Gauging the Impact of School-Based Health Care on Students' Health, Wellbeing and Educational Outcomes

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Topics to be Discussed

- Introduction
- School Nurses = Health Care System
- Framework For Discussion
- Social Justice
- Benefits Of School Nurses – Research Based
- Effective and Efficient
- Opportunity Gap
Introduction

- During contract negotiations with school districts, the important role of what the school nurse has to offer is difficult to explain
- Administration does not see the impact of school nurses nor do they see school nursing as an asset
- It is important to have research based data to support how/why nurses are valuable and a vital member of our school community

School Nurses = Health Care System

- Complex chronic conditions produces significant numbers of children who lack access to regular healthcare. (Akinbami, 2006; Brown & Bzosteck, 2003)
- Registered Nurses (RNs) are needed to assist with the health care delivery at all levels (NASN, 1995, 2003, 2010)
- Coordinated school health should be understood as an investment in our collective well-being. Long term outcomes are even more dramatic (O’Rourke, 2005)
- Healthy children were able to participate more actively in their education (NASN, 2010; USDHHS, 2000) and would become the healthy workforce of the future.
- Percy (2006) stated students may visit school nurses on their own accord or they may be referred
- Appointments, enrollments, transportation, fees, or insurance are not needed for children to receive assessments and care from school nurses (Percy, 2006)
- Fleming (2011) found school nurses were the only health providers who offered, free and open access to healthcare for all public schoolchildren
Framework for Discussion

4 essential components to my plan
• Social Justice
• Benefits of School Nurses – Research Based
• Effective and Efficient
• Opportunity Gap

Social Justice

› Responsibility to stand up for students/families/staff
› We are the voice
› Its our obligation to educate everyone
› Healthcare is a Right – Students have a right to access
› Healthy Students = Healthy Adults
› AFT / Congress / Connecticut
## Benefits of School Nurses – Research Based

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ASSETS</th>
<th>IMPACT</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>▶ The school nurse served as an extension of traditional community health services (AAP, 2008)</td>
<td>▶ A student’s health status is directly related to their ability to learn. Children with unmet health needs have a difficult time engaging in the educational process (AAP, 2008)</td>
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<td>▶ Electronic health records in schools that have a nurse (NASN, 2010) are more complete</td>
<td>▶ School nurses needed to be physically present (AAP, 2008; NASN, 2010) and improved student outcomes results where schools had a full-time nurse</td>
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<td>▶ Baisch et. al., (2011) found “30% greater probability that there was a health alert in the student health record in schools with school nurses compared with no nurse”</td>
<td>▶ Healthy students had better attendance rates (USDHHS, 2000) and better focus.</td>
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<td>▶ The emergency records of students in schools with nurses were significantly more complete (NASN, 2005, 2010; RWJF, 2011)</td>
<td>▶ Nurses identified more students with chronic health conditions, assisted more students in managing these conditions, identified/treated more accidents and injuries, and counseled more students (Akinbami, 2006; Brown &amp; Bzosteck, 2003)</td>
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## Effective and Efficient

- School boards need quality evaluation data to justify hiring and retaining school nurses to support a healthy environment

- The total annual savings in staff time per school based on changes in time spent dealing with health concerns when a school nurse is present may be estimated at over $133,000
- The average salary and benefits (61%) for a school nurse in this district at that time was $72,450
- Principals/Assistant principals reported a decrease of 57 minutes spent dealing with health care issues each day
- Clerical staff-46 minutes per day
- Teachers reported a decrease of 20 minutes per day
Opportunity Gap

- AFT-This is what we do
- Instead of looking/blaming others
- Nurses can be part of the solution
- Freeing up time for teachers/admin/clerical staff to work
- Healthy students are better learners
- School nurses can directly decrease this gap