

School Partnerships for Family Health

Arise Policy Conference

Thursday, February 5, 2015

Birmingham-Southern College



Gadsden Family & Student Health Solutions



School-Based Health Care Program

The “Health Center Next Door” Model: One Community’s Experience

The ABC's of School-Based Health Centers



“Because Healthy Kids Learn Better!”

Access

Quality Health Care

Commitment

Collaboration Between:

Quality of Life Health Services, Inc.

And

Gadsden City School System

Background

- ❖ Quality of Life Health Services, Inc., (QOLHS) was formed as a private, non-profit corporation in November 1977 and has grown into a network of 21 primary health care centers, starting in Etowah County and expanding into 18 counties.
- ❖ QOLHS is a member of the Alabama Primary Care Association (APHCA), the National Association of Community Health Centers (NACHC), and is accredited by the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations (JCAHO), with the additional recognition and certification as a Patient-Centered Medical Home (PCMH).
- ❖ In addition to the School-Based Health Care Program, other Special (Populations) Programs and Initiatives include: Public Housing Primary Care Program, Migrant Program, Behavioral Health Program, Maternity Care Program (Medicaid), and a Wellness Program.
- ❖ QOLHS's continued focus is providing access to patients with medical, dental, behavioral health, vision, pharmacy, health education and health insurance enrollment assistance.

Background

Corporate Mission Statement

Quality of Life Health Services, Inc. Board of Directors believes that health care is concerned with the prevention of illness and the preservation and restoration of health. Health care is “essential” and the right of every individual. Health care requires collaboration with a variety of professionals whose common interest is to strengthen the integrity of the human-environment relationship; and, therefore, attempt to achieve optimum level of functioning and state of well-being.

Corporate Vision Statement

Quality of Life Health Services, Inc.’s vision is to continuously strive to efficiently provide health care, service and education, which consistently meets or exceeds the expectations of patients, physicians, employees and the community.

“People Caring About People”

SBHC Program: How It All Began...

- 🍏 Quality of Life Health Services, Inc., a Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC), in collaboration with Gadsden City School System, initiated its School-Based Health Care Program and opened Gadsden Family & Student Health Solutions in March 2004 (a modular unit on the campus of Oscar Adams Elementary School).
- 🍏 In October 2012, Quality Health Express (SBHC Program Mobile Unit) began operations.
- 🍏 In February 2014, to further expand QOLHS's mission for the SBHC Program to increase access to health care for the students and families of the Gadsden City School System, a groundbreaking ceremony was held for the new Gadsden Family & Student Health Solutions facility between Oscar Adams Elementary and Litchfield Middle schools.

Gadsden Family & Student Health Solutions Service Locations



Gadsden Family & Student Health Solutions Staffing Profile

- 🍏 Department Head (Special Programs Officer)*
- 🍏 Site Manager (Special Programs)*
- 🍏 Nurse Practitioner
- 🍏 Dentist
- 🍏 Dental Hygienist
- 🍏 Optometrist*
- 🍏 Behavioral Health Specialist
- 🍏 Health Education Specialist
- 🍏 Key Support Team: Patient Services Representative; LPN; Medical Assistant; Dental Assistant; Quality Health Express Driver

SBHC Program: The Goal

- ❗ QOLHS brings the doctor's office to the school so students can avoid health-related absences and receive support to succeed in the classroom. This also allows parents to reduce their time away from work. Studies have shown that students perform better when they show up to class healthy and ready to learn.
- ❗ Gadsden Family & Student Health Solutions strives to meet medical, dental, vision, behavioral health, and other health care needs. Services are available to all Gadsden City School System employees, students and their families during and after school and regardless of their ability to pay.

SBHC Program: The Process

- 🍏 Consent forms are distributed to each Gadsden City School every August (and subsequently upon request).
- 🍏 A completed and signed consent form must be on file for each student before services will be rendered.
- 🍏 If a student has a signed consent form, they can receive services (medical, vision, dental, health education, and behavioral health) – Parent can designate if they want any services excluded.
- 🍏 Upon completion of medical, vision, or dental services, a Certificate of Screening form (Mobile Unit) or Patient Plan (Health Center) is provided.

SBHC Program: The Services

- 🍏 Diagnosis and Treatment of Acute and Chronic Conditions
- 🍏 Well-Child Visits and EPSDTs
- 🍏 Immunizations
- 🍏 Behavioral Health Services (Counseling)
- 🍏 Vision Services (Screenings and Follow-up)
- 🍏 Dental Services (Screenings, Procedures and Follow-up)
- 🍏 Sports Physicals
- 🍏 Treatment of Minor Injuries
- 🍏 Health Education
- 🍏 Classroom Presentations (as assigned)
- 🍏 Referrals (as needed)

SBHC Program: The Major Challenges

- 🍏 Incomplete/Inaccurate Consent Forms
- 🍏 Data Entry
- 🍏 Building Trust/Rapport (parents and school district)
- 🍏 Patient/Parental Follow-Through
- 🍏 Transportation

SBHC Program: The Strategy Plan

- 🍏 Reduce the length of the consent form (make it more user-friendly)
- 🍏 Cross-train support personnel to assist with data entry process
- 🍏 Provide more visibility at school/parent events (i.e., Open Houses, PTOs, School Board Meetings)
- 🍏 Make direct contact with parents within a designated time frame following screening/visit to ensure parent is aware of any needs for follow-up services
- 🍏 Applied and secured funding for a Mobile Unit

SBHC Program: The Key to Sustainability

🍏 Ongoing Communication and Collaboration with the Key Stakeholders

- Monthly Strategy Team Meetings (Internal)
- Quarterly SBHC Advisory Committee Meetings
- Monthly School Board Meetings
- School/Faculty/Parent Meetings
- Community Events
 - H.O.P.E. Celebration
 - Fitness Rocks
- Annual SBHC Report Cards

SBHC Program: Coordinating School Partnerships for Family Health

The Good News!

- These components already exist in your school/district

The Challenge...

- Coordinating these efforts – does not happen overnight

Right Blend of Partnerships is “Contagious”

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