



Denver School-Based Health Centers

Annual Report 2009 – 2010

Promoting Wellness One Student at a Time

Spotlight: Kim Huebner, FNP-C, Rachel B. Noel Middle School

When Kim Huebner graduated from Abraham Lincoln High School in 1992, she already knew what she wanted to do as a career. “When I was in high school I got involved with the Denver Health School-Based Health Center as a volunteer,” said Kim. “I met Connie Boyle who was the Physician’s Assistant at my clinic and from that moment I knew that I wanted to be like her.”

For the next decade, Kim pursued her childhood dream of someday returning to the school she graduated from and becoming its provider. Lincoln’s School-Based Health Center (SBHC) had such a profound impact on her life that it remained embedded in her goals until early adulthood.

After graduating from Colorado State University with her Bachelors degree in Biology, Kim continued her education at Regis University to become a Registered Nurse. During her clinical rotations, Kim requested that she be allowed to do her nursing internship at Abraham Lincoln High School, with her mentor, Connie Boyle.



With her dream job position still occupied by other Denver Health employees, Kim went elsewhere to gain some nursing experience. After many years, and once again graduating from Regis University, this time as Nurse Practitioner, Kim resolved herself to the fact that she may never get the job that she had always wanted. Not because of her qualifications, but because the staff in the Denver Health SBHC system had shown that they, too, loved their jobs and seldom left.

In 2008, while talking with a friend, a conversation about her dream job once again re-ignited her passion to fulfill her childhood dream. There was an opening at one of Denver Health’s SBHCs. Kim quickly applied and was hired as a Nurse Practitioner at Rachel B. Noel Middle School. She has been at the SBHC for the last three years and loves every minute of it.

“What I love the most are the miracles that happen here,” said Kim “It’s really important to me that the community know that we all take pride in our mission. We all believe in Level I Care for All. I plan on staying here for the rest of my career.”



2009 - 2010 Clinic Utilization

High Schools	Individual Users	Middle Schools	Individual Users
John F. Kennedy	538	Kepner	754
Abraham Lincoln	841	Martin Luther King	643
Montbello	708	Kunsmiller	703
North	874	Lake	597
South	866	Rachel B. Noel	753
West	645	Bruce Randolph	700
		Total	8,622 Individual Students



1001 Yosemite, Suite 200, MC 1916
Denver, CO 80230
303-602-8958
www.denverhealth.org/SBHC



Director's Overview

School-based health centers may be the closest thing to a 'house-call' in the 21st century. Most school aged children spend more time interacting with peers and staff at school than they do with their families at home. As a result, children are likely to view school as a space that is accommodating to their needs. There is certainly something different about caring for a child's health needs in a setting that is comfortable and familiar. My experience as a pediatrician working in schools is that students are more comfortable expressing themselves, seeking care, and asking health related questions.

On behalf of Denver Health and the nearly 9,000 students who used one of our 12 school-based health centers (SBHCs) and the 3,500 students who received preventive oral health services at one of 48 Denver Public Schools (DPS), we would like to thank everyone that has contributed to the success of the program.

We are entering into the 24th year of a partnership with DPS. The partnership remains strong as exhibited by the release of the 2010 Health Agenda which calls for the addition of three to five new SBHCs within the district. Our clinical partnership with the Mental Health Center of Denver (MHCD) continues to grow as exhibited by the over 10,000 mental health visits provided by MHCD and DH staff in 2009-10.

Our program is supported financially by multiple state, federal, and private grants. Specifically, we would like to thank the Colorado Health Foundation and the Colorado Department of Health and Environment for their generous

financial support. Although we have worked hard to improve the financial sustainability of SBHCs, we continue to rely on these partners to bridge the gap. For example, support from the Colorado Health Foundation allows us to provide each SBHC with a full-time mental health provider and staff to enroll uninsured families into insurance programs.

This translates into hundreds of children who suffer from depression or post-traumatic stress disorder receiving therapeutic services. It means that despite a difficult economic recession, less than 30 percent of our families lack health insurance as opposed to the almost 50 percent in years past. Thank you Colorado Health Foundation!

Through the 2009-2010 annual report we hope to offer you a glimpse of the Denver SBHC program. We hope that you will agree that this service and the support which it receives are invaluable. If you would like to make a donation, please go to www.denverhealthfoundation.org and click on the 'donate now' button.



Steve Federico, M.D.
Medical Director
Denver Health School-Based Health Centers

SBHC Success Stories

A male student, unsure of where to go for help, came into a SBHC with his cell phone stating that his friend sent him a text message saying she was going to kill herself. The SBHC mental health therapist met with this 17 year-old girl and learned that she made two previous suicide attempts at ages 12 and 15 and did not receive mental health care at that time. Due to parental abuse and incarceration, she was living with a friend's parent but felt like she was an unwanted burden but she had nowhere else to go. She was very bright, resilient, and did not have any disruptive behavioral symptoms that might bring her emotional pain to the attention of teachers or school administrators. She was eager to talk to the SBHC mental health therapist about her struggles and depression and ultimately her desire to go to college. Within 4-6 weeks of therapy and taking anti-depressant medication she reported a decrease in depressive symptoms and an increase in hopefulness about her life and options for her future.



A female high school student at a SBHC presented for a routine vaccination. The medical assistant checking her in noticed that she had lost quite a bit of weight. When questioned further, the student stated that she was not trying to lose weight. The medical assistant was concerned and had her see the clinic's primary care provider. After a history and a physical exam, lab tests were ordered by the clinician. The child was later diagnosed with Type I diabetes.

Staff at a SBHC called a student to the clinic for vaccinations. During the routine medical history, the physician assistant discovered that the young man had poor vision. A vision test was performed revealing that his vision was 20/200 in both eyes, meeting criteria for legal blindness. The student reported that he never wore corrective lenses. Further investigation found that referrals sent to the student's home never resulted in any action. The clinician contacted the Denver Health appointment line getting the student into an eye exam. A few weeks later the student returned to the SBHC in stylish glasses and shared with the staff his bright new perspective on the world around him.



Principal and Staff Statements

"I think the SBHC has been a real asset to have here at West High School. Many students are seen to deal with multiple health issues on a daily basis. Parents and students find it convenient to be able to tend to their health issues here at the school site without having to go anywhere else. Our two schools, Manny Martinez Middle School and West High School, have benefited from having good quality people working in the SBHC. I will continue to support our SBHC and advocate for their presence here at West High School."

Jorge Loera
Principal - West High School

"I'm often surprised at how many 2nd grade students ask for a toothbrush for their siblings reporting that 'they don't have one.'"

Jaci Lodi, RDH - Dental Sealant Program Coordinator

"I met with our school advisory board last night and shared how well we are doing. I also shared that we have the least number of pregnancies at JFK since I have been here (21 years). We have only five this year; usually by this time of year we have 18-20. A community member asked if I knew why, and I said "it had to be our system of our clinician and our health educator working together to refer all students who are sexually active or thinking of becoming sexually active. And we are seeing more kids who are referred who are actually making it to their birth control appointments. I believe this is due to the Health Educator."

Debra Leaver, Nurse Practitioner & School Nurse John F. Kennedy SBHC
Barb Burrowes, Physician Assistant-John F. Kennedy SBHC

Most Frequent Reasons for Health Visits

- Physical Exams
- General Counseling/ Health Advice
- Asthma
- STDs/High Risk Sex
- Family Planning



School-Based Health Centers 2009 - 2010 Highlights and Outcomes

- 8,622 Students Used the School-Based Health Centers
- 14,940 Immunizations Administered
- 31,057 Total Visits for All Services
 - > 19,442 medical
 - > 8,391 mental health
 - > 3,224 health education
- 885 Students Received Care for Asthma
- 849 Students Received Mental Health Services
 - > 8,391 sessions
 - > 6,014 individual
 - > 983 family
 - > 1,340 group
 - > 54 suicidal assessments
- 3,934 Students Received a Comprehensive Annual Physical Exam
- 7,137 Students with Calculated Body Mass Index (BMI)
- 1,541 Students Received Health Education Services

