



**School-based Health Services
Information, Input & Networking Community Stakeholder Session
June 3, 2024, 1-4 PM
Executive Summary of Stakeholder Input**

The Children's Trust partnered with the Department of Health in Miami-Dade and Miami-Dade County Public Schools (M-DCPS) to host a meeting at Miami Dade College West Campus. More than 60 people from 25 community agencies were engaged in the meeting.

Three small group table discussion topics were held throughout the session, with a notetaker from The Children's Trust at each table. Attendees also shared thoughts on sticky notes. For the third discussion topic, feedback was also collected through a Mentimeter poll. The topics were:

1. Challenges and opportunities for school-based health community needs, enrollment, and resources.
2. Challenges and opportunities to professional staffing for nurses, mental health counselors, and social workers.
3. Thoughts, reactions, suggestions regarding the vision for future school-based health services.

The most prevalent topics across the discussions were telehealth, interns, operations, staffing structure, and community engagement, in that order.

Telehealth was the most mentioned topic. Attendees generally felt telehealth could be successful but noted that inconsistency around connectivity issues at school sites could be a barrier. Many attendees felt telehealth would be best implemented for mental health services and as a tool to obtain parent consent more efficiently.

Discussions about the potential use of **interns** were the second most mentioned topic. Attendees highlighted the benefits that interns in school health could provide, focusing on how partnerships with nursing colleges and universities could help fill that pipeline. Some attendees mentioned building intern pipelines through M-DCPS magnet school programs.

Discussions surrounding **operations** covered a mix of topics, including service flow, communication, performance evaluation, service delivery, and data management. The following suggestions were made:

- To improve the effectiveness and consistency of health and mental health services in schools, there is a need for more clear referral guidelines and consistency in health clinic operations.
- Prioritize high-quality staffing, address staff shortages, and invest in technology to streamline administrative processes.

- Enhance communication and coordination among providers and provide clear guidance to school principals.
- Implement uniform performance measures and improve consent rates through early submission incentives.
- Streamline data collection and establish proper data-sharing agreements, while recognizing regional differences and tailoring services to local needs.

Regarding **staffing structure**, attendees voiced the need for flexibility and the difficulties in filling roles within the current structure. A common suggestion was to lighten the load of school nurses with the support of health techs, health assistants, or EMTs. Another point was to clarify the roles between mental health professionals and social workers.

Regarding **community engagement**, attendees suggested that providers should attend school events to build relationships with parents and address their concerns, emphasizing the importance of school-based health services. It was suggested that implementing a family navigator in schools may streamline the referral process and ensure parents are well-informed. Additionally, increasing parent advocates, community health workers, and partnerships with local hospitals and clinics may enhance access to resources and support for families.

Some additional topics mentioned by meeting participants included:

- Salary increases for staff retention.
- Leveraging funds from billing and grant funding.
- Use of mobile health units.
- Expansion of services.
- Students' differentiated needs across different grade levels.

Overall, attendees expressed excitement about the future vision for school health services that was shared at the meeting, feeling optimistic about the potential improvements and innovations discussed. There was a strong sense of collaboration and dedication among the diverse group of stakeholders, all working toward the common goal of enhancing student well-being. The session fostered a shared vision for a more integrated, efficient, and accessible health services network within schools. Participants left the meeting energized and hopeful, ready to implement the strategies and ideas generated during the discussions to make a tangible impact on the health and success of students in Miami-Dade County.