School Nursing Beyond Boundaries

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According to the U.S. Conference of Mayors 2013 Status Report on Hunger & Homelessness

The nation's official poverty rate in 2013 was 15.0 %, with 46.5 million people living in poverty.
Health problems cause 62% of personal bankruptcies in the US.
A Mother and Daughter dilemma

Making Progress....
People experiencing homelessness die an average of 30 years earlier than housed individuals.
Florida continues to have the third highest rate of homelessness in the nation. 8.7% of the nation’s homeless live in Florida.
Who are they?

Children and youth who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence:

- Living in a public or private place not designed for humans to live
- **Awaiting** foster care placement and migratory children living in above circumstances
Living in cars, parks, abandoned buildings, substandard housing, bus or train stations, etc.

Sharing the housing of others due to loss of housing, economic hardship, or similar reason
Living in motels, hotels, trailer parks, camping grounds, emergency or transitional shelter due to lack of adequate alternative accommodations.
Unaccompanied: children and youth who are not in the physical custody of a parent or guardian.
In Florida during 2014 there were:

41,335 homeless individuals &
21,148 homeless families with children in Florida

FL DOE reports in Florida there are:

5,794 Unaccompanied, Homeless Youth &
70,215 Homeless Students

In Santa Rosa County, FL:

2014-2015 1778 Homeless Students
78 Unaccompanied Youth

(as reported by the 2013 HUD Point in Time Count statewide data and 2011-2012 Florida Department of Education counts of homeless students, the Shimberg Center on Housing Studies reports)

(Source: Florida Department of Education, 2012-2013 Survey 5)
1,778 Homeless Students

1,812 School Nurse Service Hours
Assessing the issue

In 2012-2013 school year at the time of the school nursing position was needed

- 1650+ Homeless students were identified
- 140 unaccompanied youth across 34 school campuses
- Significant issue with these students was ATTENDANCE
So where could we find resources? Funding this new concept

Title I Part A Homeless Set Aside $$$ and Title X grant for Homeless Children and Youth

Dr. Karen Barber
Director of Federal Programs
Santa Rosa County School District
Youth growing up in homelessness or low socioeconomic circumstances are at a critical time for learning life sustaining habits for health and well being.

The School Nurse can **advocate** for homeless and disadvantaged youth within the school environment as well as their families while serving as a **connection** to the community resources.

The School nurse knows her schools and her students
School Nursing Beyond Boundaries-
Providing Supplemental School Nursing Services to a population in need

![Graph showing trends in student, assessment, and vision screen counts from 2012 to 2014.]
Establishing a New Program

- Program assessment
- Resource contacts
- Procedure definition
- Documentation methods
Stories from the field- Case Management

- Diabetes care
  - Timmy
Local providers helped with many things:

- Dental care
- Vision services
- Health supplies
- Medications
- Food-Back Packs
- First Aid kits for Seniors

*If you don’t ask, you can’t get a “yes” or a “no”.... So, we ask....*
Community Partners do so much
Lessons Learned:

1. Documentation is vital
2. Change is challenging
3. Celebrate every success
4. Lack of transportation is a HUGE barrier
5. Staffing patterns-
   1 RN: 34 schools   7 RN’s: 34 schools
We are not alone in this journey....

If not us.... Then who??
References


- **Gaston, M.H., MD**, *Understanding the Health Care Needs of Homeless Youth-Program Assistance letter 2001-10. (Jan. 24, 2001).*


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