Wellness Center
Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

What is a Wellness Center? What services does it provide?

- Wellness Centers provide a range of services from primary, reproductive, and mental healthcare to some centers even providing dental and vision care. An emphasis is placed on prevention and early intervention.
- Wellness Centers also provide health education and support services that address teen pregnancy, infant mortality, HIV, violence, substance abuse, etc.

Why do we want Wellness Centers?

- When students' physical, emotional, and mental health care needs are not addressed it makes it difficult for them to focus in the classroom, attend school, and reach their academic potential. We are seeing this play out in our community with disastrous effects on students and our school system; the majority of high schools in Long Beach have truancy rates over 70%. Students’ health should not be a barrier to their academic success; all students deserve a quality education.

Why at schools?

- When parents take their children to their doctor they miss work, lose wages, and their student is pulled out of school. Wellness Centers in High Schools provide services at the heart of our community, and where students spend most of their time. Students don’t need to leave school to see a doctor, and parents can stay at work.

Who can use the wellness center?

- Wellness Centers provide services to all students and community members regardless of citizenship status, whether or not they have health insurance.

Do you need health insurance? How much does it cost?

- Patients do not need health insurance to access care. All services are free or low-cost.

When are wellness centers open?

- Each SBHC & Wellness Center is different, but most centers are open every school day and are staffed by a team of health providers who work closely with school health and other community service providers.

When can students access the Wellness Center?

- Students can make appointments to visit the Wellness Center before, during, or after school. Though they might miss class if they visit the Wellness Center during school hours, they will miss much less class time than they would if they left campus to visit a doctor or clinic.

Who runs the Wellness Center?

- Most Wellness Centers are operated by federally qualified health clinics, usually in collaboration with a community-based organization. In Long Beach Wellness Centers will be run by The Children’s Clinic.
Why do we need wellness centers if there’s already a school nurse?

- Wellness Centers expand the scope of care already offered in schools. School nurses treat minor aches and injuries. Wellness Centers take extra steps in preventative care, providing check-ups and vaccinations.

How can we afford Wellness Centers when our schools are already underfunded?

- There are multiple funding streams available for School-Based Wellness Centers, and each center utilizes those streams differently. Funding sources include: reimbursement from public insurance programs and private health plans; local, state, and federal grants; philanthropic foundations; and in-kind contributions from schools districts and other partners.
- The Affordable Care Act provides $200 million in funding from 2010 – 2013 to improve delivery and support expansion of services at School Based Health Clinics. In the 2012 fiscal year, funding totaled $14.5 million and is targeted for an additional 45 school-based health center programs. This funding will continue to expand preventive and primary health care services in medically underserved areas by building new facilities and modernizing current sites.*
  *source: www.healthcare.gov
- The state of California funds school districts based on student attendance, also known as Average Daily Attendance (ADA). For every absence, our schools lose money. Research shows that School Based Health Clinics & Wellness Centers have a positive impact on absences, dropout rates, disciplinary problems and other academic outcomes. By keeping students healthy and preventing unnecessary absences Wellness Centers earn money for our schools.

What schools will get a Wellness Center?

- We want Wellness Centers to be in all Long Beach public high schools. We are prioritizing Poly, Cabrillo, and Jordan High Schools because central, west & north Long Beach have the highest populations of communities of color, and the highest levels of poverty. Poverty damages health because it forces people to live in less healthy environments, limits resources, and causes chronic stress that prematurely ages the body and drives health-risk behaviors.

For more information or to support our campaign, visit www.kgalb.org or call KGA at 562-986-9415
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