



SACRAMENTO CITY UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD OF EDUCATION

Agenda Item # 10.3

Meeting Date: April 3, 2014

Subject: Overview of Section 504 and Health Services

- Information Item Only
- Approval on Consent Agenda
- Conference (for discussion only)
- Conference/First Reading (Action Anticipated: _____)
- Conference/Action
- Action
- Public Hearing

Division: Student Support and Health Services

Background/Rationale:

The Student Support and Health Services (SSHS) Department oversees Section 504 accommodations for the district. The law that was passed in 1973 prohibits the discrimination against persons with disabilities and applies to schools that receive any federal funds. It requires school districts to provide qualifying students (those with diagnosed physical or mental impairments) with reasonable accommodations to enable students to participate and learn in the general education program.

The SCUSD Health Services department performs a wide range of health support functions throughout the district. Staff meets the healthcare needs of students throughout the life cycle, from birth to elder adulthood. Health Services staff focus primarily on children with specialized healthcare needs (CSHCN) and their families, as well as the site staff who must provide a safe environment in the absence of Health Services presence.

Health Services staffing has been cut drastically over the past decade. The number of students with specialized healthcare needs and the medical advances required to care for students have increased dramatically over the same time period. This gap produces a health service disparity within our district during each school day.

Financial Considerations:

Health Services is funded through a variety of sources including general fund, MAA, LEA Medi-cal, specific SCUSD departments and specific school sites through Title I and Economic Impact funds. Funding for 2014-2015 has been significantly reduced due primarily to Medical Administrative Activities (MAA) funding being withheld. The result is 9 nurses being laid off.

Documents Attached:

Executive Summary

Estimated Time of Presentation: 30 mins

Submitted by: Teresa Cummings, Ph.D., Chief Accountability Officer

Approved by: Sara Noguchi, Ed.D., Interim Superintendent

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I. Overview/History of Department or Program

Section 504 accommodations are overseen by the Student Support and Health Services (SSHS) Department. It is a civil rights law that was adopted in 1973 and prohibits the discrimination against persons with disabilities and applies to schools that receive any federal funds. The law requires school districts to provide qualifying students (those with diagnosed physical or mental impairments that substantially limit one or more major life activities) with reasonable accommodations to enable students to participate and learn in the general education program.

The SCUSD Health Services department performs a wide range of health support functions throughout the district. Staff meet the healthcare needs of students throughout the life cycle, from birth to elder adulthood. Health Services staff focus primarily on children with specialized healthcare needs (CSHCN) and their families, as well as the site staff who must provide a safe environment in the absence of Health Services presence. Health Services staff also act as a resource to other SCUSD staff in regards to their personal and family health concerns.

Health Services staffing has been cut drastically over the past decade. The number of students with specialized healthcare needs and the medical advances required to care for students have increased dramatically over the same time period. This gap produces a health service disparity within our district during each school day.

II. Driving Governance:

Pillar I: Career and College Ready

Pillar II: Family and Community Engagement

State and Federally Mandated Services and Care

Student and Staff Wellness

III. Budget:

Section 504 receives an annual budget of \$5,000 from LEA Medi-cal funds. This budget covers the cost of administering the specific accommodations for students.

Health Services is funded through variety of sources including general fund, MAA, LEA Medi-cal, specific SCUSD departments and specific school sites through Title I and Economic Impact funds. For the 2013-14 school year the budget consists of:

- Operating budget (\$135,681)-service agreements and contracts for equipment, medical waste management, ambulance service for football games, hearing and vision screening vendor, immunization and TB clinic supplies and mileage.
- Staff salary budget (\$2,998,304)-salary and benefits for school nurses, health aides, health clerks, hospital and home based teachers, and coordinator.

Funding for health services in school sites is inconsistent throughout the district. Some sites and programs have significantly more service related to the site/program ability or willingness

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to provide funding, while other sites and programs have practically no service at all.

IV. Goals, Objectives and Measures:

The goal of SSHS is to ensure compliance with Section 504 law, support the implementation process at school sites and provide annual training.

The goal of Health Services is to comply with federal and state mandates regarding accommodation for students with specialized healthcare needs, provide safe environments for those students, link students and families to medical care and resources in the community, and prevent and control communicable disease. These services include:

1. IEP (Special Education) and 504 (General Education) Health Assessments
2. Emergency Medical Care Planning and Staff Training for Children with Specialized Healthcare Needs
3. Medical case management including communication with local physicians
4. Home and Hospital Instruction Programs
5. Hearing and Vision Screening
6. State reporting for immunizations, kinder dental exams, 1st grade CHDP exams
7. Urgent response to potential/actual infectious disease outbreaks at school sites
8. SCUSD Immunization Clinic
9. Staff and parent volunteer tuberculosis (TB) Screening
10. Blood borne pathogens training for specified groups-OSHA compliance
11. Suicide risk assessment
12. Clinical educational experiences for Charles A Jones Licensed Vocational Nursing (LVN) education program, California State University, Sacramento (CSUS) School Nursing Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) and Registered Nurse (RN) to BSN programs, and University of California (UC) Davis School of Nursing Master's in Science of Nursing (MSN) programs in pediatrics, community health and mental health courses.
13. Community Partnering with local healthcare organizations

V. Major Initiatives:

No major initiatives for Section 504.

Hiram Johnson Health Center - SCUSD has the only school-based health center in Sacramento County, currently open a half-day per week. Health Services partners with WellSpace Health to provide primary and confidential care services to the students of Hiram Johnson High School. Health Services is also partnering with Hiram Johnson's Health and Medical Sciences linked learning academy for project-based learning related to the health center's services. Students will engage in student-led promotion of the health center, while also learning healthcare consumerism skills and advocating for youth healthcare access.

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Health eTraining - Health Services credentialed school nurses, in collaboration with the SCUSD webmaster, developed an online training to build the capacity of school sites to provide a safe environment for children with specialized healthcare needs. This represents the first department based online training in SCUSD. It gives school staff the ability to preview and review information provided by credentialed school nurses during on-site training and is used by other districts in the area that lack similar resources.

Staffing Model Project - UC Davis Betty Irene Moore School of Nursing graduate students and faculty have partnered with Health Services to research staffing models for school health services that meet the needs of students and school sites and are cost effective. Preliminary results from the efforts have found no real models for school health staffing other than proposed nurse- to- student ratios, which may explain why school health services are a patchwork of funding and services across the county.

Infinite Campus Student Information System - Historically, student information systems have contained little student health information and have had little or no capability to link conditions or risk factors to student outcomes. Health Services staff have worked with Technology Services and Assessment, Research and Evaluation this school year to build these important data capabilities into the new system.

Home and Hospital Based Instruction-Health Services administers the instruction program for students requiring these services in our local pediatric hospitals, and has brought the teachers and hospital site coordinators together to strengthen collegial relationships as well as strengthen service delivery to some of our most vulnerable students. Improvements in the home instruction program have included more thorough consideration of placement during the application process and return to school transition case management. This has resulted in more appropriate placements into alternative programs and more successful return to school efforts.

Coordinated School Health Committee - The Healthy and Hunger Free Kids Act requires school districts to have wellness policies, and both district and site based committees to implement the policies. The SCUSD Coordinated School Health Committee is chaired by the Health Services Coordinator and provides information to school sites through meetings and the webpage on the district website.

VI. Results:

Section 504 accommodation plans continue to increase throughout the district as more administrators and parents become aware of the law and the subsequent responsibilities of compliance and implementation.

Health Services is struggling to provide the current level of service required by federal and state mandates, and requested by the district. This school year they have reached and exceeded the tipping point. Newly admitted or diagnosed students necessitate shifts in staffing that

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compromise safe care and support to sites. There are no subs in Health Services, and they are currently using vendor staffing to support students with specialized health care needs. School sites without health services have little capacity for community partnering with health related organizations.

Recently, Health Services composed a budget proposal that would necessitate increased funding for more staff to maintain the modest level of services currently offered. Without the increased funding, elimination of services will be necessary. In addition, to meet the demand of increased numbers of students with complex medical needs during the school day and in after school programs, Health Services requires many more health aides consistent with the staffing models of other local districts. Without school nurses and health aides, this care must be performed by school site staff, or not performed at all, resulting in liability for the district.

VII. Lessons Learned/Next Steps:

SSHS will continue to provide annual training to school administrators, counselors, nurses, psychologists, program specialist and school social workers to increase capacity and ensure compliance.

School health services have been underfunded, when in fact they are required and necessary to allow students equal access to educational programs and ensure student safety. It is imperative to implement a data-informed approach to plan programs that meet the needs of our students and our school sites. The new student information system will assist the district in this endeavor. The lay-offs of eight credentialed school nurses will create a devastating effect on the district's ability to provide services now and to create an equitable and sustainable model for the future.