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KENTUCKY PUBLIC HEALTH ASSOCIATION

RESOLUTION to Support Local Health Department School Nursing Services in Medicaid Managed Care

WHEREAS coordinated school health is an integrated set of planned, sequential strategies, activities and services designed to promote optimal physical, emotional, social and educational development of students in a safe and healthy environment,

WHEREAS according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention “scientific reviews have documented that school health programs can have positive impacts on educational outcomes, as well as health-risk behaviors and health outcomes. Programs that are primarily designed to improve academic performance are increasingly being recognized as important public health interventions”,

WHEREAS according to America’s Health Rankings Kentucky ranks 44th of 50 states with a high prevalence of smoking, obesity and cancer,

WHEREAS Kentucky has a joint Coordinated School Health (CSH) initiative between the Kentucky Department of Education (KDE) and the Kentucky Department for Public Health (KDPH), and local health departments already serve an integral part of providing access to care for mandated health services as well as emergency services and health education activities through school partnerships in more than 550 school sites across the Commonwealth serving more than 250,000 students.

WHEREAS the American Academy of Pediatrics supports having a full time nurse in every school as the best means of ensuring a strong connection with each student’s medical home and recommends a nurse to student ratio of 1 to 750,

WHEREAS a review by the Kentucky Legislative Research Commission adopted July 2010 states that “Health Departments are devoted to health education and disease prevention, which school district nurses might have limited time to provide. Health Department nurses can perform immunizations and other services that school district nurses cannot. Nurses from the health department also can provide the same direct health services that school district nurses can”,

WHEREAS based on an article in the American Journal of Public Health “School Based Health Centers could have saved Medicaid about \$35 per student per year” concluding that SBHC’s are cost beneficial to both the Medicaid system and society, and may close health care disparity gaps,

WHEREAS the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) says chronic conditions consumed 75 cents of every health care dollar spent in the United States in 2005. When school nurses identify and manage these conditions, they stave off future health problems and help reduce overall health care spending,

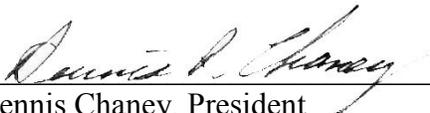
WHEREAS Local Health Departments provided school nurse services for FY2010 at an average cost per student served of \$195 per year,

WHEREAS the FY2010 funding structure not requiring health departments to pay the Medicaid Match provided a ratio of one nurse to every 787 students outside the managed care structure compared to one nurse to every 2,483 students in the managed care region,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Kentucky Public Health Association requests the General Assembly supports requirements for Managed Care to pay for school health services or DMS offer a waiver for local health departments to bill Medicaid to ensure students in every region have the same access to quality care ,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the Governor, the Secretary of Cabinet for Health and Family Services, the Commissioner of the Department for Public Health, the Commissioner of the Department of Medicaid Services and to all members of the Kentucky General Assembly.

This resolution was approved by the Board of Directors of the Kentucky Public Health Association this 8 day of March 2011.



Dennis Chaney, President
Kentucky Public Health Association