

Regular Board Meeting – September 21, 2010

SUBJECT: HEALTH SERVICES UPDATE

Overview

A Health Service Office operates in each of our schools providing an array of services to students and staff which support the educational program and safety needs in District 68. Each office is staffed by a health clerk who maintains records, prepares mandated reports, conducts screenings and training, communicates with parents, administrators, and staff, and provides specifically:

- First Aid to students and staff
- Services based on Health Care Plans
- Dissemination of information on individual student needs to staff
- Attendance/Truancy tracking
- Vision/Hearing screenings
- Information on dental examination requirements and tracking
- Information on physical examination requirements and tracking
- Information on resources available in the community for physical, dental, hearing and vision services
- CPR/First Aid/AED training for staff
- Blood borne pathogen training
- Accident/Incident reports
- DCFS records
- State reports
- Ancillary support to the clerical office personnel during peak periods

A report to the Board of Education in District 68 during school year 2008-09 and related discussions resulted in: a) an increase in health clerk services from 13 hours to 35 hours per week in each K-5 school in our district; b) the development of a system to monitor the frequency of health services delivered on a monthly and trimester basis in order to collect data for future decision making in the district; and c) the development of a system to address individual health emergency situations which require a 911 response.

Present State of Care

The majority of interactions with students continues to involve treatment of minor cuts, scrapes, and bruises with bandages and ice packs. Headaches, temperatures, and stomach pains are also common, but not severe, and often result in communications with parents. Chart A summarizes Fall, 2008 and Spring, 2010 information about frequently cited health conditions of our students and the number of cases in each school. Visits to the health office by students are reported as an average per month. Health clerks and teachers indicated that there was a decline in students who came to the health office seeking food last year. This may be due, in part, to the serving of breakfast in two of four schools last year. Another decline is expected in 2010-11 because breakfast is being served in all four schools.

Overall, the number of students with asthma, diabetes, chronic allergies, and other chronic conditions has remained steady during the two years data has been collected. Increases and decreases are evident at some schools, but the overall numbers are stable.

Chart A: Student Conditions as Reported by Parents
and Health Services Offices
Fall 2008 and Spring 2010

	Devonshire		Highland		Stenson		OOJH	
	2008	2010	2008	2010	2008	2010	2008	2010
# Students w/ Asthma	15	6	16	33	34	23	34	33
# Students w/ Diabetes	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	1
# Students w/ Allergies	6	8	9	8	6	7	30	33
# Students w/ Migraines	1	1	1	0	1	0	4	0
# Students w/ Other Chronic Concerns	1 seizures	1 migraine headaches 4 take medications daily	1 lung disease 1 seizures	1 needs daily medications 1 comes regularly for inhaler	1 seizures 1 severe hives 1 heart murmur	1 needs daily medications 1 other	1 seizures 1 chemotherapy patient	1 needs daily inhaler; 3 have inhaler With them 1 hives 5-7 daily medications
# Student Visits per Month Average	150-210	144-260	100-180	100-160	90-200	140-201	240+	240+

The health clerks regularly interact with local and municipal agencies including the Skokie Health Department regarding communicable diseases and immunization information, the Skokie Police Department regarding truancy or altercations on school property or in the neighborhood, the Department of Public Health regarding vision and hearing screening, DCFS regarding reported abuse or neglect, the Fire Department regarding transporting students to hospitals in emergencies, and local CVS and Walgreen walk-in and minute clinics. The H1N1 virus resulted in increased calls to health clerks during the 2009-10 school year.

Chart B summarizes information regarding health services provided for 2009-10. This information is compiled each month by the health clerks and is reviewed by the Assistant Superintendent for Instruction every three months to note changes in patterns requiring action or specific training. Health clerks contact the principal if a health condition warrants immediate action by the school. During 2009-10, four calls were made to paramedics. One was for a severe stomach problem, one was for difficulty with breathing due to asthma, one was for a head injury, and the final call was due to the illness of a teacher. Teachers administered oral medications and assisted students using inhalers in chronic cases. No health clerk reported the need for additional training based on the health needs of a student.

Chart B
Health Services Provided 2009-2010

	Devonshire	Highland	Stenson	OOJH	Comments/Descriptions
Range in # of Student Visits in Month	144-260	100-160	140-291	126-462	Fluctuates by month and required screenings
# of Phone Calls from Parents/Guardians in Month	18-30	35-84	60-70	413-607	OOJH includes H1N1 inquiries and absence calls
Range in # of Treatments for Minor Causes (scrapes, bumps,...) per month over ten months	131-242	130-325	140-224	205-326	Some months are lighter; other months have more visits usually related to the weather
# of Calls to 911 in Year	0	0	2	2	Head injury (1), asthma (1), stomach (1), teacher incident (1)
Average # of Chronic Care Students in Building Needing Attention Daily or Once a Week	4-5	5	1-3	5-7	Oral medications or assist with inhalers
# of Students in Building with Diabetes	1	0	0	1	
# of Students in Building with Asthma/Breathing Disorders	8	15-33	16-23	30-33	
# of Students in Building with Chronic Allergy Needing Care in Month	8	1	1	1	Hives
# of Students in Building with Other Chronic Illnesses Needing Care in Month	1	1	1	1	Migraine headaches
# of Training Sessions Attended by Health Clerk to Care for a Student with Chronic Medical Need in Month	0	1	0	1	Oxygen administration (1); eye care (1)
Other Training Sessions Offered or Attended by Health Clerk	1	2	1	6	CPR, AED, Sports Safety, Medicaid
# of phone calls to assist parents per month	6	2	2	6	Help parents make appointments, find resources with reduced rates, find eye care resources
# of phone calls/direct inquiries made by health clerk to physician or other source because care needed was beyond general training of health clerk	0	0	0	1	Had to administer eye drops every two hours to a student who had an eye surgery
Please list any requests for additional training in order to address a health concern or other issue	0	0	0	0	

Emergency Procedures and Health Care Plans

In consultation with Mary Beth Mardjetko, RN, and Linda Brady from the Skokie Fire Department, a District 68 Emergency Health Services Procedures manual was developed and is in place for the 2010-11 school year. The EMS division of the Skokie Fire Department reviewed the manual and stated that it was very good and recommended no changes.

The emergency procedures manual was reviewed on August 24, 2010 by our health clerks. The manual describes the most common conditions present for calling 911 including seizures, fractures, head injuries, and severe breathing difficulties and action to be taken while help is in transit. Health clerks stated that this manual, accompanied by the opportunity to question and receive answers from other health clerks with these situations or be able to receive guidance from the Fire Department or a nurse as a result of meetings each trimester, enabled them to feel more confident in their daily interactions with students. Any student who has a medical condition which results in either the taking of medication at school or on a consistent basis at home, or any student who has a medical condition that could result in a medical emergency situation is required to have an Emergency Health Plan filed in the school's Health Service Office. Although episodes may occur in the home, at school, or during extra-curricular events in the neighborhood, the school has been notified that there is potential for a physical reaction or response. The parent completes the form and may consult with the physician as it is completed. Emergency contact names and phones numbers with an English speaking adult are required. The physician's name and phone is required. Health clerks in District 68 interact with parents to obtain, understand treatment, file, and disseminate the Emergency Health Plan so that the information is available for the classroom teacher, teachers of art, music, PE, encore, substitute teachers, and cafeteria staff.

Laws and Regulations in Relation to Services Provided and Comparative Data

The Illinois Administrative Code requires schools to develop procedures to prevent communicable diseases, maintain health records, conduct hearing and vision screening, and act as a liaison between home and community. On the federal level, school districts must provide nursing services to students with special needs as provided by laws included in the Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act; District 68 provides these services as required by contracted services with nurses through Niles Township Department of Special Education.

Chart C compares our district to other districts in Niles Township regarding qualifications of the health service provider, hours worked per week, and number of students served. Some districts surveyed provided additional information which is noted. Including District 68, two of the eight districts have health clerks serving students. Two have certified school nurses (CSN). The remaining four districts have registered nurses (RN).

Conclusions

The need in the district for health services has remained stable during the last two years. The increase in health clerk hours has assisted in serving students with asthma, allergies, and other chronic conditions. The development of emergency care systems including individual Health Care Plans for students known to have chronic illnesses, an Emergency Procedures manual, monthly compilation of data, and health clerk meetings each trimester are consistent with recommendations from outside consultants and indicate that a standard of care for emergencies is in place. Health clerks have not reported the need for additional training due to any challenging issues and feel that the systems put in place assist in guiding their decisions.

In the future through attrition, the district may consider the hiring of a certified school nurse to replace one health clerk who would be responsible for coordination of health services in the district and training of the health clerks.

Chart C
District 68 Comparisons with Other Schools in Niles Township

DISTRICT	SCHOOLS	HEALTH SERVICE PROVIDER	HOURS PER WEEK	# OF STUDENTS SERVED	ADDITIONAL NOTES ON CREDENTIALS HELD OR WAY SERVICE IS PROVIDED
68	Devonshire K-5	HC	35	313	
	Highland K-5	HC	35	383	
	Stenson K-5	HC	35	357	
	Old Orchard 6-8	HC	35	645	Has EMT certification
69	Madison K-2	HC	32.5	490	Employee is a retired RN.
	Edison 3-5	CSN	35	500	On teacher contract salary schedule.
	Lincoln 6-8	HC	32.5	572	Is a RN but position is for HC.
70	Park View K-8	RN	35	817	One full-time nurse with subs assisting as necessary for vision, hearing, and lice checks.
71	Culver K-8	HC	36.25	545	
72	Fairview K-8	RN	37.5	635	Parent volunteers for lice checks
73	East Prairie Pre-K-8	RN	35	500	
73.5	Eliz Meyer EC-K	RN	15	178	
	McCracken 6-8	RN	35	389	
	Middleton 1-5	CSN	35	572	CSN recently added to staff who leads the team of nurses with additional district responsibilities; subs are used to assist vision and hearing screenings.
74	Todd Hall Pre-K-2	RN	35	400	IEP prep has taken some time.
	Rutledge Hall 3-5	RN	35	400	
	Lincoln Hall 6-8	RN	35	431	