with their Representative.

STATE UPDATE:

- ?? **Governor Ryan Proposes FY2003 Budget—School Health Center Program Intact!**—State funded school health centers received good news on February 20th when the Governor's proposed budget for FY2003 maintained state funding for the school health center program. While this is positive news, the budget is not yet final. From now through June the Illinois General Assembly will be debating and negotiating the budget. Cuts can still be made so it is important that Illinois Senators and Representatives hear from you about the importance of school based and linked health centers. Ask them for their support to keep the full amount appropriated for the School Health Center program in the budget! What you can do: attend Advocacy Day on May 9th, contact your state Senator and Representative or have them visit your school health center! For guidance and more information contact Karen Berg at 312.491.8161.
- ?? **School Code Bill Passes Senate**—Senate Bill 929 would amend the School Code to clarify that APNs and PAs both perform physical health examinations and authorize APNs and PAs to sign their own exam forms. This bill passed the full Senate unanimously on March 5th. You can contact your Senator to thank them for supporting this bill. Updates will follow, as the bill gets ready to travel to the House. For more information go to www.illinoisapns.org.
- ?? **Gubernatorial Candidates Address School Health Centers**—The Illinois Caucus for Adolescent Health held a gubernatorial candidate forum on February 8th. The candidates were all asked whether they would increase, decrease or maintain funding for school health centers. Here's what candidates had to say:

- **Rod Blagojevich:** Supports an increase. Mr. Blagojevich believes that SHCs are important as they provide primary and preventive services while reducing lost school time. He would support an increase of state funds from \$4 million to \$6 million for SHCs. To read more on his platforms go to www.rodforum.com
 - **Roland Burris:** Would support an increase in funding if the funds are available. He understands how valuable school health centers are in providing primary services. He is interested in fiscally responsible programs that will free up money to fund additional programs. To learn more go to www.rolandburris.com.
 - **Patrick O'Malley:** No position. www.omalleyforgov.com
 - **Jim Ryan:** Did not participate in the forum. www.jimryanforgovernor.com
 - **Paul Vallas:** Supports an increase. Mr. Vallas' health and education platforms propose resources to be used to expand health care services. A portion of tobacco settlement dollars would be used to expand health care benefits in the state including funding to build new health clinics. To read more go to www.paulvallas.com, and click on the "Issues and Initiatives" button.
 - **Corrine Wood:** At a bare minimum she would maintain funding for school health centers. To read more on her education and healthcare platforms go to www.woodforgovernor.com
- ?? **Mental Health Online Listserv**—The Campaign for Better Health Care has started an online group open to all interested Illinois residents and professionals who are concerned about access to quality mental health services for children. This online committee is intended for open dialog on peoples concerns, suggestions for improvements, and reference and resource networking. Contact Andrea Rundell at 217.352.5600 for more information.
- ?? **New School-Linked Health Center Opens**—Congratulations to Kent Tarro, Dr. Belen Clark and the rest of the staff at the Macoupin County Community Care Health Center. The school-linked center had its ribbon cutting last month. State Senator Vince Demuzio and U.S. Representative John Shimkus attended the event. The center is sponsored by the Macoupin County Public Health Department and will serve all residents in Macoupin County.

GRANTS UPDATE:

- ?? **Healthy Youth Funding Database (HY-FUND)**—The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has launched a new funding database where you can access an array of current funding information in seconds. You can view or link to current information on federal funding, state revenue funding, and private sector funding. Go to [HTTP://WWW.CDC.GOV/NCCDPHP/DASH](http://WWW.CDC.GOV/NCCDPHP/DASH) and click the "Funding" button on the menu bar. For a brochure on the database contact Karen Berg at 312.491.8161.
- ?? **Technical Assistance for Special Populations Grant**—President Bush's proposed Health Center Initiative for FYs 2002-2006 hopes to create or expand 1,200 health center access points. On January 10, 2002 he signed an appropriation increase of approximately \$175 million for FY 2002, the first of a 5-year installment. These access points can include School-Based Health Centers. HRSA conducted a pre-application technical assistance workshop in Chicago on March 4th and 5th. If you were unable to attend you can still access assistance on the website: www.bphc.hrsa.gov/dpspnewcenters or contact Karen Berg at 312.491.8161 for information from the workshop.
- ?? **IDHS Update**—Critical Issues conferences, "Achieving Balance in Diabetes Treatment", will be held April 9th in Springfield, April 11th in Colinsville, April 16th in Elgin and April 18th in Oaklawn. Presenters include an Endocrinologist and Registered Dietetic Health Educator. For more information call 217-785-4525. The date has not yet been scheduled for the annual meeting but if you have suggestions for training topics or speakers contact Judy Redick.

COALITION UPDATE:

- ?? **ICSHC State-wide Meeting and Advocacy Training a Success**—On February 21st ICSHC members met at Austin Community Academy on Chicago's West Side for the first state-wide meeting of 2002. The Public Policy and Advocacy committee conducted an advocacy skills training at the meeting complete with an ICSHC Advocacy Toolkit. Also distributed at the meeting were the new ICSHC brochures. If you have not received your toolkit or brochures please contact Karen at 312.491.8161. The toolkit includes useful information on communicating with your state legislators and how to organize a school health center visit as well as guidelines on creating a plan for reaching your advocacy goals. Check it out today!
- ?? **Request for *The School Health Connection* Newsletter Submissions**—The next issue of *The School Health Connection* is underway. Please submit any announcements, job postings, articles or updates to Karen Berg at icshc@aol.com or via fax 312.491.8171 by March 25th.

- ?? **Advocacy Day 2002**—As mentioned in the State budget update, the Governor's proposed budget includes full state funding for school health centers. In order to maintain funding, build relationships and address other policy issues affecting school health centers and school-based health care ICSHC is organizing an Advocacy Day on May 9th. Demonstrating a broad base of support sends a strong message to decision makers that school health centers are effective at delivering high quality preventive services to children and adolescents and that they are here to stay! Contact Karen at 312.491.8161 with questions and for planning materials. A fax back form is included. We look forward to seeing you in Springfield on May 9th!
- ?? **Mental Health Committee Tackles Confidentiality Issues**—The committee has had the first in a series of presenters addressing confidentiality issues around mental health services in schools. Laura McAlpine, Policy Director of the Illinois Caucus for Adolescent Health, discussed adolescent consent and confidentiality laws with committee members on March 1st. For information on her presentation please contact Karen at 312.491.8161. Future topics to be addressed include sexual abuse and assault laws, subpoenas and record keeping. The next meeting will be April 26th.
- ?? **ICSHC Meeting Calendar**--To get involved with one of the Coalition's committees or to find out more about the work of each committee, contact Karen at 312.491.8161, icshc@aol.com. Below you will find the dates of future meetings. RSVPs are appreciated. Phone conferencing is available for those that are unable to travel to Chicago. Please contact Karen.
- Data Collection & Evaluation: **Wednesday, March 20, 2002 from 1-3pm at IMCHC, 1256 W. Chicago Ave., Chicago, IL**
 Public Policy & Advocacy: **Tuesday, March 26, 2002 from 9am-11am at IMCHC, 1256 W. Chicago Ave., Chicago, IL**
 Mental Health Task Force: **Friday, April 26, 2002 from 12-2pm at IMCHC, 1256 W. Chicago Ave., Chicago, IL**
 General Meeting & Advocacy Day: **Thursday, May 9, 2002 at the IL State Museum, Springfield, IL**
- ?? **ICSHC Moves!**—The Illinois Maternal and Child Health Coalition, home of the ICSHC, has moved offices. On January 4th we moved into our new home at 1256 West Chicago Ave., Chicago, IL 60622. Phone 312.491.8161, Fax 312.491.8171, email will change to karenberg@ameritech.net by April 1, 2002.

Please send comments or information for future Blast Updates to Karen Berg at (312) 491-8161 or kberg@ameritech.com

FAXBACK FORM FOR ADVOCACY DAY 2002*

Please fax to Karen at (312) 491-8171

****Please fax in the form if you are interested in participating in Advocacy Day. People attending can include staff, students, parents and other supporters. We will make sure you will get future announcements and information.***

PLEASE PRINT THE FOLLOWING:

NAME OF CONTACT: _____

NAME OF SHC/ORGANIZATION: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CONTACT PHONE/FAX: _____

APPROXIMATE NUMBER OF PEOPLE ATTENDING: _____

OF THOSE ABOVE, HOW MANY ARE STUDENTS? _____

ANY SPECIAL NEEDS: _____