

2016 Community Health Leadership Award – Nomination

Nominator Name: John Gallagher, Chief Executive Officer
Organization Being Nominated: Sunnyside Community Hospital & Clinics
Name of Program: John Hughes Student Health Center
Program Contact: Ruth Stalcup

Program Description:

Sunnyside Community Hospital is offering Quality Health Care Services via the School Medical Program at the John Hughes Student Health Center at Sunnyside High School. The Student Health Center offers the following treatment services:

- Care for minor emergencies and illness
- Fevers
- Ear Infections
- Cold and flu symptoms
- Upset stomach
- Allergic reactions
- Cuts and abrasions
- Sprains and strains
- Vaccinations
- Sports physicals

The Center is a collaborative effort between SCH and the Sunnyside School District. Its goal is to provide quality care to a rural student population while decreasing rates of absenteeism due to illness.

The Center utilizes a recently awarded HRSA tele-health grant to reduce wait times between doctors and patients.

Population Served:

Sunnyside, Grandview, Prosser, Yakima and the rest of the Yakima Valley is a culturally diverse region of over 80,000 people living between the city of Yakima, on the west, and Tri-Cities, Washington, on the east. The service area is considered rural and medically underserved by census data and access to care is critical in serving community health needs. The Center serves children residing within the area and the Sunnyside School District.

Goal and measure of success:

The program goal is to decrease the level of absenteeism among students suffering from minor illness commonly suffered by adolescents. SCH is working collaboratively with the school district to monitor absenteeism due to these illnesses.

How did the nominee identify the community's health need, for example, did you use the community health needs assessment?

The program utilized data from the Community Health Needs Assessment and data from the school district.

Describe how community partners were involved:

This project involved the schools district, student and parent groups to determine the need and the best way to address the problem using the resources available.

Was the Board of Trustees or the Board of Commissioners involved in the program?

Yes

Did you use data in benchmarking and goal setting? If you didn't use data, how did you evaluate effectiveness? Please describe.

Data and benchmarks were utilized by internal survey metrics as well as analyzing and responding to community needs for rural health treatment services within the service area and utilization of the Community Health Needs Assessment.

How did this project help to advance the cause of Equity of Care in Washington State?

This initiative advanced health equity by providing care to a rural student population

What results are you seeing? What difference has this program made in the community?

Rates of absenteeism have been on a measurable decline and students are more frequently utilizing healthcare providers for common illness.

Has this program been awarded or recognized by others?

The program has been frequently reported in the local media and was the recipient of a tele-health grant.

Who else was involved in making this successful?

The Sunnyside School district, administrators, parents and students were all involved in making this program a success.

Anything else you want to add about this program?

The John Hughes Student Health Center located on the Sunnyside High School campus offers medical services for students as may be appropriate in emergencies or circumstance including treatment by the care provider and/or clinic staff.

The center provides care for a full range of health conditions, including minor injuries and illnesses. Our skilled medical staff provides high quality care at the site without the need for an appointment. This allows the students to see a care provider without having to miss a school day.

The center provides sports physicals and immunizations, and treats sprains, fractures, upset stomachs, fevers, cuts or abrasions, ear infections and allergic reactions.

The clinic, which has three exam rooms and is staffed by two nurse practitioners as well as a medical assistant.

The student health center is run as a rural health clinic, which means it will see patients regardless of ability to pay for services.