



CONSORTIUM FOR CITIZENS
WITH DISABILITIES

EFFECTIVE COLLABORATION OF SCHOOL HEALTH SERVICES MAY ASSIST WITH PREVENTION OF DISABILITY

Coordination of schools and community efforts can play a role in developing healthy children and youth where they live and play.

A forum was held by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation entitled “Beyond Health Care: New Directions to a Healthier America.” A commission report was discussed by panels on early childhood interventions, accessing healthy food and creating healthy communities. Panelists were CEOs of philanthropic organizations, public policy experts on social health determinants, business and labor leaders

Summary

Principles were proposed for development of healthy children and youth at the forum. These principles included: 1) early developmental support, 2) nutritious food for families, 3) public-private partnerships to meet the needs of hungry families, 4) serving only healthy foods in schools, 5) provisions for school children with time to be physically active, 6) development of a smoke-free nation, 7) creation of healthy community demonstrations to evaluate health promotion policies and programs, 8) development of a healthy impact rating for housing and infrastructure projects, 9) integration of safety and wellness in every aspect of community life, 10) providing decision makers with needed evidence to build health into private and public policies and practices.

Disability Prevention Issues

There are non-medical social determinants that should be part of school health systems. Some social health determinants associated with schools are health education, physical education, after-school healthful recreation, school counseling, pesticide- and mold-free schools, uncontaminated school drinking water, toxin-free school building materials, drug-free non-violent schools and others. In addition, schools can also bridge services with the medical community through the federally funded “Early Periodic Screening Diagnostic and Treatment Program.”. Currently, there is a void in collaboration among Federal agencies and departments such as the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services, the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality, and the Departments of Agriculture and Education. to prevent diminished health and disability.

Activity

A letter was written to a Commission member who raised the issue of school health to comment of collaboration of school health services that could prevent diminished health that can contribute to disability.

Principle

There should be efforts to coordinate school and community health services to develop healthy children and youth where they live and play.