Appendix 8

2005 Health Suite Survey Report

According to a recent article in the Washington Post, most of the 150 DC public schools facilities are in need of repairs and renovation. The buildings average 73 years old, and many have leaky roofs, faulty plumbing and dimly lighted halls.[1] Currently, DCPS and Charter Schools are responsible for providing an adequate space for housing a nursing office (health suite) in each school.

The National Association of School Nurses (NASN) is a professional organization, which sets standards for school health programs. CNMC completed an assessment of each of the nursing suites (also known as health suites) in public and public charter schools in July 2005. The standard for the facility assessment were the specifications and recommendations of the National Association of School Nurses (NASN). Summary results are described below.

The Health Suite Assessment Tool was developed in December 2004 with final revisions in March 2005. It requires that each nurse assess and rate compliance with established criteria. The 3-part process involves examining the physical space, equipment and first aid supplies. Overall, the survey covered over 90 items. The tool included a rating scale with a maximum possible score of 93. Scores were grouped into the following rating scheme:

72 - 93	A	Very good, substantial compliance
48 - 71	B	Good, partial compliance
24 - 47	C	Fair, minimal compliance
0 - 23	D	Poor, does not meet standards

Table 1 shows summary results for the 170 health suites surveyed in public and public charter schools. On average the health suite facilities in the District ranked in the fair (minimal compliance) to good (partial compliance) range. Most facilities scored in the B range (partial compliance). Of the 170 schools assessed 5 schools received a grade of D (does not meet national standards).

[1] D Haynes. Realistic Plan Sought For DC Schools. The Washington Post, Monday, November 14, 2005.

Table 1. Facility assessment scores and overall grade

Ward	**# Schools**	**Part I : Health suite facility**	**Part II: Office equipment**	**Part III: First aid supplies**	**Score All categories**	**Grade** (Range: A – D)
		Possible Score = 29	**Possible Score = 30**	**Possible Score = 34**	**Total Possible Score = 93**	
Ward 1	Total Schools = 15					
	Avg. Score	15.47	14.73	17.13		
					47	**C**
Ward 2	Total Schools = 12					
	Avg. Score	11.58	15.17	14.83		
	Overall Score and Grade				**42**	**C**
Ward 3	Total Schools = 10					
	Avg. Score	14	17.6	20.1		
					52	**B**
Ward 4	Total Schools = 17					
	Avg. Score	14.94	16.53	20		
					52	**B**
Ward 5	Total Schools = 24					
	Avg. Score	14.54	15.5	19.08		
	Overall Score and Grade				**49**	**B**
Ward 6	Total Schools = 21					
	Avg. Score	15.9	16.62	20.14		
					53	**B**
Ward 7	Total Schools = 24					
		14.33	15.21	14.96		
					45	**C**
Ward 8	Total Schools = 27					
		16.26	16.92	18.85		
	Overall Score and Grade				**52**	**B**
Public	Total Schools = 20					
Charter Schools		10.55	13.2	18.05		
					42	**C**

The facility or physical space standards for health suites are listed below. Physical space ought to support the delivery of safe, accessible and confidential health care service.

- Be at least 600 square feet
- Be handicap-accessible
- Handicap accessible bathroom
- Dedicated use as a health suite
- Adequate plumbing
- Lockable cabinets

- Refrigerator in suite
- Privacy conference area
- Rest area with one cot for every 300 students
- Isolation area

Table 2 presents data by ward for the school health facilities surveyed based on the above criteria. Of note is that only 33% of charter schools and 43% of public schools met the requirement that the health suite occupy at least 600 square feet area.

Table 2

Ward	# of Schools	Min. 600 Sq. Ft.	Suite handicap accessible	Handicap accessible bathroom	Dedicated Health Suite	Adequate Plumbing	Locked Cabinets	Refrigerator in Suite	Privacy Area	Rest area with cot	Isolation area
1	15	67%	67%	33%	67%	53%	67%	60%	53%	73%	33%
2	12	33%	25%	8%	67%	58%	67%	75%	25%	67%	8%
3	10	36%	64%	27%	64%	64%	100%	100%	27%	46%	27%
4	17	31%	56%	38%	75%	63%	63%	81%	44%	81%	38%
5A	14	29%	57%	43%	71%	71%	57%	79%	29%	71%	29%
5B	10	44%	78%	22%	67%	78%	78%	78%	44%	67%	33%
6	21	43%	57%	43%	48%	48%	71%	91%	38%	81%	33%
7	24	58%	54%	13%	54%	50%	50%	42%	46%	71%	29%
8	27	48%	70%	30%	89%	63%	67%	85%	44%	70%	37%
PCS	20	33%	39%	22%	83%	50%	67%	61%	11%	61%	17%
Avg.	**170**	**44 %**	**57%**	**28 %**	**69%**	**58%**	**67%**	**78%**	**37%**	**64%**	**29%**

Table 3 shows a breakdown by ward of the school health suite computer/internet capabilities. Overall, less than half of the schools had computers in the health suites. As of July 2005, 77 of 167 (46%) health suites had computers but only 62 (37%) had Internet access. Lack of interconnectivity limits the nurse's ability to document activities and ascertain student's health status.

Table 3.

Health Office Equipment	**Ward 1**	**Ward 2**	**Ward 3**	**Ward 4**	**Ward 5A**	**Ward 5B6**	**Ward 6**	**Ward 7**	**Ward 8**	**PCS***	**% of Schools**
Total # Schools	15	12	11	16	14	9	21	24	26	19	167
Computer	20%	33%	64%	44%	43%	22%	38%	54%	50%	74%	46%
Internet Connectivity	7%	25%	64%	38%	36%	22%	29%	38%	35%	74%	37%
Separate Computer Line	0%	25%	45%	44%	50%	22%	29%	42%	38%	63%	37%

Bringing health suites into compliance with standards: Preliminary Estimated Cost

DOH made a preliminary calculation of the cost of providing the following equipment and supplies which are generally required for health suites:

- Medical supply cabinet with lock
- Medicine cabinet with lock
- Refrigerator (reserved for health services) with lock
- Voice mail or answering machine
- Portable first aid kit
- Vision Chart
- Scale
- Audiometer
- Peak flow meter
- Glucose meter
- Nebulizer
- Sphygmomanometer with appropriate sized cuffs
- Stethoscope

CNMC estimated that a typical health suite would require approximately $3,800 in medical supplies and equipment, $3,300 in office supplies and equipment. Including miscellaneous supplies, the total cost for elementary and secondary (Middle/JHS/SHS) schools office equipment and supplies would be roughly $7,600 and $8,000 respectively.

School Type	**Medical Supplies and Equipment**	**Office Supplies and Equipment**	**Training**	**Miscellaneous Supplies**	**# Schools**	**Total Projected Costs**
Elementary	$3,774.22	$3,348.17	$400	$445	132	$1,051,695
Secondary	$3,774.22	$3,348.17	$400	$890	18	$151,423
Charter	$3,774.22	$3,348.17	$400	$890	64	$538,393
Total Full Yr. Costs						**$1,741,511**

These estimates are based on recommendations for initially establishing a health suite. Once a complete assessment is conducted of each health suite to determine current deficiencies, the cost to bring each health suite up to the standard can be determined. It will also be necessary to figure out annual replacement costs for these items.

We expect that capital requirements for facility repair and renovation (including SBHCs) will be determined during the comprehensive facility assessment DCPS is undertaking at present. DOH will collaborate with DCPS and other District agencies in determining health suite and SBHC facility requirements, capital improvements and location of the facilities.

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