



CONSORTIUM FOR CITIZENS
WITH DISABILITIES

EFFECTIVE COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTERS AND SCHOOL HEALTH CLINICS MAY CONTRIBUTE TO DISABILITY PREVENTION

A Senate Hearing was held on “Access to Prevention and Public Health for High Risk Populations”. Presenters at the hearing represented provider organizations of clinical preventive services and primary medical care, research scientists for at risk populations, administrators of large philanthropy organizations, and medical school policy experts

Summary

There was strong advocacy for expansion of community health centers that collaborate with school health centers at the hearing. Community health centers provide clinical preventive services and primary care to 18 million people in America, most from vulnerable populations. Community health centers lead to reduction of health disparities (a public health focus area). These centers stand at the nexus of cost, quality and access to care. For the most part, community health centers provide reimbursable medical services. School health centers have their roots in the medical model but move toward community-based services independent from medical reimbursement for services.

Disability Prevention Issues

The focus of the Senate hearing on health care for vulnerable populations was, for the most part, on reimbursable medical expenditures of clinical preventive services. Introduction of school social determinants of health, which are non-reimbursable medical expenditures in the schools, were welcome. School social determinants, which can prevent diminished health and disability include, health education, physical education, after school healthful recreation, school counseling, pesticide and mold free schools, uncontaminated drinking water, toxic free building materials, drug free and violent free schools, effective school wellness plans and other non-reimbursable medical expenditures that have public health and education features.

Intervention

A letter was sent to a Senator, with suggestions for incorporation of non-medical reimbursing social determinants of health to augment activities of collaboration of school and community based health.

Recommendation

Healthcare and public health should include collaborative mechanism of school and community health centers with public health social determinants to prevent diminish health of children and youth that contribute to disability.