



Dr. Reginald Mayo
Superintendent

**Testimony of the
New Haven Board of Education
Before the Public Health Committee**

In Support of
Proposed H.B. No. 5538 An Act Concerning A Pilot Program
For School-Based Health Care Centers

Submitted by
William Clark, Chief Operating Officer, New Haven Board of Education
February 27, 2013

Senator Gerratana, Rep. Johnson, and members of the Public Health Committee,

The New Haven Board of Education is pleased to have the opportunity to support HB 5538 An Act Concerning a Pilot Program for School-Based Health Care Centers. The proposed pilot would help to create a foundational infrastructure to integrate school health into the community primary healthcare network and improve both health and academic outcomes.

The New Haven School Change initiative goes beyond classroom learning and works to ensure that every child comes to the classroom ready to learn. We have been emphasizing the importance of school health for a long time in New Haven, and how physical health and wellness links with mental and behavioral health and student achievement. With this renewed focus the Board of Education and the City Health Department have been working to improve school based health services in New Haven. Beginning with a needs assessment and working through strategies to address deficiencies, the working group has concluded that by interweaving School Based Health Centers, school nurses and primary care providers we will improve health outcomes for students of all ages. The need for improved services is striking – and if not done comprehensively, cohesively and collaboratively, the services will not meet the needs of the students, their families and the community.

This proposal will help to integrate school health into the primary health network building a foundational infrastructure that will improve both student health and academic success. If done correctly, the program also has the potential to create a system that leverages community resources and federal reimbursements available under the Affordable Care Act to increase access to primary care for children.

Healthier students are better able to learn and improve their achievement. Their self-esteem improves, with a concurrent reduction in crime. As additional behavioral health interventions are proposed and implemented in the coming years, they will need to be coordinated with other health services. This initiative will help ensure that. Thank you for your consideration.

Building Healthy Children: A Three-Year Foundational Pilot to Fully Integrate School-Based Health Centers with Schools and Healthcare Providers in New Haven

This is a three-year pilot program in New Haven, utilizing foundation funding and state funds to match.

A School Health Advisory Board will be established, overseeing efforts critical to closing gaps in the delivery of health promotion, disease prevention and direct primary care within the public school system. The process will phase in planning, work to treat children where they are, and be integrative and not duplicative. It will begin with a Healthy Child Profile.

Key elements of the initiative include:

- Engaging health care providers and medical directors in the School Based Health Centers (SBHCs) to develop a standardization of care and to commit the necessary resources for full time staff and delivery of services; also, improving coordination with school nurses.
- Designing a geographic clustering within the schools' redistricting quadrant plan to expand service coverage of the SBHCs and reaching out to enroll students from neighboring schools.
- Engaging dental health providers to bring services to at-risk school age students.
- Engaging the school district's registration office and other divisions from the school health services to standardize a registration process for all school programs and all school entry requirements; utilize registration process to enroll in HUSKY and SBHCs.
- Continued funding for Coordinated School Health grant, which includes implementation and oversight of comprehensive health curriculum. Expanding school nurse coverage, including strategic coordination for pre-K programs and special needs classrooms, to improve coverage and interventions. Expanding School Wellness Teams to more schools and integrating them further with other school services. In further integrating services, revising CGS Sec. 10-212a on administration of medication, with provisions comparable to Sec. 11 of PA 12-1 of the June Special Session.
- Implementing Electronic Health Records (EHR) to increase efficiency, decrease duplication, and improved service. Evaluate issues such as data, information technology, FERPA and HIPAA privacy and security rules; confidentiality, and consent, for information to be shared with NHPS and providers.
- Coordinating with behavioral health services and activities underway districtwide and at each school, including SSST, BOOST! and others, and with families and in the community.
- Demonstrating best practices in serving students at all levels, with at least one provider making initial home visit for social factors; link with Nurturing Families Network.
- Evaluating the credentialing needs of all providers vis-a-vis 2014 federal healthcare changes and services necessary to meet health needs, to be developed into a new model of care.
- Ongoing evaluation component, including changes on the federal level and their local impact, integration of services and activities, and local wellness efforts. Work with such researchers as Robert Wood Johnson – fellows and clinical scholars – on outcomes and how the integrated primary health care system improves student health and learning. Other foundations could include the Community Foundation for Greater New Haven, United Way of Greater New Haven, the William Caspar Graustein Memorial Fund, Melville Charitable Trust and Yale School of Public Health – CARE Collaborative.

Funding needs: \$5.5 million, to be spread out over several years during implementation, with some to come from foundations. It includes funding for SBHC expansion and increase in school nurses, and for EHR.

Problem:

Health care for students is fragmented in New Haven. Primary care providers, school based health centers (SBHCs) and school nurses do not share data and basic information. A student's gap in coverage and needs may not be analyzed, much less addressed. Adequate information is not provided when students first register; if students are not served by a SBHC, then they may or may not receive primary care – and only one-third of New Haven's public schools contain SBHCs. School nurses are shared among schools. When a student has a medical issue – or a need for medication administration – it is often the principal who serves as the medical provider, which is not the appropriate solution.

Background:

Opportunities for collaboration and coordination abound.

Yale-New Haven Hospital in its community benefits agreement provides support and contributions in 5 keys areas in greater New Haven:

- Guaranteeing Access to Care
- Advancing Careers in Health Care
- Promoting Health and Wellness
- Building Stronger Neighborhoods
- Creating a Healthier Community

A one-page summary of the existing program is attached. Revised community needs assessment requirements provide an opportunity to re-think how resources are allocated and invested, so that the needs as outlined in this proposal – including electronic health records, additional and expanded SBHCs and school nurses – can be met.

The MOMS Partnership (New Haven Mental Health Outreach for Mothers) received a \$2.5 million grant allocation from the U.S. Office of Women's Health, and is in line to receive foundation funding. It is a cooperative effort among Yale University, Clifford Beers Child Guidance Clinic, New Haven Healthy Start, New Haven Health Department, All Our Kin, The Diaper Bank, The State of Connecticut Department of Children and Families, and the Housing Authority of New Haven, along with an advisory committee and community ambassadors, to provide mental health services for expecting and new mothers in the city.

As other entities work together for community resilience in New Haven, on behalf of students, their families and the community, collaboration is essential for a truly health community. Trauma and stress will be more readily identified and addressed, and reductions in violence measured.

The role of School Based Health Centers is integral to our health, as recognized by the state as well as locally.

Recommendations by the State's SBHC Advisory Committee:

The potential for improvement in SBHCs was recognized on state level, as is clear in a January 2012 report to the General Assembly's Public Health and Education Committees by the State's SBHC Advisory Committee (members included DPH, DCF, SDE, DMHAS, DSS, SBHCs). The Committee recommended the following, some based upon a 2006 Ad Hoc Report:

- Bring all currently operating SBHCs up to the DPH Standard Model for a full-time comprehensive School Based Health Center as highest standard of care available (National Gold Standard) with respect to the range and quality of SBHC services ;
- Create a definition of a Comprehensive School Based Health Center, described as “a unique service delivery model that provides *medical care and preventive and behavioral health services* provided by a team of licensed interdisciplinary professionals (at a minimum, medical and behavioral) with particular expertise in child/adolescent health who work side-by-side to address and coordinate a broad spectrum of students’ health needs and routinely offer to students time-intensive anticipatory guidance and health education. Optional preventive and restorative dental services may also be provided.” Align the definition with the federal SBHC designation as described in the Child Health Insurance Program Reauthorization Act:
http://www.nasbhc.org/site/c.ckLQKbOVLkK6E/b.7543209/k.78CE/Childrens_Health_Insurance.htm ;
- Create a stepped approach or glide-path to achieve the Comprehensive SBHC Model based on 1) part time operation during the academic year including all hours of school operation, 2) full time operation during the academic year including all hours of school operation, and 3) part time or full time operation year round;
- Create a licensure designation for School Based Health Centers under the current outpatient license or hospital satellite license as:
 - a. School Based Health Center: comprehensive services (medical and behavioral health *required*/dental optional)
 - b. Enhanced School Health Clinical Services: generally one type of service only such as behavioral health or dental; but does not meet requirements of Comprehensive SBHC model
- Develop a plan to expand the current SBHC system (new sites) in a thoughtful and consistent manner. Upon availability of funds, conduct a competitive Request for Proposal (RFP) process based on geographic need;
- Expand the number of SBHCs that provide dental services or have partnerships with community dental programs.

Wraparound Services and how SBHCs and School Health are Intertwined

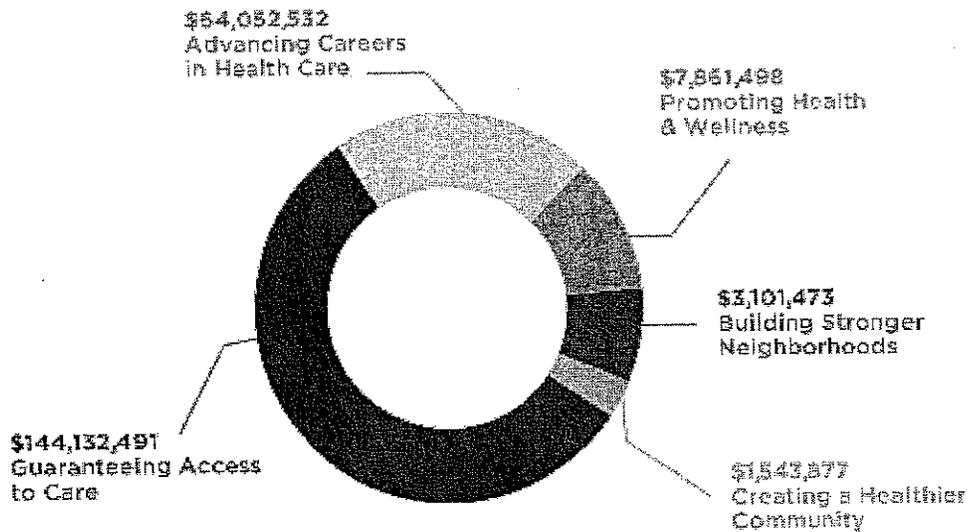
Wraparound services include a focus on health – both physical and mental – and taking advantage of collaborations. Interweaving School Based Health Centers, school nurses and primary care providers will improve health outcomes for students of all ages. Healthier students are better able to learn and improve their achievement. Their self-esteem improves, with a concurrent reduction in crime. The need for improved services is striking – and if not done comprehensively, cohesively and collaboratively, the services will not meet the needs of the students, their families and the community. As additional behavioral health interventions are proposed and implemented in the coming years, they will need to be coordinated with other health services. This initiative will help ensure that.

Solution:

Implement a three-year pilot program in New Haven, utilizing foundation funding and state funds to match. Details are outlined in the proposal on page one, and include establishing a School Health Advisory Board to oversee efforts critical to closing gaps in the delivery of health promotion, disease prevention and direct primary care within the public school system. The process will phase in planning, work to treat children where they are, and be integrative and not duplicative. It will begin with a Healthy Child Profile. The evaluations will bear out the difference these efforts make for students. The funding will be using to implement Electronic Health Records, expand SBHCs strategically, and add school nurses in critical areas, with concomitant increases in home visits and communication among all providers to ensure health needs are met.

\$220,691,871

in financial and in-kind contributions
through five wide-ranging programs



Every year, as part of our vital mission to promote health and wellness throughout the Greater New Haven region, Yale-New Haven Hospital (YNHH) sponsors, develops and participates in a wide variety of community-based programs and services. During 2011, YNHH managed \$220.7 million in financial and in-kind contributions through five wide-ranging programs - Guaranteeing Access to Care; Promoting Health & Wellness; Advancing Careers in Health Care; Creating Healthier Communities; and Building Stronger Neighborhoods. We are proud to summarize those efforts in the annual Community Benefits Report.

The core of our healthcare services is the hospital itself. For nearly 180 years, YNHH has not only served the medical needs of the community but also pioneered advances in medicine and trained thousands of doctors, nurses and other healthcare professionals through our affiliation with Yale Schools of Medicine and Nursing. Today, as the flagship facility of Yale New Haven Health System—which also includes Bridgeport Hospital and Greenwich Hospital—YNHH is a world-renowned institution whose more than 8,950 employees are dedicated to the healthcare needs of our community.