

**SO YOU WANT TO TALK TO A  
LEGISLATOR**  
ADVOCACY DAY PRESENTATION TO YOUTH PARTICIPANTS

March 14, 2011




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**YOUTH POWER AND VOICE**

- **What is advocacy?**
- **Who are the players?**
- **What legislative meetings look like**
- **What is your message?**
- **What you can do after Advocacy Day**

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## YOU ALREADY ARE AN ADVOCATE!

- **Advocacy is supporting a cause and trying to get others to support it as well.**
- **You already are an EXPERT:**
  - Have you tried to get more money for your allowance or for a fun activity with your friends?
  - Have you tried to get your teacher to not assign homework and get your friends on board?
  - Have you worked with your SBHC to offer more services or different programs?

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## WHY ADVOCATE?

- **To protect the cause you believe in**
  - Ex: Child and Adolescent Health Centers
- **To educate and provide public knowledge**
  - Ex: Child and Adolescent Health Centers bring a doctor's office to my school. They do more than just provide us with health care, they also....
- **To promote a cause through an event**
  - Ex: SCHA-MI's Advocacy Day on March 24, 2011

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## WHO'S WHO IN THE ZOO!

- **Legislators are people too!**
- **They are elected by your parents, teachers, and community members.**
- **You are an upcoming voter – remember this!**
- **They are not experts on all subjects!**
- **They need YOUR expertise!**

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## WHAT YOU CAN EXPECT

- **Format**
  - Face-to-face, 10-15 minutes
- **Legislator vs. Staff**
- **Role Play**
- **K.I.S.S.**
- **Follow-up**

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## WHAT IS YOUR MESSAGE?

1. **Keep the funding for child and adolescent health centers the same as what is in Governor Snyder's budget**
2. **Healthy youth are better learners!**
3. **Ask them to tour your center!**

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## BE THE BEST YOU CAN BE!

- **How to be the most effective advocate:**
  - Share a personal story.
  - Share how others in your school are impacted by your health center!
  - Share how the health center makes a difference in your school!

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## PREPARE TO COMMUNICATE WITH YOUR LEGISLATOR

### The Meeting Format:

- **My concern is ...**
- **I'm concerned about this because (what would happen without your CAHC)...**
- **Share your story, personal experience**
- **Share your ask**
- **Let them know you are a future voter and have parents who vote that live in their community!**

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## HOW TO COMMUNICATE WITH STATE LEGISLATORS AFTER OUR ADVOCACY DAY:

- **Face-to-face meetings**
  - Appointments with officials
  - Rallies and town halls
  - PTA, board meetings, and organization days
- **Internet**
  - Emails
  - Blogs/Twitter
  - Facebook, MySpace & YouTube
- **Phone calls**
- **Writing campaigns**
  - Letters, Editorials and postcards
  - Petitions
- **Voting!!!**

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“This cried the Mayor, is your town’s darkest hour! The time for all Who’s who have blood that is red to come to the aid of their country! He said. We’ve got to make noises in greater amounts! So open your mouth, lad! For every voice counts!”

Horton Hears the Who! By Dr. Suess

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