



Memorandum

Date: March 26, 2019

To: House Committee on Health Care

From: Jessica E.A. Duke, Manager, Adolescent & School Health Programs

Subject: HB 3165 – School Based Health Centers (SBHC) Planning Process

HB 3165 provides funding to support school health services planning grants in 10 Oregon communities. The intent of the bill is to help communities plan for school-based health centers (SBHCs) or alternative approaches such as mental health services, school nursing services, dental services, primary care, or implementation of trauma-informed school practices.

OHA is aware of question regarding the SBHC planning, and would like to offer details of the established SBHC planning grant process that has been administered through the Oregon Health Authority – Public Health Division since 2004.

With state general funds designated for SBHCs by the legislature, OHA-PHD has awarded SBHC planning grants every biennium. Grant dollars may be used to support community engagement activities, staffing, capital construction, clinical supplies, and/or the hiring of a local community engagement contractor.

SBHC planning grants support communities through either a two-year planning process (Phase I and Phase II) or a one-year Advance Phase planning process. The two-year process typically supports communities that are at the beginning of their SBHC planning:

- Phase I: Community readiness – Engaging community stakeholders in exploring the SBHC model, identifying a medical sponsor, obtaining support from the school board.
- Phase II: Implementation – Hiring Staff, Construction/remodel, opening of a state-certified SBHC.

Advance Phase planning grants are awarded to communities that have already explored the SBHC model locally and are prepared to open a SBHC within the year.

SBHC Planning Grants are identified through a request for proposals (RFP) process. OHA-PHD prioritizes grant awards to communities with high unmet need. OHA-PHD considers the following criteria for each potential planning community, including:

- Counties without a certified SBHC
- School demographics
- School attendance
- Access to health care providers

- Unmet need (Oregon Healthy Teens data)
- Local demographics
- Poverty
- Health indicators

To ensure the services provided at the SBHC meet local needs, OHA-PHD has worked with communities during the planning process to engage local partners, including representatives from local public health authorities, schools, CCOs, culturally-specific organizations, regional health coalitions and youth and parents.

Any community may independently plan to open an SBHC without state grant dollars. OHA-PHD continues to provide training and technical assistance to any community seeking to open a SBHC in their local school, even in the absence of SBHC planning grants. However, planning grants are often essential for under resourced communities seeking to establish SBHCs.

Once an SBHC has been opened, the medical sponsor can apply to OHA-PHD for state certification to sustain ongoing operations.