

# ***Organizing Our Movement for School Based Health Care***

## **A Brief Overview**

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### ***Why a formalized national advocacy network?***

State associations have emerged as an important force in advancing a national political agenda for SBHCs. With the growth in strength of state associations and the national organization (NASBHC), there is a growing consensus that a more formalized national advocacy network would increase our policy impact and combined organizational capacity.

By formalizing national-state partnerships through a national advocacy network, we can:

- More powerfully advocate for policies and resources on Capitol Hill
- Increase our ability to influence policymakers, institutions and systems at state and local levels
- Provide direct access to a large, coordinated, and expanding network of providers and expertise
- Increase professional development opportunities through more effective and widespread sharing of state-of-the art knowledge and best practices
- Streamline information management systems to reduce duplication and inefficiencies related to membership recruitment and database management
- Boost local, state and national fundraising capacity and results.

### ***How would it work?***

The national advocacy network would:

- Have a unique and consistent mission, identity and core principles
- Build, represent and serve a grassroots support base of individuals, concerned groups, emerging and established SBHCs, and other stakeholders
- Advocate for child and adolescent access to quality health care through the development and expansion of SBHCs across the country
- Be self-governing, with a national office and state affiliates fulfilling clearly delineated and complementary roles and responsibilities.

### ***What would be the role of national?***

The national office would function as a coordinating and convening body. It would provide services to the national advocacy network in cooperation with states, e.g.:

- Lead advocacy by representing and organizing advocacy at the national level, and supporting advocacy at state and local levels (formulating and advising policy, conducting policy research, co-developing and implementing strategy, forging and maintaining key strategic relationships essential to the movement, keeping members informed, etc.)
- Provide a national SBHC clearinghouse to maintain and disseminate up-to-date information on policy, clinical best practice and research
- Handle membership recruitment and database management functions
- Facilitate the provision of technical assistance to state associations and a grassroots support base
- Convene national and/or regional meetings and conventions to promote the advocacy movement and the expansion of SBHCs providing high-quality services to children and adolescents across the nation.

### ***What would be expected of states?***

Affiliated state associations would:

- Promote core principles and goals of the network and movement
- Lead in-state advocacy, clearinghouse, professional development, and/or convening activities
- Participate with the national advocacy network in:
  - governance and planning processes
  - organizing for advocacy
  - membership development
  - sharing of knowledge and best practices
  - cooperative fundraising.

### ***How would the national advocacy network be funded?***

The national office and affiliated state associations can raise more total support dollars working together and in coordination than is currently possible. Sources of funding (for general and dedicated purposes) would include:

- Membership dues from the grassroots support base (shared by national office and state affiliates using a rational formula)
- National grants and contracts from --
  - Federal government agencies
  - Private foundations
  - Corporations and business associations
  - Other individual and/or organizational contributors
- State and local grants from --
  - State and local government agencies
  - State and local private foundations
  - Corporations and businesses
- Service fees
- In-kind and volunteer support
- Re-granting opportunities

The national office would take the lead on cultivating national donors with states' assistance. State associations would cultivate state and local donors, with national office assistance.