



SBHCs + GRADS = Better Health

Healthcare Support for Parenting Teens

NMASBHC and NM-GRADS Best Practices for Dual Referral

Expectant and Parenting Teens are best served when the staff of both GRADS and SBHC collaborate to refer potential participants to one another's programs.

On-Campus Collaboration

GRADS Teachers and Case Managers are often in the best position of anyone on campus to know about the healthcare needs of their students; SBHC personnel are often the first adults on campus to know when a student is an expectant parent. It makes sense for these staff teams to collaborate to make certain that students know about and can take advantage of the excellent resources of both programs. To ensure this collaboration takes place, particularly when there may be staff turnover in either of the programs from year to year, it is important to institutionalize best practices:

- GRADS and SBHC staff teams are best able to collaborate for improved student educational and health outcomes when they have standing and regular meeting times through the school year. This may require the additional step of securing school administrative support for the collaboration.
- Ensure and maintain student confidentiality at all times, and inform students of their confidentiality rights. Always be sure to engage the student in consenting to the referral. This preserves the student's trust, the SBHC providers' requirements to follow HIPAA legal requirements, and provides an opportunity for student health literacy education.
- Utilize standard forms and procedures for dual referral between the two programs (see below).

On-campus collaboration is also important in supporting students after their initial referral. GRADS and NMASBHC staff can work together to make sure that students have the awareness and ability to utilize every possible supportive service available.

Standard Referral Forms and Procedures

Regular and standardized procedures and forms can be the best way to educate students about the other program and its services. An agreed upon system or procedure can also ensure that any work the SBHC and GRADS teams do to set up a pathway of access for students will continue even with changes in staffing. SBHCs sponsored by the Department of Health have customizable referral forms available to them for clinical purposes: <http://www.nmasbhc.org/sbhc-documents.html>. Additionally, NMASBHC has created GRADS/SBHC Dual Referral Forms that may be additionally helpful; see thumbnail images on the reverse and request copies from NMASBHC if you are interested.

For more information on this and other NMASBHC Best Practice and Tip Sheets related to healthcare for expectant and parenting teens, please visit NMASBHC's website at www.nmasbhc.org or contact NMASBHC at (505) 404-8059. Please note that the contents of these tip sheets are general and not a replacement for information from the sponsoring agencies or healthcare providers.

NMASBHC and NM-GRADS

Best Practices for Dual Referral

Expectant and Parenting Teens are best served when the staff of both GRADS and SBHC collaborate to refer potential participants to one another's programs.

Standard Referral Forms

It is important to start building an institutionalized system of collaboration between GRADS and SBHC programs. Consider using a standard referral form to educate your students/patients about the services available and encourage them to participate. Below are thumbnails of two referral forms available from NMASBHC to support this collaboration.



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