

Rural Revitalization Initiative Newsletter

Des Moines Municipal Schools

Fall 2010

FOCUS: SCHOOL BASED HEALTH & WELLNESS CENTER



A School Based Health Center (SBHC) is **a friendly, accessible place at a school where students can receive a variety of health services.** The Des Moines Center is expanded to a community health and wellness center (DMSBHWC). The State of New Mexico funds health centers across the state, based on the community's needs and the children's health status. Additional monies are applied for through various organizations. No resources are taken away from education to support the SBHC. Residents of our school communities, in addition to school students, can benefit from extended services offered by service providers. Benefits include direct access to health care providers in a confidential setting, medical services in a non-intimidating environment, referrals to appropriate providers, coordination of care with primary care physician outside of the SBHWC, local access to care and wellness programs, and healthier living that leads to successful school performance and more productivity for students and residents. The SBHWC helps to "even the playing field" for citizens in these rural communities who have been underserved for so long.

In the 1990's, the Des Moines District set goals for increased health education programs and health services when its first Educational Plan for Student Success (EPSS) was written. In '02/'03, studies began to identify resources for a Center; in '07/'08, a grant was awarded and in '08/'09, capital outlay funds were awarded for a building. Important relationships have served us well: NM Department of Health/Office of School and Adolescent Health, NM Alliance of School Based Health Care, Union County Health Council, Union County General Hospital/Clayton Family Practice, and valuable work with individual providers.

Nancy Passikoff, RN, serves as the Coordinator for the SBHWC and Rhonda Wingo is Administrative Assistant. Dr. Tena Hoyle, Superintendent, provides administrative support and oversight. Dr. Hoyle was acquainted with our SBHWC long before her arrival in our school district.

HEALTH/WELLNESS PROVIDERS FOR SBHWC

Service Providers and Schedules: DMSBHWC (See weekly school bulletins for updated information.)

Contact Information: DMSBHWC 575-278-2619 or Nancy Passikoff, RN 575-278-2611, Ext. 213

- Service Organization for Youth (SOY): Greg Wiltfang, Lic. Social Worker** (16 hours per week every Tuesday and Thursday)
- McGowen Family Care Chiropractic: Monty McGowen, D.C** (3 hours per week every other Thursday)
- La Familia Family Practice: Marcia Hefker, FNP** (8 hours per week every other Tuesday)
- Union County General Hospital/Clayton Family Practice: Assigned Doctors/Physicians** (8 hours per week every other Wednesday)
- Nazeri Family Dentistry: Sarah Nazeri, DDS** (8 hours per week once a month)



YOU ARE INVITED!

To get involved in the Rural Revitalization Initiative by giving your time and talents to the RRI Steering Committee and/or workgroups and projects!

Call Supt. Hoyle at the school (278-2611) or email revitalize@bacavalley.com.

Our mission is to support the design and implementation of projects and programs that positively impact the school community while recognizing, promoting, and building on existing strengths, assets, and positive attributes of community members. . . .

We need partners who share a common vision.

SUCCESS STORY: DMSBHWC

September, 2010: From Whole Child Education (www.facebook.com/wholechild)

"Des Moines Public Schools, a remote district in New Mexico is committed to providing a safe and healthy environment not only for students but for school staff as well. Their school-based health and wellness center was expanded to serve school staff and community. Staff can more easily take care of their own health and their families without taking time off work to travel great distances to seek care. School staff and the community take part in determining what services they would like the health center to offer. What's next for Des Moines Public Schools? Consultations with a nutritionist and expanding the dental program to include monthly hygiene, fillings and check braces." Read more about schools and communities committed to school staff wellness.

<http://blog.wholechildducation.org/>



From U.S. Senator Jeff Bingaman on the Importance of School Based Health Clinics

"As a life-long advocate for policies that promote good health and quality education, I have long supported efforts to increase and improve the important services provided by School Based Health Clinics. Indeed, through offering comprehensive medical and behavioral health services as well as by providing essential screenings and early detection for conditions such as asthma, diabetes, obesity and depression, I recognize that SBHC's not only reduce health related absences, but also play a vital role in ensuring that our students and our communities remain healthy, vibrant, productive and successful. . . As we continue to devise solutions to meet the various health needs of our State, I recognize that you are a tremendous resource and I encourage you to share your insights . . ."

BE INVOLVED: SUPPORT OUR HEALTH CENTER



COMING SOON:

- The Center is certified for a lab and implementation activities are in progress.
- The Center is licensed for pharmacy capabilities; implementation activities in progress.
- Envision New Mexico is scheduled to work with SBHWC staff and administration in quality improvement activities. Planning and assessment will be conducted with the goal of continuing and enhancing currently approved Standards of Care and Delivery of Services.

And a Special Thank You . . .

Thanks and appreciation to everyone who participated in the clean-up day on July 24th. Clean-up work was completed around the playground area at the school. Volunteers hauled rocks, trimmed branches, mowed, and picked up trash. Folsom volunteers cleaned and painted their Village Hall that day. We've heard from little birdies that other nice cleaning projects happened in our communities during the summer. Way to Go! Thanks, also, to F&S Bank for donating the lunch, Arthur Propane for donating bottled water and Baca Valley for donating paper goods and ice. Thank you to Raymond Sisneros, NMDOT, for providing the trash bags for the clean-up and also the Village of Des Moines for their help and support. Let's start thinking about next Spring and Summer's beautification projects in our school district communities.