



June 2008

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*—Embracing comprehensive health care in schools.*

**Welcome** to the rejuvenation of the “Center Voice”, an e-newsletter for the newly renamed North Carolina School Community Health Alliance. This issue is in summary format that should enable you to scan and get information quickly. If you want more detail, please email the office (cbotta@ncscha.org) Botta, and we can hopefully provide. Happy Summer to Everyone!

**Office Update:** With the generous grant from Kate B. Reynolds Charitable Trust, what was the NC Association of School-Based/School-Linked Health Centers opened its newly staffed, part time office with Connie Parker as Executive Director and Christine Botta as Executive Administrator in January 2008. Having a home office in Wilmington until other funding is available is convenient for Connie, but also counts as a large in-kind contribution in the Alliance budget. The first few months have been filled with setting up computers, telephones, printer/copier, financial books, and files; but the organizational stuff has been interrupted with the following.

**Board Activity:** In January we changed our name to NC School Community Health Alliance, after agreeing that the earlier name had been too much to handle. A Board Meeting and Retreat at the Summit Center at Haw River near Greensboro brought 22 of us together to look at priority issues for our future and to begin the planning on how to address them. Thanks to Gay Bowman, past president of the AMA Alliance, for facilitating the two-day effort. In between Board meetings, the Executive Committee has been holding regular monthly meetings with Helen Hill, president; Steve North, MD, vice-president; Kathleen Loucks, Secretary; and Joyce Wood, Treasurer.

**Web Site:** The new web site is under construction, [www.ncscha.org](http://www.ncscha.org). We are working with Ethos, a company in Wilmington, who also designed the logo above that was selected by the Board at its Retreat. They are taking photographs now and waiting for us to submit written content. With the assistance of the Technical, Research and Evaluation Committee, the development of the website should move along rapidly, and become a useful resource soon.

**Committees Formed:** The Board Retreat led to the formation of six committees to address the priorities identified in the planning process:

- Administrative and Self Evaluation: Joyce Wood, Chair
- External Relations: Anne Derouin, Chair
- Professional Development: Cathy DeMason, Chair
- Technology, Research, and Evaluation: Steve North, Chair
- Advocacy: Phyllis Hill, Chair
- Financial Development: Beth Spangle, Chair



These committees are already meeting by conference call and moving ahead with identified issue areas from the retreat. If you are not on one of these committees and would like to be involved, let us know. They are not limited to Board members.

**Annual Conference:** Another exciting rejuvenation is the NCSCHA Annual Conference. If you don't have it on your calendar already, it is Thursday and Friday, October 16 and 17, at the Clarion Hotel near the Greensboro/High Point/Winston-Salem Airport. A "save the date" card has gone out to multiple distribution lists of partner organizations, and we should have a completed agenda to everyone by July. This week we are working with SEAHEC on plans for continuing education units for all center staff positions and other professionals who will attend. There will be three plenary sessions with speakers from the Kellogg Foundation, Kate B. Reynolds Charitable Trust (KBR), NASBHC, and UNC School of Medicine, Department of Adolescent Medicine. Two break-out tracks with three presentations each will feature one track directed at center staff and another related to nuts and bolts of starting and running centers. Exhibits from centers on their overall programs or a special program are encouraged – just let us know to reserve a table. Vendor and non-profit tables are also being sought. Christine has an application, so let her know if you have a lead on those. KBR has become our first official sponsor just this week, but we need others and would appreciate your leads on those, as well.

**State-National Technical Assistance and Training Partnership:** NCSCHA has joined with the NC School Health Unit in the Children and Youth Branch of the NC Division of Public Health in a new technical assistance and training partnership with the National Assembly on School-Based Health Care. Staff members of the Unit and members of the Alliance are being trained as trainers in a series of national workshops. The first was held in April at the Aqueduct Center in Chapel Hill to be followed in September by a training in Texas. Those being trained are Dan Garson-Angert, Omar Kebbah, Helen Hill, Mike Palanza, Nancy Cameron, Gina Smith, and Connie Parker. Trainers are already presenting at the Healthy Schools Institute this month, and will be a part of the Alliance Annual Conference in October.

**Regional Meetings:** The Western Region had another successful meeting in May with 19 attending. They overviewed the Alliance Retreat and committee development, the Training of Trainers partnership, ideas for toolkits, forms for sharing, and regional needs assessment. The SESAMM team presented an update on the programs in Buncombe, Yancey, and New Hanover Counties for Students Eating Smart and Moving More. The next Western Regional meeting is scheduled for October 3 in Mitchell County at Penland School.

**NASBHC Annual Conference:** The Annual Conference of the National Assembly on School Based Health Care will be June 24 – 28 in Los Angeles. Several from NC are attending to represent us – including a youth and parent attending with Steve North. Connie Parker, a member of the Leadership and Governmental Affairs Panels for NASBHC will be co-presenting on “Policy 101: What exactly happens in that Capitol building and what does it mean for my health center?” Connie recently spent three days in Washington visiting offices of our Senators and Congressmen to obtain support for the SBHC Authorization and the SCHIP school-based health center reimbursement bill.

### ***Kudos to the Following:***

- ◆ To Apple Valley Middle School in Henderson County, sponsored by Blue Ridge Community Health Services, for the great article and public relations event in recognition of the 2007 “NC Association of School-Based/School-Linked Health Centers Week.”
- ◆ To Steve North, MD, for the tremendous leadership in writing an editorial, speaking to the school board in Mitchell County and kicking off a new “mobile” concept that is proposed for the fall. Also to Dr. North for his leadership role in rural health care telecommunications that we will hear more about in the future.
- ◆ To Lee Daly for her leadership role in the successful planning and oversight of the Western Regional Meetings
- ◆ To the School Health Alliance for Forsyth County for the terrific newsletter produced for students and parents in honor of NC Association of School-Based/School-Linked Health Center Week, which was adapted for use by a number of other centers. Also to the Forsyth Alliance for hosting two Board meetings in two years in Winston-Salem.
- ◆ To all who took the time to call or contact Legislators in the effort to increase funding for our centers across the state. We heard from many of you and received copies of what some of you sent. We have really mounted a team effort, and we can be proud of that

### **News from NC Multi-Site Adolescent Research Consortium for Health (NC MARCH) - Carol Ford, MD**

The "More between 10 and 20: Investing in Children on the Threshold of Adulthood" project is off the ground! Funded by The Duke Endowment, this project will involve:

- 1) Creating a "NC Adolescent and Young Adult Health Report Card"
- 2) Conducting a state-wide survey of parents of teens about adolescent health issues
- 3) Work of an Adolescent Health Task Force through the NC Institute of Medicine

Activities will culminate in a state-wide Adolescent Health Summit in fall 2009. The overall goal of the “More between 10 and 20” initiative is to create a science-based road map for how we could better invest in North Carolinians 10-20 years of age over the next decade and begin implementation work in priority areas.

Many members of NC MARCH and stakeholders in adolescent health are involved in this important project, and we sincerely thank all of them for their past and ongoing support and involvement.

### **News from NC Multi-Site Adolescent Research Consortium for Health (NC MARCH) - Carol Ford, MD**

The 2008 National Society for Adolescent Medicine (SAM) meeting in Greensboro in March was a success, with 700 people attending from all over the US and world, and a strong contingency from NC (about 70) and NC MARCH!. The theme of the conference was prevention and treatment of obesity in adolescents, and the coverage of this topic was top-notch and science-based.

Amy Davenport, MPH, presented the results of our first NC MARCH research project, "Parents & Health Care Professionals Working Together to Improve Adolescent Health." The purpose of this research was to explore parent and health care providers (HCPs) perceptions of parent-HCP partnerships to improve adolescent health and healthcare, as well as to develop a framework that informs parent-HCP partnership interventions to improve adolescent health.

Through our exploratory research we identified several potential strategies for improving parent-HCP partnerships to improve adolescent health and health care. These include:

- ◆ HCPs reinforcing parent roles/work to keep their adolescent child healthy
- ◆ Building trust between parents and HCPs
- ◆ Increased HCP sensitivity to parents who may feel "judged" as "bad parents"
- ◆ Improving parent-HCP communication about adolescent health issues in a way that respects the developmental complexities of parent-teen relationships.

Carol Ford, MD, also presented results at the 2008 Pediatric Academic Society national meeting in Honolulu, Hawaii. Both presentations were a wonderful opportunity to "showcase" our early collaborative work.

### **New Immunization Requirements for the 2008-2009 School Year - Amanda Dayton**

Over the summer months, please remember to immunize the children, adolescents, and adults in your practice who will be affected by the new immunization requirements for school and college entry. Children who will be entering kindergarten, adolescents who will be entering 6<sup>th</sup> grade (or turning 12), or adults who will be entering college for the first time this fall need to be in compliance with the new requirements. If you see any of these individuals in your practice, please make sure they have received the vaccines required for school entry this fall. One booster dose of Tdap (tetanus/diphtheria/pertussis) vaccine is now required for the following age groups:

- ◆ **All individuals attending public school** who are entering the 6<sup>th</sup> grade on or after August 1, 2008, if five years or more have passed since the last dose of tetanus/diphtheria toxoid
- ◆ **All individuals not attending public schools** (i.e., private, home-school, non-traditional schools) who are 12 years of age on or after August 1, 2008, if five years or more have passed since the last dose of tetanus/diphtheria toxoid.
- ◆ **Individuals enrolling in college or university** for the first time on or after July 1, 2008, if a tetanus/diphtheria toxoid or tetanus/diphtheria/pertussis vaccine has not been administered within the past 10 years.

This rule change also impacts mumps vaccination. Individuals will now be required to receive a second dose of mumps vaccine before enrolling in school, college or university for the first time on or after July 1, 2008.

Don't miss this opportunity to vaccinate the adolescents and college-bound students with the additional vaccines recommended for their age group. When patients come in your office to receive the Tdap or mumps vaccine, it's also a good time to speak with them about the additional vaccines recommended for adolescents, such as meningococcal conjugate vaccine (MCV4) and human papillomavirus vaccine (HPV).

For more information about the immunization rule change and for free educational materials that can be downloaded and printed, please visit our website at <http://www.immunizenc.com/Rule%20Change.htm>. Questions? Call the Immunization Branch Central Office, at 919-707-5550.