

School Nurse Association of N. C. report to N.C. Public Health Study Commission

February 4, 2010

Summary of Discussion

- There are 1,231 school nurses in NC- 34% state funded (08-09 data).
- The school nurse to student ratio ranges from 1:253-1:3309 with an average ratio of 1:1207.
- 11% increase in teen pregnancies in NC, 06-07 years.
- 15,463 medical procedures ordered to be performed in NC Schools, 30,433 daily medications administered (5,477,940 doses administered per year), 39,985 emergency medications ordered yearly (07-08).
- The school nurse can be the most cost effective way to deliver care to the school aged child and assist in preventing ED visits and hospitalizations.
- 17% (238,843 students) of the school aged population have chronic illnesses requiring school nurse interventions.
- Asthma is the number one reason for school absenteeism in schools.
- Students with chronic illnesses that have access to a school nurse daily have been shown to have decreased absenteeism, increase in school performance and improvement in their personal health.
- The school nurse can be effective in decreasing absenteeism and dropout rates by working with students that have health care needs.
- We would like to partner with legislative leadership to:
 - o Increase the capability of school nurses to track outcomes/data
 - o Identify and explore potential funding streams and
 - o Serve as a resource
- Encourage educators to utilize school nurses to work with:
 - o Students at risk for drop out,
 - o Students with health care needs that have been retained,
 - o Students with poor attendance (best indicator in student success) and
 - o Pregnant and parenting teens

Presenters:

Martha Keehner Engelke, RN, PhD; Associate Dean for Research and Scholarship, Richard R. Eakin Distinguished Professor of Nursing ,ECU College of Nursing

Engelkem@ecu.edu,

Martha Guttu , MSN,RN BC; School Nurse Consultant, Northeast Region

martha.guttu@dhhs.nc.gov

Sue Lynn Ledford RN, BSN ,MPA; Community Health Director, Wake County, Immediate Past President School Nurse Association of NC

Sue.ledford@wake.gov.com

Liz Newlin, RN, BSN, NCSN, School Nurse -Wake County and Legislative Chair School Nurse Association of NC

Elizabeth.Newlin@wakegov.com

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