**SBHC School Engagement and Integration**

SBHC success is dependent on leadership that is visionary and collaborative, and that forges partnerships and shared goals, including financing strategies, which will develop and sustain the SBHC.

Shared ownership of the SBHC is essential to its success and sustainability. To achieve this shared ownership, school administration must be engaged in every aspect of the SBHC, including the decision to open and establish a SBHC. Once that decision is made, school administration will be involved in: assessment and planning, marketing and outreach, sponsorship and program development, data collection and reporting, and quality improvement. The more school involvement there is in the SBHC, the greater the likelihood that it will become integral to the lives of the students and, therefore, be able to make an impact on their health and, ultimately, their academic success.

**Medical Sponsor Coordination**

SBHC school coordination time is not reimbursable. This work is integral to developing strong relationships with the school and ultimately can help determine the success of the SBHC. The SBHC medical sponsor must decide where the responsibility of coordination is placed. Here are examples of who coordinates SBHC work:

* A standalone SBHC coordinator position
* SBHC’s medical assistant
* Another staff person at the medical sponsor’s organization

**Class Seat Time**

This is one of the top concerns of school administration and staff. SBHCs do not reduce seat time, on the contrary, they help keep students in class and ready to learn.

* Students have direct access to health care providers while they are at school and do not have to miss as much class time to receive care.
* SBHCs serve all students, regardless of insurance type or ability to pay.
* Parents do not have to miss work to take their child to the doctor.
* Transportation problems in seeking health care are reduced.

The Student Satisfaction Survey administered yearly at OSAH-sponsored SBHCs asks students about the class time missed using the SBHC versus other health care options. Sharing this kind of data with school administrators can help them understand how the SBHC is supporting student learning.

**School Calendar**

SBHC coordination, promotion, engagement, outreach, and operations need to align with the school’s calendar and days and hours of operation. Understanding the school calendar is vital to effectively engaging families and students, planning your outreach, and building your clinic workflow around a school year and school schedule.

**Focus Areas for Coordination**

* School Health and Wellness Teams

Get integrated into these teams as soon as possible to ensure policies on confidentiality are in place.

* IEP and MSBS

There are likely to be Medicaid School-Based Services (MSBS) provided for students with Individualized Education Plans (IEPs) and potentially other students as well. Make sure to coordinate with the school around this to avoid any confusion.

* Services and Confidentiality

SBHC medical sponsor needs to be aware of school board policies that may impact allowable services. Be familiar with FERPA and HIPAA joint guidance to understand where lines are drawn.

**Key Relationships to Develop and Maintain**

* School Principal

Meet semi-annually to plan procedures and promotion (including inclusion on website and other official school communication platforms (robo-calls, marquee, PeachJar, email, etc.); coordinate any necessary meetings with Superintendent and/or School Board

* School Nurse or Health Assistant

Meet regularly to plan triage and referral procedures. For sample procedure visit…

* School Social Worker and/or Counselors

Meet regularly to plan referral, assessment, and other procedures

* School Secretary

They are usually gatekeepers at the school and are a key partner to engage with regularly. Meet prior to student return in August to review student “travel” procedures and share promotional tools.

**Opportunities for Staff Engagement**

* Teachers

Ask the Principal to include the SBHC in summer professional development/in-service days to educate all teachers about referrals, “travel” procedures, and other opportunities

* Health Teachers

Meet before school begins to plan semester class presentations, tours. Etc. Communicate regularly about any health education needs they may have

* Science Teachers/English teachers

Meet before schools begins to plan class presentations. These can be very brief SBHC promotion presentations so as to not use up too much class time.

* Coaches and Athletic Director

Meet at least annually to plan sports physicals/EPSDT and other collaborative opportunities

* Community School Coordinators

Meet regularly to partner on referrals, family outreach, etc. Attend community school events to engage with families and parents and promote SBHC services.

**MOUs/MOAs**

The SBHC will be more successful if the school and medical sponsor formalize their partnership through official mechanisms. These can include common strategic plans with shared vision, mission and outcome measure as well as contracts and/or Memorandums of Understanding/Memorandums of Agreement (MOUs/MOAs). These documents clarify roles and responsibilities for each partner, identify roles and responsibilities and increase accountability among all partners.