Delaware School Nurse Memo #3

November 9, 2016

Care Coordination

Care Coordination – Care Coordination is one of the five principles in the new Framework for 21st Century School Nurse Practice created by the National Association of School Nurses. Care Coordination is not a new concept for school nurses, but have you considered your unique role as a Care Coordinator for the students in your school? Lillian Wald, founder of public health and school nursing in the U.S., recognized that helping a child return to school meant much more than sending the child home with a prescription. It required what continues to be needed today – helping the family to understand the child's condition and needs, identifying an appropriate and accessible healthcare provider, obtaining the prescribed treatment, and providing the necessary support at home. It doesn't mean the school nurse has to literally do all those things, but engaging others and putting all those pieces together is Care Coordination.

Community/Public Health

Violence – The October 2016 issue of the Delaware Journal of Public Health is dedicated to the issue of violence in our state. Noel Duckworth, contributing author, begins this way, "Understanding and approaching violence as a public health problem had started changing how we approach and resource the issue . . . Yet, as the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) points out . . . just 30 years ago the words 'violence' and 'health' were rarely used in the same sentence" (page 10).

School have an important role in helping children and families to prevent, avoid, and respond to the trauma of violence. As a part of the education team, school nurses are critical, too. The National Association of School Nurses provides resources for Violence in Schools, in addition to Position Statements on School Violence, Role of the School Nurse in Prevention, Bullying Prevention in Schools, and Care of Victims of Child Maltreatment: The School Nurse's Role. If this is not an area where you "feel like an expert", take time to learn more about your role. It will make a difference for the students you serve.

The Division of Public Health (DPH) recent Press Releases related to school health:

- Delaware Public Health: Flue Now Statewide

The DPH Bulletin, November issue, is available. This month's issue includes articles on:

- Delaware Statewide Trauma System celebrates 20 years of saving lives

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- Plan holiday travel around Zika
- Protect pets from hazardous weather
- Healthy Smiles, Healthy You: a new oral health webpage

Leadership

Jane Boyd, Education Specialist, School Health Services – Dr. Linda. C. Wolfe, Director, and Jane will be working together as Delaware's State School Nurse Consultants. Their goal is to support schools and school nurses to provide the highest quality care to Delaware students. For school level questions, please contact Jane at jane.boyd@doe.k12.de.us or 302-857-3356. For program, state, or district level questions, please continue to contact Linda at linda.wolfe@doe.k12.de.us or 302-857-3356. They will be copying each other on responses.

Kudos to Delaware School Nurse Association – Again this year, the Delaware School Nurses Association (DSNA) provided an incredible fall conference. These things don't happen by chance. Congratulations and thank you to Sharon-rose Gargula, DSNA President, the DSNA team, speakers, and the Cape Henlopen School Nurses. These leaders are role models for Leadership of the 21st Century School Nurse!

Leadership Matters – The DSNA conference included the new Leadership class for new school nurses. This three hour afternoon session is part of the new School Nurse Certification Program. DSNA President-Elect Chriss Zimmermann developed and led the inaugural class.

Quality of Care

FY16 Statewide Referral Completion Rates: Below are the Referral Completion rates for school year 2015-2016 from public schools. School nurses are urged to strive for 100% referral completion rates.
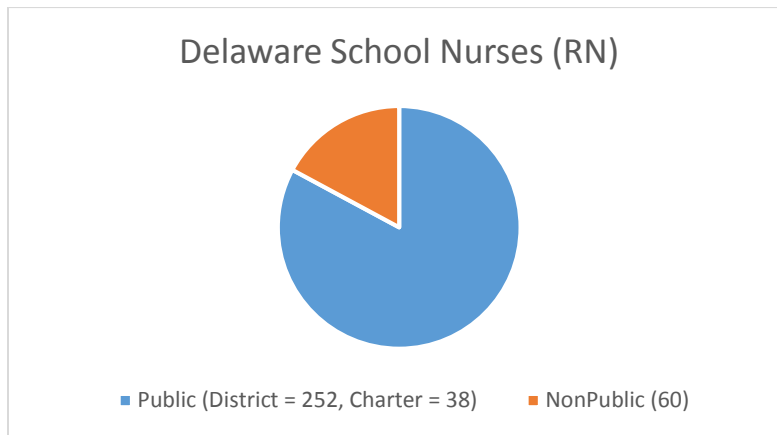
Hearing: 44.3% of students referred for a hearing follow-up were seen by a healthcare provider

Vision: 46.11% of students referred for an eye exam were seen by a healthcare provider

In reviewing the data, it appears that a number of referral completions are not being documented. If documented, our completion numbers would be higher and show a more complete picture of the care school nurses provide for students. If you are setting DPAS II goals, please choose a baseline that is fair to you, but will also improve the care provided for your students. This means that you may not want to use the state percentage. Find out last year's percentage for your school and for a comparable school in your district or look at the district or state level if one is higher than your number from last year. For example, if your referral completion rate was 60% last year, it would be inappropriate to choose a lower rate for this year. Rather, set a goal to raise your completion rate to meet a district or state rate, or by 5 – 10%.
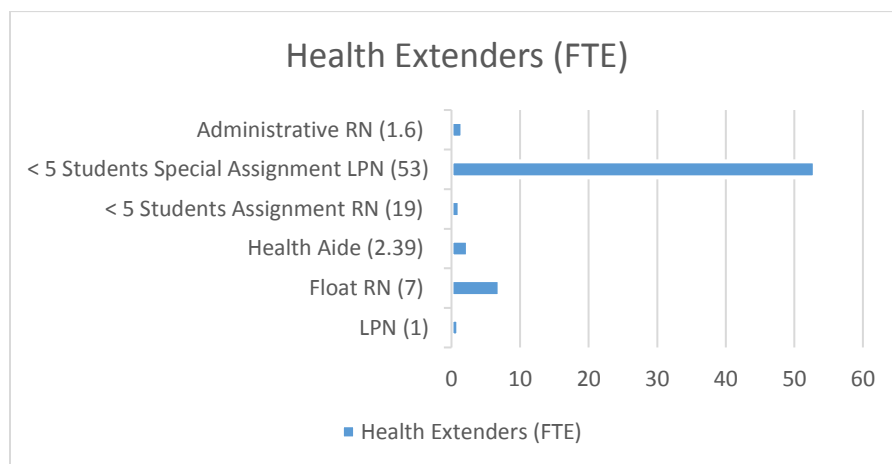

Delaware Participates in *Step Up & Be Counted!* – For the second year, Delaware joined with other states, including Alaska and Hawaii, to participate in the *Step Up & Be Counted!* initiative. Delaware also participated in the in the inaugural year, school year 2014-2015 (SY15), of this National School Nurse Standardized Data Set. *Step Up & Be Counted!* is a joint initiative of the National Association of State School Nurse Consultants (NASSNC) and the National Association of School Nurses (NASN). Although the data is not generalizable due to the variance in state's participation, initial trends were noted.

Delaware School Nurse Workforce for 2015-2016 (SY16) data was submitted again this fall. During SY16, 350 school nurses (Registered Nurses) provided services to Delaware students in public and nonpublic schools. Although this is an increase from 333 in SY15, the workforce full-time equivalent (FTE) positions fell slightly from 317.27 in SY15 to 315.8 FTE in SY16.

Delaware School Nurses (RN)

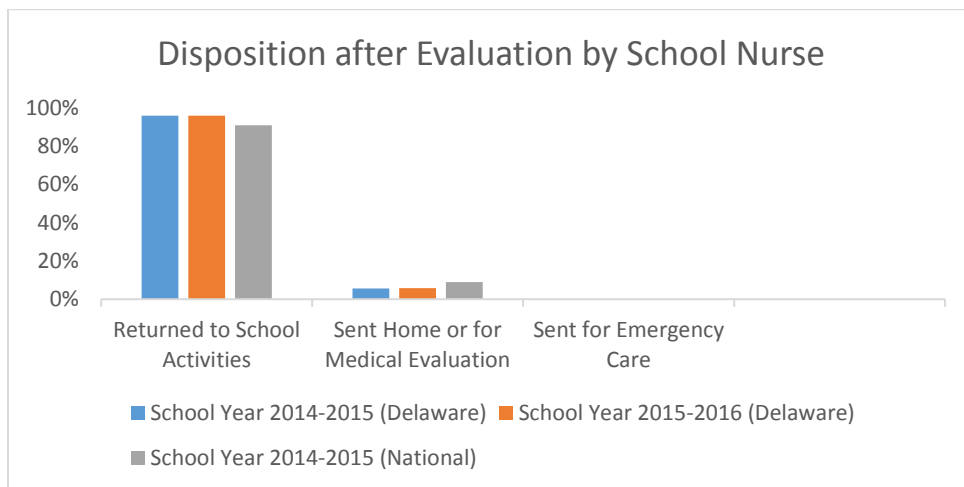- Public (District = 252, Charter = 38)
- NonPublic (60)

100% of students attending public (district or charter) schools have access to a full-time school nurse. 97.5% of students attending a non-public school (religious affiliation, independent, home school, other) have access to a school nurse.

In addition to school nurses, student health needs are also addressed through additional nursing services, e.g. health aide, as illustrated in the following graph.

Health Extenders (FTE)

Category	
Administrative RN (1.6)	
< 5 Students Special Assignment LPN (53)	
< 5 Students Assignment RN (19)	
Health Aide (2.39)	
Float RN (7)	
LPN (1)	

(x-axis: 0 10 20 30 40 50 60)

- Health Extenders (FTE)

Delaware Disposition Data reports what happens after a student has been seen, evaluated, and treated (if needed) by the school nurse. *Step Up & Be Counted!* identifies three categories: Returned to Class (remained in school), Sent Home or Sent for Medical Care, and 911 (activation of Emergency Management Services). Delaware has collected this information through the Annual Summary of School Health Services for over ten years. Data from SY15 and SY16 show the same ratios with 94% of students able to resume classroom or school activities and less than 1% requiring EMS activation.

Delaware Chronic Disease Data is not currently collected at the state level; however, individual schools and districts have access to data on their students. As leaders and advocates, school nurse should be aware of their students' needs and tailor prevention, education, and services to meet them.

Standards of Practice

Delaware School Nurse Manual – The School Nursing: Technical Assistance Manual is undergoing significant revision and reconfiguring. The new manual will have a new title, Delaware School Nurse Manual. The Manual be based on the National Association of School Nurse's Framework for 21st Century School Nursing Practice. Chapter 1 (Standards of Practice) and Chapter 3 (Community/Public Health) will be available within the next several weeks and can be accessed on the DDOE School Health Services Delaware School Nurse Manual webpage. The revisions include significant new text that is based on the input, writing, and review of many Delaware school nurses. These generous and talented volunteers are identified at the beginning of each chapter.