



School Based Health Center Planning Task Force

Nov. 7, 2022 3:30 to 5 p.m.

Options High School Commons

Committee Co-Chairs: Kim Niederhauser, Director of Health Services and Jessica Sankey, Executive Director of Operations

Project Manager: Amelia Vader, Grant Writer

Facilitator: Page, Common Goodness Project

Members Present: Aimee Bachmeier, Options High School counselor, Matt Neisinger, Options High School nurse, Katie Jones, Options High School principal, Bethany Barrett, Sehome High School assistant principal, Alisa Wollens, Options High School parent/dental educator, Aly Robinson, Whatcom County Health Department data specialist, Chris Cochran, Bellingham Public Schools Director of Mental Health Services, Christian Caro, SeaMar administrator, Megan Barry, Bellingham High School parent /RN, Renee Wilgress, Western Washington University adolescent health care expert, Rodney Anderson, Family Care Network president, Sandra Andress, Brigid Collins mental health provider, Dana Smith, Bellingham Public Schools assistant director of communications

Introduction and land acknowledgement: Page led the group in introductions, an explanation of pronoun use, and a land acknowledgement.

Turn and Talk: What comes to mind when you hear the word health? Members shared in small groups. Responses included:

- Health as a visual, as in charging a battery
- Health and happiness connection
- Illness as part of the human condition
- Crossroads of well being and social determinants of health
- Care, access and complications of the healthcare system
- Individual needs and experience
- Realizing full potential

Group Activity: Members were given time to learn about each other and their experiences.

How does the group want the space to feel? Productive, excited, meaningful, creative, collaborative, inclusive, thoughtful, safe, inspired, curious

Actions, Assumptions, and Agreements: The group discussed norms, which can be maintained by acknowledging bias, listening for understanding, being willing to have ideas challenged, assuming positive intent, taking risks, being honest, and accepting non-closure in group discussions.

Our Vision: Jessica presented the strategic plan of the Bellingham Promise and how this task force's work relates.

Social Determinants of Health: Jessica shared the [whole child model from the CDC](#) and the [DOH Healthy Youth Survey](#).

Why School Based Health Centers: Kim presented [research](#) of school-based health centers, which shows improved attendance, grades, and graduation rates in schools that have health centers. More information about school-based health centers is available at the [Washington School-Based Health Alliance](#).

What services could be offered? Ideas included: Primary medical services, acute care for injuries, reproductive health, dental, vision, mental health, behavioral health, and substance abuse.

Planning Process Overview: Amelia shared a timeline of work to plan the school-based health center. Steps include conducting a community needs assessment, analysis, identifying services and partners and preparing for implementation. The group will conduct site visits, data collection, focus groups and a needs assessment. The school year will conclude with a recommendation of services.

Work of the Task Force: Members will develop and analyze a needs assessment. To begin this, the following questions were asked and answered by the task force on paper:

What do we need to know?

Who do we need to hear from?

What are the biggest needs and unmet needs for adolescent health?

What's going well for young people in terms of health?

Your ideas for serving adolescent health that are outside the box?

Meeting adjourned. Next meeting Monday, November 28, 3:30 to 5 p.m. in the Options High School Commons