December 20, 2018

TO: Conference of Local Health Officials

Fr: Access to Clinical Preventive Services Conference Committee

Re: SBHC Proposed Policy Recommendations

The Conference of Local Health Officials Access to Clinical Preventive Services Committee has approved the School Based Health Center (SBHC) proposed policy recommendations:

* LPHAs would be given the “first right of refusal” for SBHC contracts with the state: LPHAs with certified SBHCs would choose to either manage SPO contracts and receive state SBHC funding (operate similar to current policy) or have the SPO contract directly with non-LPHA medical sponsors, and therefore directly fund the medical sponsor. If the LPHA is not the direct recipient of the SBHC funding, the LPHA would not be accountable for contract requirements, including contract monitoring and oversight.
* LPHA would determine the contract relationship with the SPO for each medical sponsor in their county.
* Contract agreements would be reviewed with LPHAs each biennium when contracts are renewed, when there is medical sponsor change and when new SBHCs open.  Funding awards and contracts to LPHAs and non-LPHAs will include all state funding for that SBHC. That include SBHC base funding, Mental Health Expansion Grant awards and any additional SBHC grants or funding opportunities.
* Contract agreements regarding SBHC Planning Grant awards will be considered separately with the LPHAs.

**Background**:

The SBHC State Program Office (SPO) supports strong connections between the Local Public Health Authorities (LPHAs) and SBHCs. Since the SPO began disbursing SBHC funds, those funds have gone directly to LPHAs. Currently, only LPHAs may receive state SBHC funding through the county Financial Assistance Agreements (Program Element 44). This funding model acknowledges and supports the LPHA’s role in public health foundational program areas of access to clinical preventive services, prevention and health promotion, and communicable disease control. LPHAs have the first right of refusal for SBHC medical sponsorship. If the LPHA determines that they will not be the medical sponsor of the SBHC(s) in the county, the LPHA has the option to direct whatever portion of the SBHC dollars they see appropriate to local partner agencies to be the medical sponsor. Regardless of who in the LPHA jurisdiction is the medical sponsor, the LPHA is ultimately accountable for the requirements of Program Element 44. In Winter 2017 the SPO began exploring the possibility of revising the SBHC contract to have the SPO contract directly with SBHC non-LPHA medical sponsors. In January 2018, the SPO conducted a survey of LPHAs to determine their support for this possible policy change. 30 counties responded to the survey and 24 were supportive of having the SPO contract directly with medical sponsors. Based on the survey results, the SPO and CLHO sub committee agreed to convene a workgroup to explore and develop a policy recommendation. In June 2018, the SPO convened a workgroup to review the current policy and develop a recommendation to update the policy if determined necessary. The workgroup was facilitated by the SBHC SPO and comprised of representatives from LPHAs, non-LPHA medical sponsors, local mental health agencies, school districts, the Oregon School-Based Health Alliance, and Public Health Division Policy and Partnership Office. After three meetings in Summer 2018, the workgroup developed the (above) recommendation.

**Does this recommendation including any changes in funding to LPHAs?**

X Yes or ☐ No

**Will this change be reflected in Program Elements?**

X Yes or ☐ No

**Access to Clinical Preventive Services Committee made the recommendation with a quorum on:** December 19, 2018