

Thank you for your time today; I am Ellen Carroll PhD, APRN, a board member of the CT association of School Based Health Care and the Director of The Dr. Robert E. Appleby SBHCs in Norwalk. I'd like to thank the Governor for keeping SBHCs whole in his budget and thank the Appropriations Committee for its continued strong support. I have been involved in SBHC since 1996 and have realized that providing student's access to health care and health professionals during the school day has the power to transform the community for the better.

SBHCs largely serve at risk youth and provide a safety net for students with little or no health insurance. While 49% of our enrollment are covered by Medicaid we still encounter another 40% uninsured/ undocumented students whose cost of care will not be reimbursed.

- 70% of enrolled students use our clinic
- 24 % of the enrolled users are found at risk for mental health or behavioral risk and are provided brief intervention or referral to a higher level of care usually within the same school day
- 93% of students who use our mental health services demonstrate improvement within 3 months
- 95% of our medical users receive treatment and return right back to class.

Health seeking behaviors and prevention attitudes are developed with the support of the SBHC team.

- 30% of our enrolled population are found to be overweight or obese and are provided nutritional and activity counseling at that same visit.
- 98% of student users report making changes to improve their health and lifestyles since coming to the SBHC

We eliminate disparities in care and assure care for vulnerable populations and keep all students healthy and safe. This school Year in Norwalk we have appreciated a recent influx of high complexity, unaccompanied minor immigrants while it's a challenge that we have met favorably it causes considerable strain on our limited resources. Continued funding is integral to our ability to serve the community.

By providing access, treatment and support SBHCs empower students so that they can establish and nurture healthy habits for years to come. SBHCs allow students to be healthy and in the classroom, their parents at work, and their teachers focusing on their students educational needs. Thank you for your continued commitment and support of School Based Health Centers.

Respectfully submitted to Sen. Bradley, Rep. Illon, Sen. Osten, Rep. Walker by Ellen Carroll
2/21/2020