Description of School-Based Health Center Staff

Most School-Based Health Centers (SBHCs) are staffed at a minimum by a medical director, nurse practitioner or physician assistant, medical assistant, medical receptionist, and mental health worker (social worker, licensed professional counselor, psychologist, or psychiatric nurse practitioner). Some SBHCs have larger staffs that may include health educators, dentists and dental hygienists, and additional support staff. Following is an alphabetical description of the roles that staff members play in the SBHC.

Dentist
The Dentist is a doctor licensed to practice dentistry in Illinois. The dentist will diagnose oral health problems and provide the appropriate treatment such as fillings and extractions.

Dental Hygienist
The Dental Hygienist is a dental professional who is licensed in Illinois and specializes in preventive oral health. The Dental Hygienist performs cleanings, takes prescribed x-rays, administers dental sealants and fluoride treatments, and provides instructions for proper oral hygiene and care.

Health Educator
The Health Educator is a bachelor’s or master’s prepared professional who works to encourage healthy lifestyles and wellness by educating individuals and communities about behaviors that can prevent diseases, injuries, and other health problems.

Licensed Professional Counselor
The Licensed Professional Counselor is a master’s prepared mental health professional who is licensed to provide counseling services in Illinois. The Licensed Professional Counselor provides counseling and therapy for clients who have psychiatric disorders, mental health conditions or substance abuse problems.

Medical Assistant
The Medical Assistant is a health care worker who has graduated from a medical assisting program and performs administrative and clinical tasks such as managing medical records and taking blood pressure, heights and weights to assist the health care providers. Some Medical Assistants are certified to practice in Illinois (CMA).

Medical Director
The Medical Director is a doctor, usually a family physician or pediatrician, who is licensed to practice medicine in Illinois. The Medical Director is responsible for oversight of clinical care, providing medical consultation to health care staff, and ensuring compliance with policies and procedures. The Medical Director is onsite at the SBHC on a limited basis but is available for phone consultation when needed.

Medical Receptionist
The Medical Receptionist is the person who sits at the front desk and is responsible for answering the phone, scheduling appointments and other front desk activities such as data entry, medical records management and billing.

Licensed Practical Nurse
The Licensed Practical Nurse is a graduate of an associate’s degree program and licensed to practice in Illinois. The Licensed Practical Nurse performs a variety of tasks such as drawing blood and tracking lab results that support the work of the health care providers.
**Nurse Practitioner**
The Nurse Practitioner is a master’s prepared nurse specialist who is licensed as an advanced practice nurse in Illinois. The Nurse Practitioner provides the majority of primary health care services in the SBHC including behavioral risk assessments, physical examinations, and diagnosis, treatment and management of illnesses and injuries. The Nurse Practitioner is at the SBHC on a daily or near daily basis.

**Nutritionist**
The Nutritionist is a bachelor’s or master’s prepared professional who plans food and nutrition programs by working with individuals and communities to prevent and treat illnesses by promoting healthy eating habits and recommending dietary modifications.

**Physician Assistant**
The Physician Assistant is a master’s prepared clinician who is licensed as a Physician Assistant in Illinois. The Physician Assistant provides the majority of primary health care services in the SBHC including behavioral risk assessments, physical examinations, and diagnosis, treatment and management of illnesses and injuries. The Physician Assistant is at the SBHC on a daily or near daily basis.

**Psychiatric Nurse Practitioner**
The Psychiatric Nurse Practitioner is a master’s prepared nurse practitioner with specialized training in mental health who is licensed as an advanced practice nurse in Illinois. The Psychiatric Nurse Practitioner provides counseling and therapy and prescribes medications for patients who have psychiatric disorders, medical mental conditions or substance abuse problems.

**Psychologist**
The Psychologist is a master’s prepared mental health professional who is licensed to provide clinical psychological services in Illinois. The Psychologist provides counseling and therapy for clients who have psychiatric disorders, mental health conditions or substance abuse problems.

**Registered Nurse**
The Registered Nurse is a nurse who has graduated from a college’s nursing program or from a school of nursing and is licensed to practice in Illinois. The Registered Nurse performs a variety of duties in the SBHC such as providing immunizations and individual health education to support the overall wellbeing of clients.

**Social Worker**
The Social Worker helps individuals deal with a variety of mental health and daily living problems, such as family or relationship issues, to improve their overall functioning. Most Social Workers in school-based health centers are master’s prepared in social work (MSW). Many are licensed to practice social work in Illinois (LSW). Some are licensed as clinical social workers (LCSW.)