

## March Policy Update

April 13, 2010

### *In this update:*

- NASBHC's new Director of Policy and Advocacy
- Hill Update
- Field Strategy and Mobilization
- National SBHC Advocacy Day is June 17th
- Secretaries Sebelius and Duncan Address SBHCs at National Forum on Community Schools

### **NASBHC's New Director of Policy and Advocacy**

We're pleased to announce that Josh Rovner has joined NASBHC as our new Director of Policy and Advocacy. In his prior position he was Manager of Policy and Advocacy for Metro TeenAIDS, which seeks to protect young people in Washington, DC, from HIV and AIDS. At MTA, Josh pushed to guarantee comprehensive health education for all District public school students. Previously, he was the Associate Director of Federal Relations for the Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids, where he advocated for U.S. Food and Drug Administration oversight over the manufacturing, advertising, and marketing of tobacco products. He also served as the Policy Director for the Committee on Public Services in the Council of the District of Columbia. Josh holds a Master's in Public Policy from the George Washington University and a B.A. in Political Science from the University of Rochester. Originally from Massachusetts, Josh now lives in Silver Spring, MD, with his wife, Christine, and children, Sara and Jonah.

He's very excited to join NASBHC, and hopes you'll get in touch with him soon at [JRovner@nasbhc.org](mailto:JRovner@nasbhc.org).

### **Hill Update**

Congress returns from a two-week recess on April 12.

NASBHC is prioritizing the two SBHC provisions included in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act signed into law by President Obama.

#### **1. SBHC Authorization (Sec. 4101(b))**

As a movement, SBHCs have realized a great victory in passing legislation to authorize a federal program for SBHCs. However, an authorization does not guarantee funding, so we are now launching the next phase of our campaign to get the authorization funded through the appropriations process.

There are our three biggest challenges: 1) The Labor, Health and Human Services appropriations bill is one of the most competitive in Congress, 2) this is a difficult budgetary year so we must be persuasive, and 3) misconceptions remain among members of Congress about SBHCs' access to 330 funds; we've heard that Senate appropriators want the short-term funds to be spent before appropriating funds into the authorized program.

We are in a difficult position, even as many programs across the country are suffering because of state budget cuts. The effort of the field will be critical during this appropriations process.

## 2. Emergency Funding for SBHCs (Sec. 4101(a))

The second provision included in the Affordable Care Act mandates \$200 million over four years for SBHCs. Unfortunately, the funds are restricted to expenditures for facilities (construction, expansion, improvements, equipment) and cannot be used for operations. Senator Debbie Stabenow (D-MI), the author of the provision, intended the funds to have less limited uses. NASBHC continues to work with members and their staffs to remove the barriers on the use of these funds and we are working with Senator Stabenow's office to return to appropriators to her original intent for the funds. The funding is mandated; we believe it will be ready for dissemination in June, as we've learned that the guidance for the funds is due in June.

### Issues Moving Forward

- Guidance for emergency funds (\$200 million) is due in June 2010. NASBHC will work to be involved the guidance development. It is clear that these funds will be allocated through a competitive grant cycle.
- SBHC authorized program regulations will not be developed until appropriations are secured. As NASBHC leads advocacy efforts with appropriators, we will also identify key issues and positions to be prepared for the regulation process.
- Reimbursement remains on our policy agenda, and NASBHC continues to apply pressure on the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) to issue a regulatory fix. CMS remains firm on a legislative mandate in order to issue regulations granting reimbursement to SBHCs. Therefore, NASBHC continues to look for legislative vehicles to attach the Health Schools Act of 2009, sponsored by Senator Stabenow in the [Senate](#) and Congressmen Sarbanes, Towns and Dingell in the [House](#) that mandates SBHC reimbursement.
- **Webinar on health reform and SBHCs: May 6 from 2-3pm EST.** Open to the full NASBHC field and state associations, please invite other members, partners, and supporters from your networks. We will incorporate a broader message about the impact of health care reform on kids and SBHCs. If you can't make it, we'll be posting the webinar online.
- Overall, there are many issues within health care reform generally and SBHCs specifically that remain to be addressed through various commissions and the regulatory process. NASBHC will continue to update the field on these issues and developments moving forward.

### Field Strategy and Mobilization

NASBHC is launching a field strategy to secure federal appropriations for SBHCs targeting appropriators and SBHC champions.

**Goal:** Secure an appropriation (ASK: \$50 million) in the Authorized SBHC Program for FY2011.

**Targets:** Appropriators and supportive Senators and Representatives in state delegations. States have varying number of appropriators therefore states should determine additional MOCs based on their organization's capacity for outreach efforts.

## **National SBHC Advocacy Day—June 17th**

NASBHC will soon provide target lists and materials to begin scheduling Hill meetings in June. Our top priority will be on appropriations. This will be an opportunity for states to request member meetings with appropriators, bring a contingency from their state and supporting material collected from April-June.

## **Secretaries Sebelius and Duncan Address SBHCs at National Forum on Community Schools**

HHS Secretary Kathleen Sebelius and Secretary of Education, Arne Duncan addressed the National Forum on Community Schools in Philadelphia, PA and both included SBHCs in their remarks. Here are some highlights of Sebelius's remarks made live: *From the archived video of the opening plenary (1:02:23):* <http://www.ustream.tv/recorded/6022411>

*"We are thrilled that part of the [health reform] legislation calls for an expanded foot print of school-based health clinics... I can't think of a better way to deliver primary care and preventive care to not only students but their families than through school-based clinics. So the Secretary of Education and I have already talked about how we're going to leverage that money, how widely we can expand that foot print, and how quickly we can get it done."*

*"I actually told the leader of the school-based health clinic association the other thing I found out is that in the Department of Agriculture there is actually money that could build SBHCs in rural communities. So that money is available and we're going to try to bring him to the table to look at ways to expand the kind of service footprint."---HHS Secretary, Kathleen Sebelius, 2010 National Forum on Community Schools, April 7, 2010.*