



Health Care Centers in Schools Annual Report

School Year 2023-2024



Table of Contents

About Health Care Centers in Schools	1
Message from Dr. Sutton	2
Welcome Christina McDaniel BSN, RN	4
Words from Our Students	5
Second Annual STI Awareness Week at Northeast High	7
A Journey of Resilience and Support	8
Community Collaboration Brings Healthcare to Families	9
Message from Emily Stevens	11

About Health Care Centers in Schools

Mission

Inspired by the vision of St. Francis of Assisi and the tradition of the Roman Catholic Church, we extend the healing ministry of Jesus Christ to God's people, especially those most in need. We call forth all who serve in this healthcare ministry, to share their gifts and talents to create a Spirit of Healing – reverence and love for all of life, with joyfulness of spirit, and with humility and justice for all those entrusted to our care. We are, with God's help, a healing and spiritual presence for each other and for the communities we are privileged to serve.

Vision

Every child will have the opportunity to learn, grow and be successful in a healthy and caring environment.

Purpose

As an entry point to physical, mental and behavioral health, Health Care Centers in Schools provides high quality, collaborative care for all students and families, regardless of socio-economic background.

School Based Health Clinic Visits SY 2024

Caring for More Students in 2024

School Year	Total Visits	Medical Visits	Behavioral Health	Well-Child Checks
2024	11,521	6,436	5,085	734
2023	9,527	5,326	4,201	585

Message from Dr. Sutton



I am proud to say this has been a productive year for Health Care Centers in Schools. We always strive to take care of our students and patients, but this past year, with our quality improvement project of increasing well checks, we met that goal within our School Based Health Clinics. We completed 149 more well checks than the previous school year. This accomplishment resulted partly from a renewed

investment in teamwork with increased emphasis on rounding in our clinics and collaboration within our clinical team to see more patients. Through regular, repeated visits to the clinics, our goal as clinical leadership was to ensure that all clinic team members understood the importance and value of their contribution in patient care. I see the increase in well checks as proof of the concept that increased clinic rounding during the school year was an effective and sustainable form of process improvement.

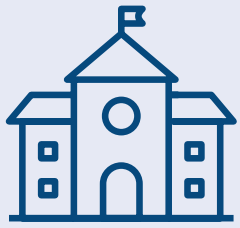
In addition, during the school year 2023-24, Health Care Centers in Schools was able to increase the number of immunizations from 233 to 816. This means more of our students entering each grade did so with appropriate immunizations. These children are now protected from preventable infectious diseases. Immunizations save lives and I am glad we can continue to provide this service to the students in EBR. Our clinics help to improve attendance by offering sick visits, well-checks, immunizations, preventive care and health education.

Above are just two of the many victories our clinics experienced during this past school year. I could not be more grateful for the dedicated service of our clinic teams at our school-based health clinics. Their commitment to our students, the mission of our health system and HCCS continues to inspire me. I look forward to the remarkable outcomes we will achieve during the 2024-25 school year.

Sincerely,



Sylvia Montalvo Sutton, MD, HCCS Medical Director



School Nursing by the Numbers

48,147
Nursing Encounters



Welcome Christina McDaniel, BSN, RN

Health Care Centers in Schools is thrilled to welcome Christina McDaniel, BSN, RN, as Director of Clinical Services. To this role, she brings a wealth of knowledge and significant expertise gleaned from a broad base of experience as a registered nurse working in direct care settings, including pediatrics, academics, case management, training, clinical education and clinical quality.

Christina McDaniel also benefits from prior project management experience in healthcare, having previously served in leadership capacities at Franciscan Health Physicians. Her commitment to our mission is unwavering, and we are excited to see the contributions she will make in the years to come.



Words from Our Students

“At the beginning of the school year, I was having panic attacks several times a week. I always knew that the clinic was a safe place to be. Mrs. Sheryl helped me calm down and learn how to deal with my anxiety.”

“Ms. Nancy helped me when I broke my wrist, and Ms. Scott has helped me solve many problems going on in school and at home.”

“Aside from clinical help, you can come talk to them about anything. Any student that has mental health issues and needs to vent to get things off their chest.”

“I love the way they talk to me and don't downgrade me because of my mistakes.”

“The health center impacted me by providing essential medical services. They also help me protect myself, and they are always there when I am feeling down.”

“Ever since eighth grade, the clinic has always been there to assist me with my asthma and headaches. Over the years, I've come to build a relationship with the adults in the clinic, and I am very thankful for everyone in the clinic.”

**HCCS School Nurses and Social Workers
make a difference in our students' lives
every day.**



Second Annual STI Awareness Week at Northeast High

In April, Northeast High held its second annual STI Awareness Week, with 106 students participating in small groups. The sessions emphasized abstinence as the only 100% effective method to prevent sexually transmitted infections (STIs) and unplanned pregnancies. Students also discussed Louisiana laws regarding age of consent and sexting.

During the event, students engaged in learning activities. They were also given the opportunity to privately request STI testing. Out of those who attended, 37 were tested, and seven received treatment for STIs.

A science teacher brought her anatomy classes to the event, having previously sought the clinic's support in educating her students about STIs. The clinic staff collected feedback from participants to enhance next year's awareness week, ensuring it remains informative and engaging.

A Journey of Resilience and Support

One student's journey with one of our clinics in her school began in 2020 during the pandemic. She presented with an extensive mental health history, including sexual trauma, suicidal ideations, depression, anxiety, grief and loss, along with significant health issues including asthma, muscular and neurological issues. Initially, she received mental health services from an outside provider. However, over time, her health and mental well-being began to decline, leading to frequent falls at school.

The school nurse played a crucial role in discovering the lack of accommodations in place for the student. The nurse communicated with administration, teachers and the student's parent. Clinic staff often assisted the student in getting to class, as she frequently became a target of bullying. Her depression, anxiety and suicidal tendencies worsened, culminating in an overdose attempt. Fortunately, she trusted the clinic staff enough to inform them of her actions, leading to her being sent to the hospital for emergency care.

Recognizing the complexity of her medical and behavioral conditions, the clinic staff referred her to wrap-around services. An Individual Education Program (IEP) was established to address her educational and medical needs, including physical, occupational and speech therapy, along with ongoing outside counseling, medication management and monthly support from a social worker.

Despite her muscular and neurological diseases progressing, requiring her to use a wheelchair, she remains determined to live a normal teenage life, seeking love and acceptance. She graduated in May, a milestone that would not have been possible without the persistence, love and support of the clinic staff and the entire team. Their dedication ensured she received the comprehensive care needed to reach this significant achievement.

Exceptionally mobile.

PEDIATRICS

The best in pediatrics, it's that simple.



Community Collaboration Brings Healthcare to Families

At a December 2023 meeting of the Gardere Initiative, the Health Care Centers in Schools team was able to connect with the nonprofit organization's leaders and many of the families they serve.

Our team shared information about Our Lady of the Lake Children's Health primary care and specialty clinics as well as the HCCS School-Based Health Clinics. Our team highlighted the importance of primary care over relying on emergency rooms for non-urgent care. Sylvia Sutton, MD, speaks Spanish and provided an overview of services to the gathered parents.

The community response was overwhelming, with parents and children filling the waiting area and gathering outside. As our team engaged with parents, we discovered many believed their children would receive immediate care. Some children had even missed school in anticipation of a clinic visit.

In response, an impromptu clinic was organized at Glasgow Middle School with the support of the Gardere Initiative, which provided transportation for the families. The clinic team, including Dr. Sutton; Diana Dunton, NP; Tammy Rider, BSN, RN; Kevlyn Colbert; Arneka Dunbar, MA; Karla Espinoza and Zeila Mitch, saw 21 children that day. Follow-up visits are now being scheduled to ensure these children receive long-term care through primary care providers.

This event showcases the power of community collaboration and the dedication of our exceptional HCCS providers.



Message from Emily Stevens



Over the past year, it has been my great honor to serve the community, students and team members cared for by Health Care Centers in Schools. Through significant transition, the HCCS team remains committed to our mission to ensure every child has the opportunity to learn, grow, and be successful in a healthy and caring environment.

This was accomplished through the dedication and teamwork of our school nursing, school-based health center and community outreach teams creating a seamless entry point to physical, mental and behavioral health.

I am particularly proud of the hard work of our providers and caregivers. Our school-based clinics were busier this year than ever. Our teams provided high-quality, collaborative care for the students and families entrusted to their care. This vital program enabled students across Baton Rouge to attend school daily, free from distracting healthcare concerns.

Our school nursing team provided care to 40,287 students across 76 schools in East Baton Rouge Parish School System and 2,972 children through our charter school partnerships. The school nursing and school-based health center team partnered to implement virtual care options for children who attend schools without a brick-and-mortar clinic on site, which significantly expanded our clinical service availability.

Also, our community outreach team identified a need for healthcare in the underserved Gardere community, formed a partnership with the Gardere Initiative and provided care through our mobile health services to children and families who would not otherwise have access to comprehensive wellness and preventive care. This was truly our team living out our mission to serve those most in need.

In this report, we wanted to share some of the many moments of joy seen this year, witnessing the multitude of relationships the HCCS team members have built with students. I am inspired by our caregivers' willingness to give of themselves, both personally and professionally, to make a positive difference in the lives of the young people we are privileged to serve. This work is our mission embodied and represents our calling as members of a Franciscan healthcare ministry.

School year 2024 was a productive year and a year of change at HCCS. I remain firmly committed that the best is yet to come. I look forward to continued growth and innovation in the upcoming year.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Emily Stevens".

Emily Stevens
Senior Director, HCCS



Acknowledgments

Anonymous

Board of Health Care Centers in Schools

Children's Health Fund

East Baton Rouge Parish Public School System

Gardere Initiative

IDEA Public Schools

Louisiana Key Academy

Our Lady of the Lake Children's Health
Pediatric Academic Clinic

Our Lady of the Lake Children's Health Pediatric
Residency Program

Pennington Foundation

Wilson Foundation

Health Care Centers In Schools

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**Our Lady of the Lake
Children's Health**