



TO: The Professional Practice Committee

FROM: Douglas E. Lentivech

SUBJECT: School-Based Health Initiatives

DATE: February 3, 2014

AUTHORIZATION(S):

SUMMARY

Issue for Discussion

This item will be a general update on initiatives relating to the delivery of school-based health programs, including a specific presentation relating to the delivery of health services by a large health care network.

Reason(s) for Consideration

For information.

Proposed Handling

This item is being submitted for information and discussion at the February 2014 meeting of the Professional Practice Committee.

Procedural History

The Office of the Professions routinely briefs the Professional Practice Committee with respect to the status of various professional issues. This item relates to the longstanding issues involving the provision of professional services in school-based settings.

Background Information

The Board of Regents oversees the delivery of both professional and educational services within the State of New York. The intersection of those services occurs most prominently in school-based health programs. In those programs, children receive a variety of professional services in the areas of health and mental health.

Across the State there are over 50 providers of school-based health services. Many of the programs are established through hospitals or diagnostic and treatment centers that have established programs that reach beyond their traditional facilities. In these programs, children are typically seen at a school location near their classrooms. This service model offers many benefits. For example, a child may attend a professional appointment without missing the class time that would otherwise be needed to travel to and from the appointment. Further, students who suffer a treatable episode, such as an asthma attack, may return to the classroom the same day, often without missing a great deal of school work. Additionally, school-based programs often reach children who otherwise would not receive health care, improving that child's general health and also giving the student a better opportunity to participate in school.

At this month's meeting of the Professional Practice Committee, a presentation will be made describing the school-based program established by the Bassett Healthcare Network that serves an eight county region in upstate New York. That program has been serving children for over 23 years and has substantial experience in delivering health care services in school settings.