



Helping Hands



News from the School-Community Health Alliance of Michigan

Strengthening Mental Health Services through CAHCs

Mental health services for children are fragmented across many systems, making it difficult for families to know where to turn. SCHA-MI, in partnership with the Michigan Department of Community Health, has made it a priority to work to improve the quality of mental health services that are provided to youth in Michigan through child and adolescent health centers (CAHCs).

Since 2005, the partnership, both individually and collectively, has developed many strategies to resolve the barriers to provide high quality mental health services, including the following:

Centralized Billing and Reporting Service

SCHA-MI has been operating a billing and reporting service for CAHCs in Michigan since 2005. In 2007, SCHAM-I received a three-year \$250,000 grant from Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan and the W. K. Kellogg Foundation. This grant will allow SCHAM-I to obtain more data on mental health reimbursement and better identify reimbursement barriers and solutions.

Mental Health Education and Training Initiative

In 2005, through a grant from the National Assembly on School-Based Health Centers, SCHAM-I implemented the Mental Health Education and Training (MHET) Initiative for eight CAHCs in Michigan. The mission of the year-long Initiative focused on improving the implementation of empirically supported mental health services in school-based health centers across mental health and primary care.

Mental Health Network

In 2006, as a continuation to the MHET Initiative, all CAHC-related mental health professionals were invited to join the Mental Health Network. The Network continues to meet quarterly to discuss issues and best practices related to providing mental health services in Michigan's CAHCs.

In June, 2007 the Mental Health Network drafted a best practice Standard of Care which includes: Uniformity in Policy, Resources, Services, Staffing, and Training.

Mental Health Survey

In the autumn of 2006, 38 CAHCs responded to a mental health survey that asked about the scope and breadth of behavioral health services within their site. Information from the survey has been used by all of the identified mental health committees.

Mental Health Committee

In January 2007, SCHAM-I convened a Mental Health Committee. The committee, representing education, higher education, government, health organizations, CAHCs, Medicaid, and Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan - met to review and discuss the barriers and challenges of providing behavioral health services in CAHCs, the policies and procedures that affect reimbursement for behavioral health services in CAHCs, and to review and edit a White Paper on Behavioral Health Services in CAHCs.

White Paper on "Behavioral Health Services and Reimbursement"

In September 2007, SCHAM-I completed a White Paper on "Behavioral Health Services and Reimbursement".

Remember to register for the...

2007 SCHAM-I's Annual Meeting & Adolescent Health Conference!

HELPING HANDS

Helping Hands is published quarterly by the School-Community Health Alliance of Michigan (SCHA-MI) for distribution to association members, friends of SCHA-MI, and state and national legislators.

SCHA-MI welcomes articles and information from our readers. For membership information, permission to reprint, or submission guidelines please contact:

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This paper – which came from the work of the Mental Health Committee - identified the barriers and challenges facing CAHCs in getting reimbursement for behavioral health services.

Grant: Integrate Schools and Mental Health Systems

In August 2007, the Michigan Department of Education (MDE) learned that it won a 18-month \$376,000 grant to Integrate Schools and the Mental Health System. SCHA-MI and MDCH partnered with MDE on this project.

The purposes of the grant:

- Develop a model policy on student mental health service integration;
- Increase linkages that build mental health service capacity for students;
- Increase awareness of mental health needs of students; and
- Develop state and national linkages around mental health services and policy development.

For more information on any of above projects, please contact Bob Parks at bparks@scha-mi.org 517-908-0847 Ext 227.

Billing Service Prepares to Expand

With the addition of Bob Peltier as a consultant to the Billing and Data Network, the Alliance Billing Service (ABS) is preparing to expand its outreach of providing billing expertise and outstanding customer service beyond child and adolescent health centers. Research indicates both a need and desire from the provider community for the optional services that will be offered by the ABS. SCHA-MI is also pleased to announce that Sheila Wadsworth as joined the billing team at SCHA-MI as a part-time Billing and Technical Assistance Specialist.

The Alliance Billing Service's move into the private practice setting will be designed to help support the non-profit functions of SCHA-MI in bringing much needed health care to the school aged population. It is the desire and plan of SCHA-MI to promote this billing service model to others within the state and across the nation.

Questions and inquiries should be directed to Bob Peltier at bpeltier@scha-mi.org or 517.908.0847 Ext. 230.

The School-Community Health Alliance of Michigan (SCHA-MI) is a collaboration of individuals and organizations that represent and support school-based and school-linked health centers and programs across the state of Michigan. We believe that all Michigan children and youth have the basic fundamental right to access and receive comprehensive primary health care and prevention services.

Health Center Highlights

Romulus Teen Health Center (RTHC)

Elizabeth Kirshner, NP, and Jessi Ruelle, Health Education/Peer Education Coordinator, for Romulus Teen Health Center began working with two Romulus High School students and peer educators, to train for the first annual 5k run at Romulus High School this past spring. The event was coordinated through the RTHC and open to all students, with peer educators serving as mentors to other students.

"The run was so successful that we decided to continue meeting with the group until the end of the school year, and when we heard of the Governor's Bridge Run mentoring program we thought it would be a wonderful experience for Liz and I to support our teens yet again." said Jessi.

Both Liz and Jessi continued to mentor the students and each were selected to be two of the 28 mentor teams that spent the summer training together to complete a five-mile run across the Mackinac Bridge on Labor Day 2007.

The Governor's Council on Physical Fitness, Health & Sports has bios on all the mentor teams, pictures, and information on the Bridge Run mentoring program on their website at www.michiganfitness.org.



HealthPlace 101 - Stone High School

The Youth Advisory Council (YAC) at the HealthPlace clinic in Stone High School completed two beautiful murals.

The theme of the murals was based on the YAC quote "HealthPlace Heals Your Body, Mind, and Soul." Claudia Burns, Stone School's art teacher, helped in the completion of the project. Five YAC members were involved in the project and spent a total of 76 hours on the murals. Stone High School is an alternative school located in Ann Arbor, Michigan.



Detroit Community Health Connections, Inc. (DCHC)

On August 11th, Detroit Community Health Connections, Inc. held a free health screening event, Under the Big Top Good Health Circus. Youth ages 8-11 could receive free screening for diabetes, dental, asthma, hypertension, obesity, lead poisoning, and ADHD. In addition there were free train rides, pony rides, story telling, face painting, arts & crafts, putt-putt golf, moon walks, and free refreshments.

The event was sponsored many organizations including the Henry Schein Corporation and Daimler Chrysler Corporation with in-kind support from several other Detroit and Michigan non-profit organizations.

DCHC houses the Healthy Teens Community Care Center (HTC3), a school-linked site serving youth.



Teen Health Center at Parkside

On May 4th the Teen Health Center at Parkside Middle School held it's Grand Opening. The ribbon-cutting ceremony was a huge success and was well attended by Center for Family Health staff and board members, legislators, school officials, and community members.

My AmeriCorps Signature Service Project

By Christine Whelpley, AmeriCorps Member, School-Community Health Alliance of Michigan

As an AmeriCorps member, we are expected to complete a signature service project. On June 6-7, 2007, I attended the Michigan AmeriCorps Russ Mawby Signature Service Project in Detroit, Michigan. AmeriCorps members from all over the Michigan joined together, teaming up with Habitat for Humanity, for a two-day service project. Habitat for Humanity had built a cluster of houses in a neighborhood of Detroit called Core City. Our project was to help paint the sheds and do all the landscaping for the houses that had already been built.



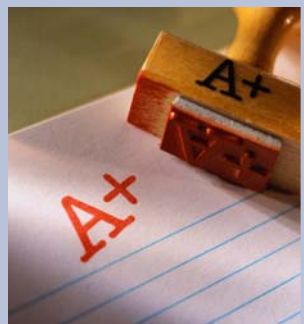
It was an extremely hot couple of days in June, but we all worked together to help the proud homeowners improve their property. The whole experience turned out to be a very rewarding on many levels. I was able to meet a lot of great AmeriCorps members from all over Michigan and hear about the great things they're doing for

their communities, while working together as team to make a difference.

This fall, I relocated to Mt. Pleasant to attend Central Michigan University. I will be working towards a degree in Dietetics. I have had an amazing experience

working with Michigan's school-based and

school-linked health centers and have had to opportunity to meet some great people while serving at SCHA-MI for the past year and a half. Thanks to everyone I had the opportunity to work with!



Annual Meeting & Adolescent Health Conference

November 8-9, 2007

Cleary University—Johnson Center
Howell, Michigan

Sponsored by:

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Michigan Chapter of the Society for Adolescent Medicine

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Reminders...

SCHA-MI Annual Meeting and Adolescent Health Conference
November 8-9, 2007 • Howell, Michigan

Contact SCHA-MI for registration forms!

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February is...

National School-Based Health Center Awareness Month

Start planning your awareness activities!

• • •

Michigan Department of Community Health
20th Anniversary CAHC Program Celebration
October 27-28, 2008 • Traverse City, Michigan

Mark your calendars!

Working together to build a healthy future!