

**FY 2000~2001**

**ANNUAL**



A Project of the County of San Diego  
Health and Human Services Agency

**REPORT**

**June 30, 2001**

Promoting Coordinated School Health in San Diego County



## Philosophy

*Healthy children make better students; better students make healthier communities.*

## Mission

HealthLink's mission is to promote, support, develop, and implement coordinated school health programs and policies throughout school districts in San Diego County.

## Executive Summary

Approved by the Board of Supervisors in December 1999, HealthLink is the County of San Diego's strategy to improve health and education outcomes for school children countywide. Through HealthLink, a variety of public and private organizations come together in a coordinated fashion to address the linkages between health, school attendance and learning for more than 488,000 children in over 600 schools across 42 school districts. HealthLink helps to strengthen collaboration among county agencies serving children and families, local school districts, the County Office of Education, health plans, healthcare providers, collaboratives and other community organizations.

The Board of Supervisors approved three primary goals for HealthLink:

1. Ensure that all students have access to healthcare and a medical home
2. Increase school attendance by reducing absences due to chronic illness
3. Enhance communication and coordination between parents, school nurses, and the medical community to serve students' health needs

## Program Administration

HealthLink is funded by the Health and Human Services Agency (HHS) with CalWorks Incentive dollars through September 2002. HealthLink actively researches new funding opportunities for HealthLink and its partners. In addition, staff research opportunities to leverage funds and combine funding streams to better utilize available resources.

HHS entered into a Memorandum of Understanding with the San Diego State University Foundation to perform program coordination and oversight in August 2000. Harold Tuck and Nick Macchione were named Agency executive leads for the project and hired Esti Stevens as HealthLink Director in September 2000. Support staff was hired in December 2000. Nick Macchione assumed primary Agency executive lead position in May 2001.



## Program Goals

In order to meet the overall goals put forth by the Board of Supervisors, HealthLink has developed the following specific program goals:

1. Establish and develop linkages between HHSA programs and school districts
2. Provide guidance and leadership to the community regarding coordinated school health programs and policies
3. Support efforts to ensure that all children have access to health insurance and a medical home
4. Assist school districts to manage chronic disease issues to reduce student absenteeism
5. Develop resources to support coordinated school health programs
6. Enhance communication among all potential partners regarding resources, best practices, and funding information
7. Collaborate and coordinate with other local, state and national school health programs
8. Conduct ongoing program planning and evaluation

## Serving the San Diego Community

HealthLink provides benefits for school districts and their students, as well as to families, community partners, and programs within the Health and Human Services Agency. Our vision of a coordinated school health system in San Diego County demonstrates the following benefits for the people we serve:

### Schools

- Understanding of the link between health and school success
- Understanding of the importance and support for the management of chronic disease issues
- More effective communication with health plans and healthcare providers when caring for students
- Decreased absenteeism
- Increased revenue from Average Daily Attendance (ADA) reimbursement
- Improved test scores

### Students

- Access to health insurance and a medical home
- Better coordination of care for chronic disease issues
- More time spent in class, prepared to meet academic standards and ready to learn the testing focus areas



### **Families**

- Understanding of the importance of health insurance coverage
- Access to health insurance and a medical home
- Better utilization of health coverage
- Better communication among parents, school nurses, healthcare providers and health plans

### **Health Care Providers & Health Plans**

- Information exchange with school districts
- More efficient communication with school health staff

### **Community Partners**

- Increased communication with HHSA
- Increased communication with other community partners and schools
- Increased opportunities for collaboration and coordination with HHSA, other community partners and school districts

### **Health and Human Services Agency**

- Provide a comprehensive menu of agency school health services to the school districts through a coordinated system of care, linked through HealthLink to the school districts
- Increased coordination, communication, and awareness between agency programs and staff who work on school health issues to better meet the needs of school children throughout the County



## FY 2000 Accomplishments

### ***Goal 1: Establish and develop linkages between HHS A programs and school districts***

- Formally introduced HealthLink to 17 districts in San Diego County:

#### ***Central/North Central***

San Diego Unified

#### ***North Coastal***

Vista Unified

Oceanside Unified

#### ***South***

Chula Vista Elementary

National

South Bay Union

#### ***East***

La Mesa/Spring Valley

#### ***North Inland***

Bonsall Union

Escondido Union Elementary

Escondido Union High

Julian Union

Julian Union High

Poway Unified

Ramona Unified

San Marcos Unified

Vallecitos

Spencer Valley

- Developed focus projects in each of the following districts:
  - *National*
  - *San Diego Unified*
  - *South Bay Union*
- Established Agency School Health Liaisons in each region
- Created Umbrella of Agency Services
- Began planning for Fall 2001 Agency School Health Symposium

### ***Goal 2: Provide guidance and leadership to the community regarding coordinated school health programs and policies***

- Educated school districts and community members about the importance of a coordinated approach to school health
- Convened School Nurse Retreat and conducted needs assessment
- Convened two Strategic Planning Meeting with key stakeholders



***Goal 3: Support efforts to ensure that all children have access to health insurance and a medical home***

- Participated in community-wide campaign, including the efforts of Health-insurance Access through the Schools (HATS) and San Diego Kids Health Assurance Network, which resulted in the enrollment of 181,078 children in low/no cost health insurance in San Diego County
- Created Access to Care Directory. This directory will be distributed to every school in San Diego County for the 2001-2002 school year. School personnel will be able to determine what resources they have within their region to assist with health coverage enrollment
- Created referral system for linking school districts to enrollment entities
- Linked schools to enrollment entities
- Supported HealthLink Community Partnership
  - Worked with three community-based organizations to develop grant proposals for additional funding from Department of Health Services for Healthy Families Outreach
  - Trained participating certified application assistants to participate in program

***Goal 4: Assist school districts to manage chronic disease issues to reduce student absenteeism***

- Created Asthma Management Guide, describing how to manage asthma issues in schools
- Created Asthma Evaluation Model to evaluate asthma management programs in three school districts
- Created Asthma Resource Directory. This directory will be distributed to every school in San Diego County for the 2001-2002 school year. School personnel will be able to determine what resources they have within their region to assist with asthma management for students
- Established and convened Asthma Workgroup
- Participated in Lice Workgroup/Time Exchange Network in East County and developed protocol for lice teams

***Goal 5: Develop resources to support coordinated school health programs***

- Secured funding to extend Health-insurance Access through Schools (HATS) contract through September 2002
- Secured funding to extend contract with San Diego Unified School District to hire district outreach workers through September 2002
- Secured funding to co-fund with the County Office of Education, a full-time school nurse coordinator who will work to support school nurses throughout the county school districts and to support and promote the HealthLink project
- Secured funding to augment HealthLink existing insurance outreach enrollment and retention efforts focused on schools



- *Total funding secured during FY 2000-2001: \$575,000*

***Goal 6: Enhance communication among all potential partners regarding resources, best practices, and funding information***

- Created and maintained countywide school database that specifies by school district the primary health contact, supervisory district, HHSA region and other relevant information
- Maintained and distributed SHIP Health Plan Liaison List to facilitate communication between schools, school nurses, and health plans
- Together with the County Office of Education created and distributed School Nurse Resource Manual
- County Office of Education created School Nurse Website: [www.sdcoe.k12.ca.us/nurse](http://www.sdcoe.k12.ca.us/nurse)
- Created and maintained HealthLink Website: [www.healthlinkschools.com](http://www.healthlinkschools.com)

***Goal 7: Collaborate and coordinate with other local, state and national school health programs***

- Together with Local Blueprint Implementation Group, worked to implement “Building Infrastructure for Coordinated School Health California’s Blueprint”
- Co-presented with School Health Connections at the California Mental Health Advocates for Children and Youth Conference in June 2001
- Actively participated in a variety of public and private local groups dedicated to improving student health (see list of *Organizations HealthLink Has Collaborated With*)

***Goal 8: Conduct ongoing program planning and evaluation***

- Developed Asthma Management Evaluation Model and secured funding to complete evaluation in three school districts during FY 2001-2002
- Developed preliminary program measures



## Budget

### Fiscal Year 2000-2001

Personnel	\$202,382
Program Supplies	\$6,171
Mileage	\$3,410
Equipment	\$2,200
Conferences/Meetings	\$5,100
Advertising	\$900
Indirect Costs	\$36,429
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$256,592</b>

### Fiscal Year 2001-2002

Personnel	\$227,430
Program Supplies	\$18,527
Mileage	\$8,000
Equipment	\$5,000
Conferences/Meetings	\$10,000
Advertising	-
Indirect Costs	\$40,937
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$309,894</b>



## **Organizations HealthLink Has Collaborated With**

*HealthLink serves primarily as a linking agent—facilitating collaboration between the schools and our partners from the community and within the agency. We depend on these groups to provide direct assistance to the schools:*

**San Diego Kids Health Assurance Network (SD-KHAN)**

**Health-insurance Access Through Schools (HATS)**

**School Health Innovative Programs (SHIP)**

**San Diego County Office of Education**

**Children’s Hospital**

**San Diego Unified School District**

**The American Lung Association**

**San Diego Center for Children Therapeutic Services, Inc.**

**Access for Infants and Mothers (AIM)**

**American Cancer Society**

**Think First Violence and Injury Prevention**

**Aetna US Health Care**

\*This is not intended to be a complete list