

Common Questions and Answers about the North Olympic Healthcare Network (NOHN) Port Angeles School District (PASD) School-Based Health Clinic (SBHC)

1. Why do we need a SBHC?

Some children may not have easy access to medical, behavioral or oral healthcare due to individual or family lack of insurance, transportation, time, financial resources, a primary care provider or knowledge about health care needs. Embedding a school-based health clinic (SBHC) into PASD would improve access to healthcare for many students.

2. Who is involved in the SBHC?

- **Port Angeles School District**
- **Port Angeles High School (PAHS) staff, parents and students**
- **North Olympic Healthcare Network:** a not-for-profit federally-qualified community health center that provides high-quality, full-spectrum primary care, behavioral health and oral health services to meet the needs of the North Olympic Peninsula. NOHN provides safe, effective, patient-centered, continuously measured and improved health care to every patient regardless of age, gender, race, creed, national origin, insurance status or ability to pay.

3. What is the goal of the SBHC?

The goal of the SBHC is to increase student access to healthcare services. Research demonstrates that SBHC use is associated with improvements in attendance and grade point average over time for at-risk students.

4. What services can a student receive at the SBHC?

The SBHC will offer PASD students healthcare services which may include, but are not limited to:

- Care for acute health conditions and injuries
- Care for common health problems
- Access to immunizations
- Sexual health education
- Tobacco and drug use prevention
- Preventive care such as sports physicals
- Behavioral healthcare such as treatment and/or referral for counseling for depression, peer pressure, bullying and family conflict
- Oral healthcare such as screening

5. What options will be discussed concerning sexual health?

Education about sexual health will be provided to all students who request that information. Discussions may cover abstinence, contraceptive management, STD prevention, and referrals to community resources such as Planned Parenthood or My Choices.

6. Will the SBHC provide prenatal care?

Not likely. The SBHC will provide pregnant students with information on options for prenatal care.

7. Will the SBHC perform abortions?

No. In compliance with state regulations, if requested by students, referrals to clinics that perform abortions may be given.

8. Will the SBHC prescribe opioids?

No.

9. Can students get referrals for other specialists?

Yes. NOHN providers can give referrals to specialists as indicated/needed

10. Who hires the medical staff for the SBHC?

NOHN will hire and provide the medical staff for the SBHC. As a federally qualified health center, NOHN follows rigorous federal guidelines for licensing and credentialing, including background checks.

11. When will students sign up for this service?

Registration for the SBHC will be offered by PAHS during school enrollment and throughout the year.

12. How does a student access the SBHC?

Appointment scheduling will be facilitated by the PAHS school nurse and NOHN's patient navigator

13. Does a student need parental consent to be seen at the SBHC?

No student will be seen without parental consent, except for situations where the student independently consents for confidential health care to which they have a right under state law (see confidentiality question #19).

14. Will parents be notified when their student requests or receives services at the SBHC?

The SBHC will keep parents informed, except when students have independently consented for confidential health care to which they have a right under state law (see confidentiality question #19).

15. Will a student's usual Primary Care Provider be notified when their patient is seen at the SBHC?

Yes. The SBHC will ensure continuity of care by working in collaboration with students' usual primary care providers.

16. Why can't students just go to their own doctor?

Some students and their families have obstacles to seeing their own doctor, including issues with transportation, lack of insurance, lack of financial resources, lack of knowledge about health care needs, lack of a primary care provider, parents unable to get time off work, inconvenience, etc.

17. How will we know if the SBHC "works"?

Research demonstrates that SBHC use is associated with improvements in attendance and grade point average over time for high-risk students. Metrics for program evaluation will include, but not be limited to, number of unduplicated student (patient) visits, total number of all clinic visits, quality of healthcare for student SBHC users and financial indicators for program viability.

18. How much will this cost the taxpayers through the school district?

Nothing. Taxpayers will not be responsible for the funding of the SBHC.

- NOHN is contracted with most insurances in Clallam County and will bill for services provided. NOHN bills monthly for patient co-payments and/or deductibles.
- NOHN offers a sliding fee program for students falling under the poverty level guidelines.
- NOHN is a safety net provider and will not refuse care to anyone based on their inability to pay.

- NOHN can support the costs of the SBHC as long as a minimum number of patients are seen. If the clinic is underutilized, the SBHC may require funding to cover operational or unforeseen expenses. If needed, operational funding will not be requested from the PASD, but rather from other organizations/grants.

19. How is confidential student information protected?

- The PASD will only provide identifiable student information to NOHN upon signed release of information, which must be signed by a parent or the student (if the student is at least 18 years of age, emancipated, or allowed to sign by law).
- Protected Health Information (“PHI”) is considered confidential and will not be disclosed by NOHN in any manner to any other person, agency, or entity without the prior written consent of the student or parent, unless allowed or required to make such a disclosure under an applicable law or court order.
- Washington State regulations and case law allow minors to independently consent for and receive certain confidential health services, including:
 - Alcohol/drug abuse treatment (age 13)
 - Outpatient mental health treatment (age 13)
 - Birth control (any age)
 - Pregnancy care (any age)
 - STD/HIV diagnosis and testing (age 14)

20. Will other schools in the district have access to the SBHC at PAHS?

The hope is to eventually expand these services to all schools in the district. For now, other students may be seen at the NOHN-PASD SBHC if they arrange transportation to PAHS.

21. How many hours a week will the SBHC be open?

Our goal is to have the clinic open at least 4 hours per week, but we’ll likely start with 8-12 o’clock one or two Tuesdays per month, expanding access if/when the appointments fill.

Providing Health Care to Minors under Washington Law:

A summary of health care services that can be provided to minors without parental consent.

Washington State's general age of majority for health care is 18 (RCW 26.28.010).
However, a minor can receive services without parental consent in the following areas:

Service needed	Parent/ Guardian Consent Required for Care	Parent / Guardian Notification Required	Notes and Source
Emergency medical services:	No, but only if parent's consent is not readily available	No	If the parent's consent is not readily available, the consent requirement is satisfied and the minor can receive medical services. RCW 7.70.050(4).
Non-emergency medical services:	Yes, unless minor meets Mature Minor Doctrine	No	If it is not a medical emergency or one of the types of services listed below, minors may still give a valid consent under the "Mature Minor Doctrine" if they are capable of understanding or appreciating the consequences of a medical procedure. In determining whether the patient is a mature minor, providers will evaluate the minor's age, intelligence, maturity, training, experience, economic independence or lack thereof, general conduct as an adult and freedom from the control of parents. <i>Smith v. Seibly</i> , 72 Wn.2d 16, 21, 431 P.2d 719 (1967)
Immunizations:	Yes, unless minor meets Mature Minor Doctrine	No	Minors may receive immunizations without parental consent under the Mature Minor Doctrine summarized above.
Sexually transmitted disease testing/ treatment (including HIV):	Yes, unless youth is 14 or older.	No	Minors may obtain tests and/or treatment for sexually transmitted diseases if they are 14 years of age or older without the consent of a parent or guardian. RCW 70.24.110.
Birth control services:	No	No	Minors may obtain or refuse birth control services at any age without the consent of a parent or guardian. RCW 9.02.100(1).
Abortion services:	No	No	Minors may receive an abortion and abortion related services at any age without the consent of a parent, guardian or the man responsible for the pregnancy. RCW 9.02.100(2); <i>State v. Koome</i> , 84 Wn.2d 901 (1975).
Prenatal care services:	No	No	Minors may seek prenatal care at any age without the consent of a parent or guardian. <i>State v. Koome</i> , 84 Wn.2d 901 (1975)..
Outpatient mental health treatment:	Yes, unless youth is 13 or older.	No	Minors may receive outpatient mental health treatment if they are 13 years of age or older without the consent of a parent or guardian. The parents will not be notified without minor consent. RCW 71.34.530.
Inpatient mental health treatment:	Yes, unless youth is 13 or older.	Yes	Minors 13 years of age or older may receive inpatient mental health treatment without parental consent. The parents must be notified, however. RCW 71.34.510.
Outpatient substance abuse treatment:	Yes, unless youth is 13 or older.	See Source and Notes section.	Minors 13 years of age or older may receive outpatient substance abuse treatment, without parental consent. The provider will inform the parents that the minor is receiving outpatient treatment within seven business days if the minor gives written consent or if the provider determines that the minor is not capable of making a rational choice to receive the treatment. RCW 70.96A. 230.
Inpatient substance abuse treatment:	Yes, unless child is determined to be a Child In Need of Services (CHINS)	Yes, unless CHINS	Minors 13 years of age or older may receive inpatient substance abuse treatment without parental consent if DSHS determines he or she is a "child in need of services." RCW 70.96A.235. If school district personnel refer a child to inpatient chemical dependency services, they must notify the parents within 48 hours. RCW 70.96A.096 Parental notification is required if parental consent is required.

- A legally emancipated minor or a minor married to either an adult or an emancipated minor is treated as an adult.
- Information accurate as of November 5, 2007. For most up-to-date version and related document "A Kinship Caregiver's Guide To Consenting To Health Care" please visit www.washingtonlawhelp.org.
- Unless specified elsewhere in the document, the term "medical services" includes dental, optometry, and naturopathy services.
- RCW – Revised Code of Washington- <http://apps.leg.wa.gov/rcw/>