

ANCHORAGE SCHOOL DISTRICT  
ANCHORAGE, ALASKA

ASD MEMORANDUM #131 (2009-2010)

October 19, 2009

TO: SCHOOL BOARD

FROM: OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

SUBJECT: APPROVAL OF HEALTH CENTER AT CLARK MIDDLE  
SCHOOL

*ASD Goal: Establish and maintain a supportive and effective learning environment by promoting health and wellness and collaborating with other community agencies to maximize opportunities for lifelong learning.*

RECOMMENDATION:

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve and authorize the Superintendent to accept a school-based health center as a pilot project at Clark Middle School beginning in January 2010 and extending through June 2011.

PERTINENT FACTS:

The school-based health center proposed for Clark Middle School is a project with both health and educational benefits for students. Research on school-based health centers over the last fifteen years has shown substantial decreases in absenteeism and tardiness while significantly increasing timely, accessible and affordable health care for students.

Staff from ASD Health Services, Health and Physical Education Department, the Anchorage Department of Health and Human Services, the All Alaska Pediatric Partnership, the Anchorage Neighborhood Health Center, Southcentral Foundation, Elmendorf AFB, health care providers, and health care advocates came together in the spring of 2008 to discuss the need for more immediate and accessible health care for students in the Clark Middle School neighborhood of Mountain View. (See Attachment A for letters of support.) Discussions were in response to community input that suggested a health center during the planning

and design phase for the new school.

Enthusiasm for accessible health care at Clark was recently reinforced by positive comments by some of the nearly 700 students, parents and other family members attending an on-site health fair during registration in August 2009 that included screenings and immunizations. At their October 12, 2009 meeting, the neighborhood community council heard a presentation about the proposal from Clark Middle School Principal Cessilye Williams. With approximately 30 persons in attendance, there were many favorable comments and overwhelming support for the health center.

Nancy Edtl, Director of Nursing and Health Services, gathered additional information about the initial challenges and ultimate success of establishing a center by visiting the school-based health center in Juneau at the Superintendent's request and by attending the National Assembly on School Based Health Care conference in 2008.

The proposed health center will be separate from and in addition to the school nursing services currently provided. Services are expected to initially include immunizations, sports physicals, and limited acute care services, and could be expanded to other services in response to student needs and community support. (See Attachment B) Based on the input of local health care providers serving children in the pilot community, as well as on the experience of the Juneau Teen Health Center, behavioral health services are anticipated to be an area of significant need.

Services will be provided only to Clark Middle School students. Parent consent forms will be required for any students receiving services at the health center. There will be no charges directly to students and no student would be denied services based on an inability to pay. Third party payers (insurance companies, Denali Kid Care) are expected to be billed for services in the second year of the health center's operation. All resources for the health center will be obtained through donations of supplies and equipment, and through the professional services for direct care and medical charting made available by the partner health organizations. Educationally, having a health center on-site at a school that boasts a health career academy for students will increase attention to and interest in health and wellness from personal and career-inspiring vantage points. Coordination of the pilot and all services provided will be under the direct supervision of the ASD Nursing and Health Services Department.

Upon board approval, a community engagement process involving parents, the faith-based community, and other community organizations and stakeholders will take place prior to the opening of the health center in January 2010.

A detailed evaluation of the pilot project targeting both health and educational issues related to absenteeism and tardiness will be conducted and made available to the school board. With school board approval, a successful project would be expanded to the West/Romig and Service high schools.

CC/EG/JS/NE/SV/BT

#### Attachments

Prepared by: Jerry Sjolander, Executive Director, Special Education  
Nancy Edtl, Director, Nursing and Health Services  
Sharon Vaissiere, Coordinator, Health and Physical Education Programs  
Beverly Thornburg, Coordinator, Discretionary Grants

Approved by: Ed Graff, Assistant Superintendent, Instruction  
Carol Comeau, Superintendent

# MUNICIPALITY OF ANCHORAGE

Department of Health and Human Services



907-343-6718

*Mayor Dan Sullivan*

Anchorage School Board  
John Steiner, President  
5530 E. Northern Lights Blvd.  
Anchorage, AK 99504

October 12, 2009

Dear Mr. Steiner:

On behalf of the Municipality Of Anchorage, Department of Health and Human Services, I would like to express my support for a school-based health center pilot project planned for Clark Middle School to provide immunizations, sports physicals, and limited acute care services. School-based health centers across the U.S. have been shown to improve educational and health outcomes for students, including reducing tardiness and absenteeism, reducing inappropriate use of emergency rooms, and improving health access for students.

The Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) anticipates supporting this pilot project by contributing vaccine and use of its medical records system, as well as by assisting to convene and engage community members in the planning and operation of this program.

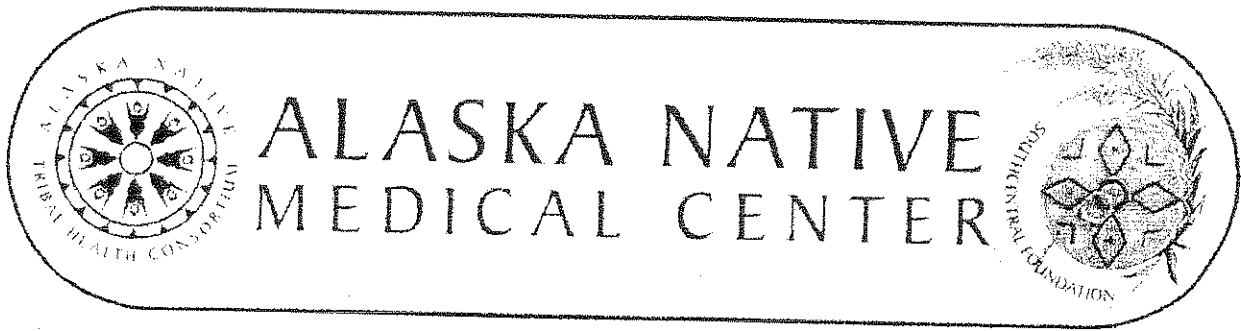
DHHS engages in a wide variety of programs and strategies to keep people healthy by preventing communicable diseases by offering immunizations and education. We promote better health and social outcomes through efforts around obesity, aging and disability resource services, and early childhood and family nutrition just to name a few. Most of our programs and activities do not fall into just one category, often working toward all three functions of prevention, promotion, and protection. DHHS is dedicated to the health and well being of our Anchorage Community.

DHHS is aware of the need for more immediate and accessible health care for Anchorage residents, especially children. We are also aware that we cannot meet these needs of the community without support of other partners contributing to children's health services. DHHS collaborates and coordinates services with many health and human service agencies in Anchorage and is especially interested in working with the Anchorage School District, parents, and other community stakeholders to address the health needs of children.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Diane Ingle".

Diane Ingle, Director  
Department of Health and Human Services



Anchorage Primary Care Center  
Children's Clinic  
4320 Diplomacy Drive, Suite 1805  
Anchorage, AK 99508-5925

Anchorage School Board  
John Steiner, President  
5530 E. Northern Lights Blvd.  
Anchorage, AK 99504

Southcentral Foundation (SCF) is an Alaska Native-owned healthcare organization serving Alaska Native and American Indian people living in Anchorage, the Mat-su Valley, and 60 rural villages in the Anchorage Service Unit. Our vision is a Native community that enjoys physical, mental, emotional and spiritual wellness. Our mission is to work together with the Native community to achieve wellness through health and related services. Our organization has developed and implemented comprehensive health-related services to meet the changing needs, enhance culture and empower individuals and families to take charge of their lives. Currently, SCF serves some 46,800 Alaska Native and American Indian people in the Anchorage Service Unit.

SCF strongly supports improving access to care and feels that a school-based health center moves us toward that goal. We've been involved in the planning process for the pilot project at Clark Middle School and believe that partnering with the Anchorage School District to provide on campus immunizations and sports physicals will improve attendance and participation. It will also allow us to learn more about what students need to improve their overall health and wellness. In response to our customers and the community, we support expansion of services in the future, and will continue to collaborate with the Anchorage School District to reach our shared goals.

Sincerely,

Amy C. Schumacher, MD  
Medical Director  
Pediatric Primary Care Center  
Southcentral Foundation

ALL ALASKA



PEDIATRIC  
PARTNERSHIP

3RD MEDICAL GROUP \* ALASKA NATIVE CHILDREN'S CENTER \* ALASKA REGIONAL HOSPITAL  
CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL AT PROVIDENCE \* FAIRBANKS MEMORIAL HOSPITAL  
STATE OF ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES  
MUNICIPALITY OF ANCHORAGE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES  
TANANA VALLEY CLINIC  
CENTRAL PENINSULA HOSPITAL \* NORTH STAR BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SYSTEM

October 9, 2009

*via fax*

John Steiner, President  
Anchorage School Board  
5530 E. Northern Lights Blvd.  
Anchorage, AK 99504

RE: Clark Middle School Health Center

Dear President Steiner and Board Members,

The All Alaska Pediatric Partnership (AAPP) is a longtime supporter of school based health services. We are excited that the Anchorage School District wants to pilot such services at Clark Middle School. This pilot project has a good foundation with strong partnerships already in place.

AAPP is a public private partnership committed to all children in Alaska since 1995, creating safe spaces to grow working relationships to move positive decisions forward for the health of Alaskan kids. Our unique network brings institutional perspectives to develop collaborative approaches that enhance, not diminish, Alaska's pediatric resources.

AAPP brings technical support to this broad-based coalition through the involvement of our Executive Director and the participation of professional personnel and resources of our institutional partners. For example, at the invitation of Principal Williams, AAPP assisted with the health fair held during Clark registration. Students and parents appreciated access to immunizations, dental and other educational materials and vision screening at the school.

We look forward to continuing our support for school based health services as defined by school and community partners that will foster life-long learning and develop responsible citizens prepared to function in a changing, diverse and technological society.

If I can provide additional information, please contact me at [mary.grisco@elmendorf.af.mil](mailto:mary.grisco@elmendorf.af.mil).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mary Grisco', written over a horizontal line.

Mary Grisco, MPA  
Executive Director

10/8/09

To: ASD Board members

From: W. Jon Lyon MD, FAAP

Re: School Based Health Center Pilot project – Clark Middle School

This is a strong letter of support for this project.

I have been on the steering committee as a representative of The Alaska Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) and as an executive member of the All Alaska Pediatric Partnership (AAPP). Both groups are supportive.

The AAP recognizes School health centers elsewhere in the US have been shown to decrease absenteeism and tardiness, increase health care access, and decrease inappropriate use of emergency rooms.

The AAP believes that a “Medical Home” can improve health outcomes for all children, but especially for Children with special health needs such as asthma. As a pediatrician I am hopeful that the Clark Center will help to recognize students with special needs who do not have a “Medical Home” and facilitate referral to area pediatricians.

It will be important for the Clinic to function as part of an integrated health care system, and with the impressive efforts of the steering committee representing the ASD, AAP, AAPP, Municipality of Anchorage, State of Alaska, Anchorage Neighborhood health Center, and South Central Foundation and the Alaska Native Medical Center, among others, I am confident this will occur.

Please support this pilot project.

October 5, 2009

Anchorage School Board  
C/O Carol Comeau, Superintendent  
Anchorage School District  
5530 E. Northern Lights Blvd  
Anchorage, AK 99504

Dear Anchorage District School Board Members:

Over the past year several organizations, including the Anchorage Neighborhood Health Center, Inc. (ANHC), have put a tremendous amount of effort and energy into planning for a School Based Health Center (SBHC). ANHC supports the pilot project of having a SBHC at the new Clark Middle School that will partner with the parents, staff, and the school nurse to provide a limited array of services such as sports physicals, immunizations, urgent care, and nutritional counseling.

Anchorage Neighborhood Health Center, Inc. (ANHC) is a 330 funded community health center that provides primary medical and dental care for persons with no/low income, the uninsured and underinsured. ANHC is the only safety net provider in Anchorage offering services on a sliding fee scale. We provided 39,309 medical and dental visits to 10,585 patients in CY 2008. 58% percent of the patients served were below 100% of the Federal Poverty Level and 84% were below 200% of poverty.

ANHC is keenly aware of the fact that we cannot meet the needs of the community in delivering health care services to all and are very supportive of other partners contributing to children's health services. ANHC collaborates and coordinates services with many health and human service agencies in Anchorage and are especially interested in collaborating with the Anchorage School District for children who are in need of primary medical and dental care.

Sincerely,

Joan L. Fisher  
Executive Director



October, 12, 2009

Anchorage School Board  
5530 E Northern Lights Blvd.  
Anchorage, AK 99504-3135

Re: School Based Health Center – Clark Middle School

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing this letter on behalf of my company, North Star Behavioral Health, in support of the School Based Health Center for Clark Middle School.

North Star Behavioral Health is the largest inpatient and residential treatment provider in Alaska for children between the ages of 4 and 18 with over 1,000 admissions a year. We believe in supporting the community where we live and contributing to the healthy future of our young people. This includes finding ways to help children and teens get the services they need as early as possible. We believe the School Based Health Center will be able to provide early identification and intervention for children and respond on an individualized basis.

Based on the current school based health center in Juneau, behavioral health services are the number one service that children and teens use in accessing the health center. It is anticipated that the Anchorage area schools will eventually have the same result when the appropriate timing of these services happens. North Star welcomes the opportunity to collaborate with the Anchorage School District and other organizations to make this a successful center!

Sincerely,

Andrew Mayo, Ph.D.  
Chief Executive Officer  
North Star Behavioral Health

October 12, 2009

Address to Anchorage School Board  
John Steiner, President  
5530 E. Northern Lights Blvd.  
Anchorage, AK 99504

**Letter of Support for the School-Based Health Center at Clark Middle School**

Dear Mr. Steiner,

I would like to express my full support for the proposed school-based health center at Clark Middle School. As a public health expert, I realize the importance of having a school-based health center in our school system. Having a school-based health center can have a positive impact not only in the students' health, but also in their academic achievements.

I am an Assistant Professor of Public Health from the Department of Health Sciences at University of Alaska Anchorage. I am part of a broad-based coalition who will help implement the proposed school-based health center. As part of the coalition, I will provide my expertise in issues related to public health and evaluation. Moreover, since I teach a Program Evaluation class in our Department, there is a potential that I can get some of my students to volunteer in the continued evaluation of the proposed school-based health center, which will be important in the sustainability of the center.

Thank you for your kind consideration of the school-based health center in Clark Middle School.

Sincerely,



Gabriel Garcia, Ph.D., M.A., M.P.H.  
Assistant Professor of Public Health  
Department of Health Sciences  
University of Alaska Anchorage

## Suggested Health Services and Phase – in Timeline for Clark Middle School Pilot School-Based Health Center

Service/Activity	When to Introduce	Notes
Sports physicals	January 2010	Provided several times per year in keeping with sports season schedules.
Immunizations	August 2010	Provided by ASD Health Treatment Nurses.
Nutritional counseling services	August 2010	Included as routine part of general med/physical.
Acute care services*	August 2010	There is some concern that providers won't be interested in providing acute care services if behavioral health services are not available on site. Specific scope of practice will need to be defined.
Behavioral health screening and referral	August 2010	Included as routine part of general med/physical.
Behavioral health services*	August 2011	There is some concern that providers won't be interested in providing acute care services if behavioral health services are not available on site.
Dental services	To be determined	Introduce in response to demonstrated needs.
More frequent, in-depth hearing and vision screening services	To be determined	Introduce in response to demonstrated needs.

- Acute care services is defined as diagnosis and treatment of minor illness and injury including flu and colds, sore throat, earaches, infections, sprains, cuts, burns and skin problems.
- Behavioral health services are defined as individual counseling, chemical dependency screening, and small group interventions.

ANCHORAGE SCHOOL DISTRICT  
ANCHORAGE, ALASKA

MEMORANDUM

October 19, 2009

TO: SCHOOL BOARD

FROM: CAROL COMEAU, SUPERINTENDENT

SUBJECT: RESPONSE TO REQUEST FOR INFORMATION

School Board President, John Steiner, submitted the following request regarding the proposed student health center at Clark Middle School. Ed, Graff, Assistant Superintendent, Instruction; Nancy Edtl, Director of Nursing Services; and Sharon Vaissiere, Coordinator for Health and PE prepared the following response.

REQUEST:

Are there additional costs to the district because of the health center?

RESPONSE:

School Based Health Centers are most often funded outside of the school district.

Support for the pilot program would consist of the following:

- Outside providers such as the Family Practice Residency Program (physicians) and the Advanced Nurse Practitioner program (UAA) would provide such things as sports physicals. There would be no cost as this would be part of their clinical experience of assessing well children.
- Health Treatment Nurses (current ASD employees) would provide immunizations one day per month (with parent consent). Assuming one day per month, immunizations would result in an estimated two hours of nursing time. The only cost associated with immunizations is in staff time, as the state would provide the vaccines to ASD at no charge.
- The representatives from ASD and each of the partner health organizations may decide to seek grant funding, but the grants would not be in the name of ASD.

REQUEST:

Will there be additional staff needed to support the health center?

RESPONSE:

Should it be determined this pilot program is helpful to the Clark school community, consideration would need to be given to a future program coordinator. This coordinator would make sure this center, as well as any others that form in the future, were providing the services that ASD and the community deemed appropriate. A coordinator's duties would be to ensure that provider agreements were in place, that scope of work was agreed upon, that providers fulfilled their pledge and that all ASD requirements were met. Additionally, the coordinator would provide day to day operations management of the center.

The Attachment B in Board Memo #131 identifies health services and providers.

REQUEST:

Who will manage the health center at Clark Middle School?

RESPONSE:

The district's Department of Nursing and Health Services would be responsible for the oversight of the center and the future coordinator. The coordinator would initially be housed with the ASD Department of Nursing and Health Services unless there was a more appropriate space at or near a center in the future. By maintaining oversight, ASD can be assured that their own goals will be met, the services won't overlap with school nursing, and the school community will have consistent administration. Individual providers would continue to be supervised (clinically) through their healthcare agency. ASD would set center hours, determine types of services, and draft the MOAs with the partner organizations.

REQUEST:

Is the Health Center taking space that was planned for something else? Is there enough room to provide all of these proposed services in Clark?

RESPONSE:

The plans for Clark included a room designated for a school-based health center. (Please see the attached Clark Middle School floor plan, level 2.) This room is separate from the school nurse's office and treatment room. There is a bathroom/hall combination between the two spaces. It is a space of about 240sf ±

with a sink and some cabinets. It is large enough for a single practitioner and some healthcare equipment, a small desk, and computer, etc.

REQUEST:

Will contraceptive and/or reproductive services be provided at the health center?

RESPONSE:

No. The district is not recommending this.

