



School Health Symposium at Children's National:

# Achieving Better Collaboration (ABC) for Children

**"The school setting is so critical for the health and well-being of children and their families."**

————— Kurt Newman, M.D., President and CEO of Children's National —————

The Child Health Advocacy Institute (CHAI) at Children's National held a symposium on June 19, 2018, in Washington, D.C., that focused on the intersection between health and education. Attendees represented a broad range of partners from the District of Columbia, Maryland and Virginia. School health reflects priorities identified by our community in the 2016 District of Columbia Healthy Communities Collaborative Community Health Needs Assessment ([dchealthmatters.org](http://dchealthmatters.org)): care coordination, place-based care, health literacy and mental health. In addition, academic outcomes are vital to advancing health equity and long-term health and economic benefits for children.

The symposium was the culmination of 18 months of work across our health system, including the production of a school-based health programs report that catalogued current and prior school health programs at Children's National, and the creation of a School Health Collaborative that brings together employees across Children's National who champion health and education sector collaboration (<https://childrensnational.org/school-partnerships>). The objectives of the symposium were designed to strengthen relationships between health care and education sectors:



Identify critical academic and health challenges for children.



Help build a prepared and skilled workforce across sectors.



Identify strategies to increase collaboration between health and education sectors.

Panels and breakout sessions addressed the following topics: caring for the whole child using trauma-informed approaches, health care delivery in the school setting, government role in school health, innovations in school health, working with schools to address the social determinants of health, conducting research in school settings, self-care and wellness for school and health care professionals, and legislative advocacy to advance school health and wellness. Three programs at Children's National received Community Health Improvement Awards for their work in the school setting: Improving Pediatric Asthma Care in the District of Columbia (IMPACT DC), the Early Childhood Innovation Network (ECIN) and the three District of Columbia School-Based Health Centers operated by Children's National. As a result of attending the symposium, participants identified new partners for collaboration and gained new knowledge about school health.

Our vision is that Children's National is a school-friendly health care system designed to ensure all children reach optimal health and achieve their full academic potential. The *School Health Symposium: **Achieving Better Collaboration (ABC) for Children*** is a step towards that vision.

## Download the full report at

<https://childrensnational.org/school-partnerships>

### CHILD HEALTH ADVOCACY INSTITUTE

Through leadership and collaboration, the Child Health Advocacy Institute at Children's National advances policy and systems changes to achieve health equity for all children. The Child Health Advocacy Institute consists of the Child Health Data Lab, Community Affairs, Government Affairs, and the Municipal and Regional Affairs departments. Strong community programs and child-centered policies are critical to build healthier lives for children.

### ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We would like to extend our appreciation to our symposium sponsors for their generous contributions: CareFirst, Pepco, Dr. Judy Lansing Kovler and Wendy Goldberg. The symposium was hosted by the Child Health Advocacy Institute with support from our School Health Collaborative and Planning Committee members: Katherine Dubois, Iesha Reid, Margie Farrar-Simpson, Michele Mietus-Snyder, Yetta Myrick, Candice Pantor, Jennifer Stinebiser, Katie Tran, Colleen Whitmore and Kathy Woodward-Murray. This report is a collaboration between Aaron Bell, adjunct professorial lecturer in the Department of History at American University in Washington, D.C., and Children's National staff who led the writing and editing: Desiree de la Torre, director of Community Affairs and Population Health Improvement; Julia DeAngelo, program manager of School Strategies; Danielle G. Dooley, medical director of Community Affairs and Population Health; Tonya Vidal Kinlow, vice president for Community Engagement, Advocacy and Government Affairs; and Marceé White, medical director, Mobile Health Programs, Children's Health Project of Washington, D.C., Children's Health Center at THEARC. Iana Clarence, program coordinator of Community Affairs and Advocacy Education, served as a reviewer.

### ATTENDEES

- American Public Health Association
- Amerigroup DC
- American Psychiatric Association
- Brighter Bites
- Building Community Resilience Collaborative at The George Washington University
- Capital Area Food Bank
- CentroNía
- Charles County Department of Health for Charles County Public Schools
- Children's Law Center
- Children's National Health System
- Children's School Services
- D.C. City Council Office of David Grosso
- D.C. Department of Behavioral Health
- D.C. Office of the Deputy Mayor for Education
- D.C. Department of Health
- D.C. Department of Health Care Finance
- D.C. Office of the State Superintendent of Education
- D.C. Office of Victim Services and Justice Grants
- D.C. Public Charter School Board
- D.C. Public Schools
- DC Prep Public Charter School
- Fairfax County Health Department
- HSC Health Care System
- Mary's Center
- MedStar Family Choice
- Minds Incorporated
- Montgomery County Department of Health and Human Services/School Health Services
- Mundo Verde Public Charter School
- Office of U.S. Senator Tim Kaine
- Prince William County Public Schools
- Redstone Global Center for Prevention and Wellness at The George Washington University School of Public Health
- RESOLVE
- School-Based Health Alliance
- The Center for Health and Health Care in Schools at the Milken Institute School of Public Health at The George Washington University
- The Rodham Institute at The George Washington University School of Medicine and Health Sciences
- Unity Health Care
- Urban Institute