

ANNUAL REPORT 2020



**School-Community
Health Alliance of Michigan**

A year of accomplishments in the face of a pandemic!
Learn more about our advocacy, network outreach,
and financial efforts throughout 2020.

School-Community
Health Alliance of Michigan

WELCOME TO ANNUAL REPORT 2020

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ABOUT SCHA-MI

The School-Community Health Alliance of Michigan (SCHA-MI) provides advocacy, technical assistance, and support for child and adolescent health centers (CAHCs) in order to maintain and expand access to healthcare and mental health services for school-aged children in Michigan. Additionally, we provide COVID-19 related services including community education resources on the virus.



MISSION STATEMENT

To improve and advocate for the health and educational outcomes for children and youth by advancing school-based and school-linked health care.



WHAT SERVICES DO HEALTH CENTERS PROVIDE?

Mental Health:

- Individual Therapy
- Group Therapy
- Behavioral Health Screenings
- School Staff Education and Training
- Family and Relationship Counseling
- And More

Medical:

- Primary Care
- Immunizations
- Co-Management of Chronic Illness
- Specialty Care Referral
- Minor Acute Diagnosis
- Medicaid Enrollment
- And More



Students at 2020 Advocacy Day.

LETTER FROM BOARD PRESIDENT & EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

As with all aspects of life, 2020 presented its share of challenges for the network of school-based health centers across the state of Michigan. At the School-Community Health Alliance of Michigan (SCHA-MI), our organization spared no effort to ensure our friends and partners across the state had all of the support they needed to continue providing care as best they could for their students during the COVID-19 pandemic. So, during 2020, we focused on two main priorities, communication and advocacy.

When the pandemic restrictions came into effect, we hosted virtual networking meetings for health center staff to meet up with each other on a regular basis. It allowed folks a place to talk with their peers about the unique new hurdles they were facing and collaborate on solutions to overcome them. We transitioned other events to virtual meetings as well, increased the amount of communication we had with the field. Keeping everyone together and feeling connected instead of isolated due to quarantine restrictions was a huge priority. Our strength as a network has always been our unity and collaboration, and COVID-19 was not about to change that!

As for our advocacy efforts in 2020, much remained the same or was smoothly transitioned to digital solutions. Thankfully though, we were able to host one of our biggest annual events, Advocacy Day, at the State Capitol (in person!) just before the pandemic began. 55 people in 17 health systems attended and made over 80 appointments with legislators. As the year went on, we also began giving virtual tours of health centers to their respective state and federal legislators.

Continued advocacy efforts throughout the year **successfully secured an increase of \$3.4 million in the Michigan state 2020 budget** for new primary care and behavioral health centers. Additionally, we **successfully secured an increase of \$2.8 million in the Michigan state 2021 budget for 31n(5) funding**, which will result in approximately 22 new E3 (mental health) sites. On the federal level, we ensured inclusion of federal authorization language acknowledging SBHCs. Members of our staff were also appointed to Governor Gretchen Whitmer's Suicide Prevention Task Force and Return to School Advisory Council, Wellness and Mental Health Subcommittee.

Due to these increases in funding, there are now a combined 189 school-based/school-linked child and adolescent health centers across the state of Michigan that are funded by the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services, including:

- 87 Clinical Sites
- 29 School-Wellness Nursing Programs
- 5 Behavioral Health Network
- 68 Expanding, Enhancing Emotional Health (E3)

2020 was undoubtedly a year of accomplishment and resiliency for SCHA-MI and the network of school-based health centers thanks to all of the hard work from your staff and you, the health center staff across Michigan. As you read through the rest of this Annual Report, we hope you receive an in-depth look at the level of the effort that goes into ensuring students in need across the state continue to have access to primary care and behavioral health services. Lastly, we want to express our gratitude for our many partnering organizations, such as the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services and Michigan Department of Education, and all of the help and support they have shown us throughout this past year. We could not have done it without them!

Thank you,



Tom Livezey
President, Board of Directors



Deb Brinson
Executive Director



Lt. Governor Garlin Gilchrist II visting with students at our 2020 Advocacy Day.



Michigan Representative Aaron Miller receiving an award at our 2020 Advocacy Day.



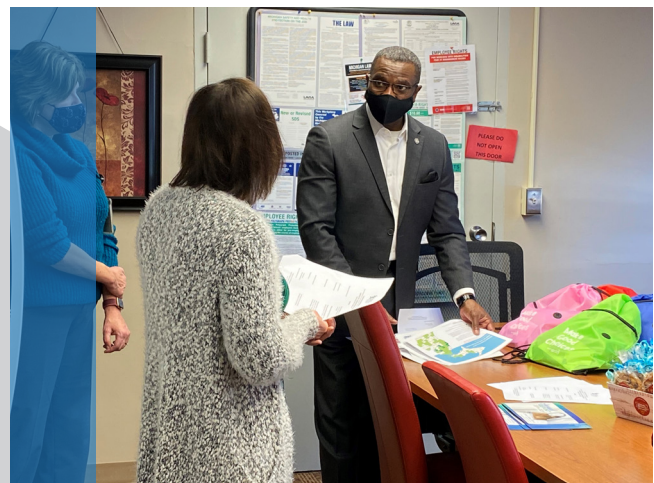
SCHA-MI Board President Tom Livezey receiving an award at our 2020 Advocacy Day.



Health center staff from across Michigan at our 2020 Advocacy Day.



U.S. Representative Peter Meijer visting with Kim Baron and staff at the Cherry Health Health Center at Innovation Central High School.



Michigan Representative Amos O'Neal visting with staff at the Great Lakes Bay Health Center at Saginaw Arthur Hill High School.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS



Kenneth Coleman
Vice President

Director of Community Health,
Ascension SE Michigan Community Health



Tom Livezey
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Superintendent,
Oakridge Public Schools



Natalie Kasiborski
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Detroit Public Schools
Community District



Versell Smith, Jr.
Treasurer

Executive Director,
The Corner Health Center



Laura VanDuyn
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Former Superintendent,
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MEET YOUR STAFF

Here to serve you!



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POLICY INITIATIVE REPORT

Despite the unusual circumstances and restrictions of the COVID-19 pandemic, SCHA-MI charged forward in 2020 to accomplish its many legislative and policy goals. SCHA-MI successfully advocated for increased state funding for additional clinical sites, played an integral role in state-level decisions and discussions regarding the impact of the pandemic on Michigan's students, and brought awareness to the growing mental health needs of youth due to the fear and isolation brought on by the pandemic.

LEGISLATIVE FUNDING ADVOCACY

- Secured an [increase of \\$3.4 million](#) in the Michigan state 2020 budget, a huge win during the pandemic, for new primary care and behavioral health centers:
 - \$1.9 million in 31a(7) for 12 new CAHCs
 - \$1.5 million in 31n(5) for 10 new E3 sites
- Successfully advocated for an [increase of \\$2.8 million](#) in the Michigan state 2021 budget for 31n(5) funding, which will result in approximately 22 new E3 sites.

VIRTUAL LEGISLATIVE MEETINGS

- A total of 52 tours and meetings were held (both in-person and virtually), including those with legislators, Governor's staff, MDE/MDHHS, Medicaid, and other key stakeholders.

STATE-LEVEL ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- A member of SCHA-MI was invited by the Governor to the Suicide Prevention Task Force. Deb Brinson, Executive Director was appointed to the position.
- A member of SCHA-MI was invited to the Governor's Return to School Advisory Council, Wellness and Mental Health Subcommittee. Renee Topolski, Deputy Director, was appointed to the position.
- MDHHS and SCHA-MI led workgroup efforts in collaboration with one another to put together a CAHC reopening toolkit.
- SCHA-MI continued its work through an MHEF grant to address sustainability for mental health services through support of 31n funding in MDE.

FEDERAL ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Organized a multi-state coalition of health center associations to put forth focused advocacy efforts at a federal level.
- Worked with U.S. Congressional members to [ensure reauthorization language was included in 2020 federal legislation](#) for future health center funding. This is the only language at the federal level acknowledging school-based health centers.

HOW MANY MORE STUDENTS SERVED?

As a result of SCHA-MI's efforts to secure legislative funding, 12 new CAHCs and 10 new E3 sites were able to be added to the statewide network in 2020. These new centers are located in economically disadvantaged areas and school districts that have not previously had a health center or behavioral health support in their school.

- [7,554 more students now have access to CAHC primary care medical services than in 2019.](#)
- [4,622 more students now have access to E3 behavioral and mental health services than in 2019.](#)

OUTREACH, ENGAGEMENT, & TRAINING REPORT

Serving the outreach, engagement, and training needs of our field of health centers is central to the work we do. Being nimble and responsive to the changing needs of what students and health centers are facing is critical to the work we do on their behalf. Additionally, efforts are made all year long to remind key stakeholders who our centers are, what they do, and what they need to serve their children, schools, and communities.

ADVOCACY DAY

Advocacy Day and Youth Advocacy Day are annual events held at the state capitol where sponsoring agencies, their health centers, and students enjoy a day of speakers and visits with their legislators.

- ✓ 55 people in 17 health systems attended and made over 80 appointments with legislators.
- ✓ Awarded Representatives Aaron Miller and Abdullah Hammoud, and Senators Jeff Irwin and Wayne Schmidt for their support.

ANNUAL MEETING

Held virtually, our 2020 Annual Meeting included an annual report of our work, awards given to health center advocates, and updates from guests were provided about the recent elections and changes in the Michigan Legislature.

- ✓ Meeting was attended by 130+ people, including health center staff, community supporters, and legislators.
- ✓ Opening remarks given by Lt. Governor Garlin Gilchrist II.

NETWORKING

SCHA-MI holds monthly networking meetings virtually for Mental Health Providers, Coordinators of the Program, and New Center Programs.

- ✓ Created opportunities for providers and administrators to share ideas with each other while creating a support network

ADDITIONAL

- Provider Document - Assembled a resource for providers that details the licensure and supervision necessary at each level, and the ability to bill for services.
- Speakers - Invited inspirational speakers Sarah Horst from ICSI and Dr. Nansook Parks from the University of Michigan's Center for Positive Organizations to speak at networking events.
- 'Back to School/Services' Guidance – Collaborated with MDHHS CAHC Team to create a "CAHC Return To Services Guidance" resource for school-based programs to assist with decisions and conversations with their sponsoring agencies and school systems about the safe re-opening of school.
- Developed a series of video content to promote SBHCs and CAHCs and educate the audience, primarily state and federal legislators, on the positive impact and range of services they provide for students in need.

IMPACT REPORT

STORIES FROM THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

CAHCs have always been informational cornerstones in their communities, but during the COVID-19 pandemic, the reliance on health centers' expertise and knowledge became even greater, from students, families, and school administrators, alike.

While also working to maintain their primary care and behavioral health services during the pandemic, health centers have also been providing the following assistance and consultative help:

- Translated the latest updates from the CDC or the Governor to families and school staff.
- Advised families on where to find personal protective equipment (PPE), hand sanitizer, and other supplies.
- Consulted on school re-opening plans including developing outbreak protocols and contact tracing procedures.
- Coordinated directly with families to determine their plan and process for the continued care of their child/children would be if school closed again after reopening.
- Set up drive-through immunization clinics, open to all members of student families.



"I have been going to my health center for a little over a year now and I have always been pleased with the services and staff within. I imagined there was no way they could possibly become more helpful or friendly than they already were. Then this pandemic hit and my entire world was torn from me. I no longer had a job, couldn't go to school, and wasn't allowed to leave the house for therapy. For the first several weeks, my counselor and I did therapy over the phone and that worked okay, but not the same as seeing her. Then we tried video visits, which I loved! Then more recently, my counselor has agreed to meet me outdoors so that I can actually come to therapy and have some normalcy in my life. **This sounds like no big deal, except it is! I get to have normalcy when NOTHING is normal.**"

- Ariel, Student Patient



"We have been able to continue services with our behavioral health counselor at the Bangor Elementary school. Our time with her each week has been very helpful. My students have high levels of anxiety and with the pandemic, it has been much harder. Our counselor has been able to help them see how some of the things that are happening are good. She has been able to work with them on strategies of how to handle situations when they are feeling upset or sad or angry. When we first started having weekly phone visits I was surprised how receptive my students were. She has been a great support for me too. **Just to know that someone else understands where I am coming from and is able to help me work things out or give me ideas on how to help my students cope with this 'new' life.**"

- Fawnda Tuinstra, Teacher,
South Walnut Elementary School - Bangor Public Schools

IMPACT REPORT (CONTINUED)

LETTER FROM SCHOOL PRINCIPAL

The E-3 Project and the Manistique Middle and High School LUCE- Mackinac -Alger -Schoolcraft District Health Dept.

The Manistique Area Schools utilizes the Multi-Tiered System of Support to promote continued student growth and improvement. This educational framework frequently focuses on both student behaviors and reading strategies. It allows a school system to address large numbers of students while still being able to focus on individual needs. The E-3 (Enhancing, Expanding, Emotional Health) project is a natural fit into this educational approach that supports the whole child. It is the instructional staff that teaches group behaviors and utilizes research-based reading strategies. However, it is through the partnership with LMAS District Health Department, that students with significant behavior barriers receive support during the school day through the E-3 program.

This Tier 3 Support maximizes the academic, emotional, and social development of students facing mental health challenges. By providing psychotherapy services within the school, students can participate in therapy services at a convenient time and location in order to best meet their needs. Services provided by Mrs. Trisha McEvers, LMSW, include confidential screening and outpatient psychotherapy services to individuals ages 5-21. Students presenting significant behavior barriers are identified by members to the Manistique Middle and High School Leadership team and are subsequently referred to Mrs. McEvers for support.

This new partnership is already producing positive results. As part of the Multi-Tiered System of Support, the E-3 project has positively impacted school attendance. Specifically, middle and HS students with a history of truancy have stated, "... that it's important to come to school so they can talk to Mrs. McEvers." MAS is committed to supporting this partnership with LMAS. Today's student stressors can have serious negative impacts on every aspect of their lives. From trauma and substance abuse to eating disorders and suicidal ideations, some MAS students have significant barriers to education. We are proud, and fortunate, to be able to offer this valuable service to our students.



John Shiner
Principal,
Manistique Middle and High School

NETWORK REPORT

As of 2020, there are a combined 189 school-based/school-linked child and adolescent health centers across the state of Michigan that are funded by the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services, including:

- 87 Clinical Sites
- 29 School-Wellness Nursing Programs
- 5 Behavioral Health Network
- 78 Expanding, Enhancing Emotional Health (E3)

From 2019 to 2020, 12 new CAHCs and 10 new E3 sites have been opened.

Sadly, however, 41 of the 83 counties in Michigan do not have a CAHC - meaning many of our children and adolescents do not have easily accessible school-based health services.

HEALTH CENTER MODELS:

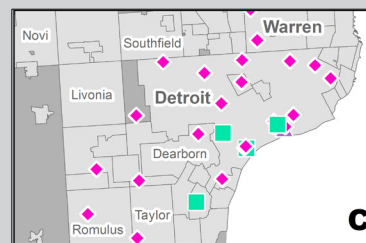
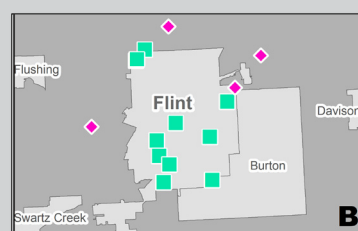
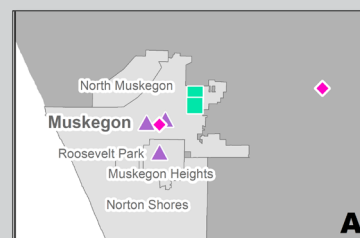
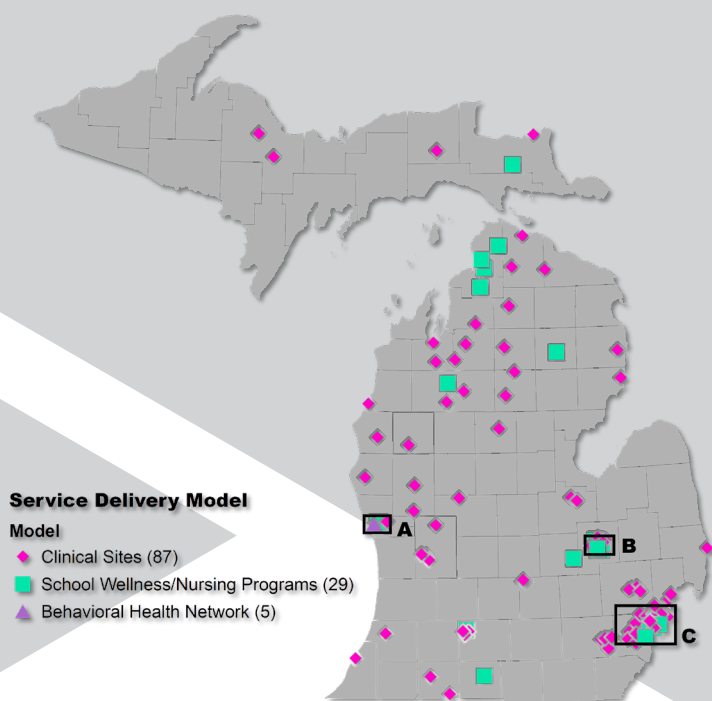
- **Clinical Sites** – Child and Adolescent Health Centers promote the health of children, adolescents and their families by providing important primary, preventative, and early intervention health care services.
- **Nursing/Wellness Programs** – Provides services to promote academic success by helping students achieve their best possible physical and mental health status. SWP staff assists schools, parents, and other health professionals in the assessment, identification, planning, implementation and evaluation of the health needs of the school community in order to appropriately direct services toward a healthy school environment.
- **Behavioral Health Network** – Serves as a hub model for the local surround school districts. Provides individual and family counseling, screenings, group education and intervention, and prevention and early intervention services.
- **E3** – Provides comprehensive mental health services from mild to moderate severity of need, located in a school or on school grounds. Includes referrals, tracking and follow-up, throughout the year with signed agreements with the host school and/or local school district.



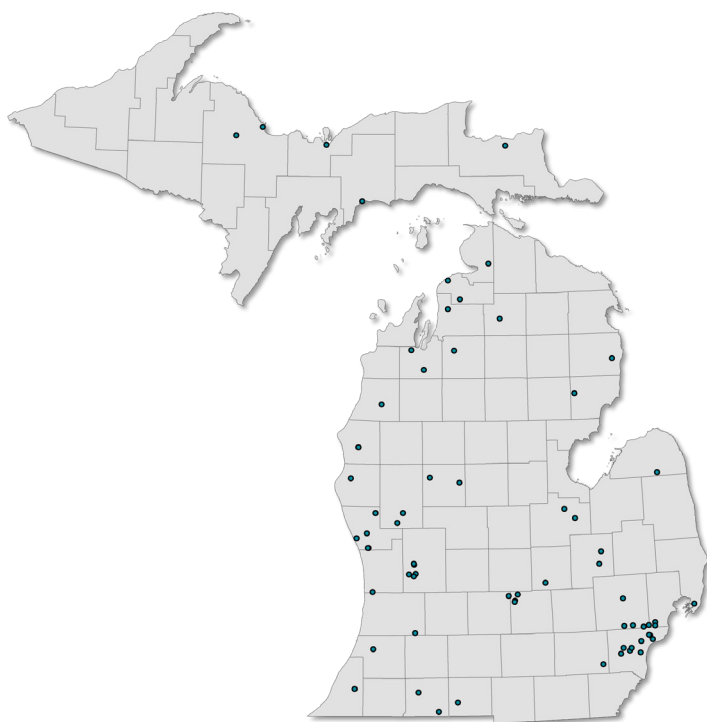
Michigan Senator Wayne Schmidt and Representative Tristan Cole visting with Kosrae Harman, staff, and students at the Thunder Bay Community Health Center in Cheboygan High School.

NETWORK REPORT (CONTINUED)

HEALTH CENTERS ACROSS MICHIGAN



E3 (MENTAL HEALTH) SITES ACROSS MICHIGAN



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