

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT LANGUAGE/ MESSAGING FOR SCHOOL HEALTH CENTER

DYNAMIC RESPONSE TO EXPRESSED PARENT NEEDS, TO COMMUNITY NEEDS!

MAKING LIFE BETTER FOR PARENTS AND STUDENTS!

FOR THE FAMILIES!

- MAKES IT EASIER TO MEET STUDENT SCHOOL HEALTH REQUIREMENTS (SPORTS PHYSICALS, IMMUNIZATIONS). A PARENT DOESN'T HAVE TO TAKE TIME OFF WORK TO TRANSPORT STUDENT TO ANOTHER CLINIC OR PROVIDER TO MEET THESE REQUIREMENTS.
- MAKES IT EASIER TO MEET OTHER HEALTH NEEDS OF STUDENT SUCH AS VISION/HEARING SCREENING OR ACUTE CARE DIAGNOSIS. FOR EXAMPLE, STREP THROAT COULD BE DIAGNOSED, MEDICATION PRESCRIBED WITHOUT BOTH PARENT AND STUDENT TAKING EXTRA TIME TO VISIT ANOTHER CLINIC, LESS STRETCHING THE FAMILY BUDGET AND PERHAPS SHORTENING TIME THE STUDENT MAY HAVE TO BE ABSENT TO GET WELL.
- SUPPORTS FAMILY WORK ETHIC BY PROVIDING SERVICES WHERE THE STUDENT 'WORKS' SO ADULTS CAN STAY AT THEIR WORK DURING THE DAY.

TAKING CARE OF HEALTH NEEDS SO STUDENTS ARE READY AND IN SCHOOL TO LEARN!

COMMUNITY SOLUTION THAT PARTNERS ASD WITH MEDICAL/HEALTH ORGANIZATIONS WITHOUT AFFECTING PROPERTY TAXES!

FAQs

HOW DID THE CLARK MIDDLE SCHOOL HEALTH CENTER COME ABOUT?

- The planning, community meetings held in 2006 and 2007 identified a student health center as part of the vision for the new school building.
- Municipality of Anchorage and Anchorage School District staff attended a national Urban Initiative conference at which school based health centers were discussed; those attending returned to form a coalition to help Clark's vision. Additionally, ASD sent staff to meet with Juneau school personnel to learn about their nearly 15 year successful teen health center and to the National Assembly for School based Health Care annual meetings; MOA staff also went to Juneau.

- This coalition prepared a proposal in consultation with Clark Middle School and a business plan. ASD Board approved a pilot project, October, 2009, to begin January 2010.

WHAT ABOUT OTHER SCHOOLS?

- West-Romig renewal planning has embraced “school as center of community” concept. Accessible health services for students and community has been part of these discussions. This campus re-development master plan should be completed in 2010.
- As success is documented at Clark, other interested schools would have to demonstrate community support and initiate discussions with community health care providers through the ASD Nursing and Health Services Department.

WILL THIS PILOT PROJECT BE EVALUATED

- Yes, UAA (Gabriel Garcia is lead) is already gathering data to provide an evaluation at the end of the pilot project in 2011.

DOES THIS HEALTH CENTER FIT INTO OTHER SCHOOL SERVICES AND ACTIVITIES?

- At Clark Middle, this health center is part of the integrated 21st Century learning model. Enrichment academies, including health, introduce students to career and practical opportunities as well as elevating academic skills.

WILL THIS/THESE HEALTH CENTERS RAISE MY TAXES?

- Initially, Clark Middle health center will operate with memorandum agreements from medical/health providers who will provide services and then move into a business model that collects from health insurance and seeks philanthropic and grant funding. There is no plan to use municipal tax dollars for these services.

DOES MY STUDENT HAVE TO PAY FOR THESE SERVICES?

- No, services will be available at no cost to students.

WHAT IF I WANT MY STUDENT TO VISIT THIS HEALTH CENTER?

- Parental permission is required for a student to use the services at a school based health center.
- Permission slips will be part of the school registration package at schools with health centers and will involve a one-time permission allowing for all services provided on site.

WHO PAYS FOR THESE SERVICES THEN?

- During the pilot project at Clark, services will first be provided by medical/health organizations in partnership with ASD. The business plan calls for phasing in billing health insurance and seeking foundation, civic philanthropy and grants to sustain these services.

WHAT SERVICES WILL BE AVAILABLE?

- Initially, sports physicals and immunizations will be offered; vision and hearing screenings and acute care will follow. Additional services will be in response to parent, student and community needs, requests and supports.

WILL MY STUDENT'S MEDICAL RECORDS BE KEPT PRIVATE?

- Yes, the records system will be managed by MOA/Department of Health & Human Services that already manages health records for residents who use their services. Your student's record will not be part of his/her school record keeping system.

CAN MY STUDENT'S SIBLINGS USE A SCHOOL HEALTH CENTER?

- No. A school health center is only for students enrolled at that particular school.

BACKGROUND: PREVIOUS PUBLIC STATEMENTS

MOUNTAIN VIEW COMMUNITY COUNCIL NOVEMBER 2009 NEWSLETTER

President's Message

Don Crandall, MVCC President

The Clark Middle School Health Clinic is a big step forward for the community. First, the clinic comes as a result of our parents and residents specifically requesting it. The designers of our new middle school put it in the plans because the residents wanted it. Second, ASD officials see the Clinic as such a big time saver for students that they believe it will, by itself, materially contribute to an overall GPA average increase in a school whose principal and teachers are geared exactly toward that goal. Third, Providence Alaska is giving \$25,000 a year for three years to help the clinic begin, The Anchorage Neighborhood Health Center had recently had to close its Mountain View location, and the services the clinic can provide will benefit residents in terms of their own time and money so the clinic is a net financial gain to everyone whose child attends Clark and to the community's financial prosperity overall. Some services that will have immediate impact are shots, sports physicals (beginning in January), immunizations, nutritional counseling, acute care services (minor illness) and behavioral health (limited services in the form of counseling). This clinic is another reason for all Mountain View residents to welcome the new Clark.

Clark Middle School In-school Health Clinic

Clark is the first school with an in-school health clinic that will serve the students and some community members. As described by Principal Cessilye Williams in her report to the Community Council, the first and foremost purpose of the clinic will be the wellness of Clark students. They can get physicals, shots, simple treatments for infections or limited physical treatment such as for sprains and possibly some assistance for behavioral problems. The idea is that volunteers such as advanced nurse practitioners can provide the services. In addition, the in-school service allows the students to see medical professionals without the difficulty of leaving the school building. This will be a money saver for local families and it will also make it more likely that students will get the health care they need. That, plus the huge time saving of the student not having to leave the school building for a medical visit will save a significant amount of learning time for the students who use the service. Later, perhaps this August, the clinic's service can expand to cover other health care needs in Mountain View. Anchorage Neighborhood Health Center had to close their office on Mountain View Drive earlier this year and is pleased to see the Clark service begin for students.

FROM HEIDI EMBLEY, ASD MEDIA

A school-based health center is coming to Clark Middle School

The health center, located inside the school, will be separate from the school nurse's office. The center may provide immunizations, sports physicals and limited non-emergency care services. Additional services may be added in later years depending on student need and community support.

Health center services will be provided only to Clark Middle School students. Parent consent forms will be required for any students receiving these services. There will be no charges directly to students and no student would be denied services based on an inability to pay.

The student health center is a project with both health and educational benefits for students. The district believes the student health center will reduce absenteeism and tardiness among Clark students.

We will hold community meetings with parents and members of the Clark community prior to the opening of the health center in January 2010.