School Nurse Meeting with Community Leader
Notes and Suggested Documents for Reference in Preparation for Meeting

Note – Our priority is to advocate for Alaska's children and meeting their health needs so they are in school and learning. Every community leader will share this goal.

Note – Present information that demonstrates that school nurses deliver care that results in better attendance, learning, graduation, and better health for Alaska's children. Our work is directly related to saving money for our communities and state. Early identification and care for both physical and mental health needs reduces the financial cost for less-than-good outcomes: ER visits, advanced medical conditions (think diabetes, asthma, mental health diagnoses). Share a story of your prevention and advocacy work on behalf of kids in your school community.

Reference Documents
1) ASNA: “School Nurses Are Important to Alaska's Children”
http://alaskasna.org/Legislative/WhitePaper_Advocacy.pdf

2) Mary Bell: “School Nursing Services/Health Services Resources”
http://alaskasna.org/Legislative/SchoolNursingServicesResources.pdf
   Read, at minimum, all resources listed under Alaska School Health Data, and under Additional Reading - 8 articles in all. Read Selected Articles if you can.

3) UAA/ISER: Kids Count Alaska Data, find @ http://kidscount.alaska.edu/

Other Points to Know or Look for in References
1) One in ten Alaska children has a chronic health condition, such as asthma, diabetes, or epilepsy that keeps them home from school at least 11 days each school year. Case management and care coordination helps keep these and all students healthy and in school. (Essential School Health Services for Students with Chronic Conditions)

2) Research suggests that schools may function as the de facto mental health system for children and adolescents. For ages 9 – 17, an estimated 21 percent experienced signs and symptoms of a DSM-IV disorder during the course of a year, 11 percent experienced significant impairment... (The Center for Health and Health Care in Schools)

3) AK school nurses return students to class at rate of 95% (preliminary AK School Nurse Data Collection Project).

4) AK school nurses have an average of 23 daily student encounters (preliminary AK School Nurse Data Collection Project). Higher in some schools depends on population and health needs.

5) “As school nurse services fall below recommended levels, the need for health care in schools has increased over the last decade…diabetes cases have doubled…food allergies and anaphylaxis have doubled…within special education, the children with health conditions have doubled.” (NASN, Healthy People 2020 Comments posted 2010)

6) School nurses improve attendance through prevention and reduction of illness. Only half as many kids leave school for illness or injury when they have a full time school nurse.

7) School nurses remove barriers to learning: glasses, hearing aids, stable asthma, and diabetes, provide early identification of infectious disease, appropriate referrals for medical care, more.

8) Alaska's ranking is among the worst in the nation for five indicators including child and teen death rates, and teen birth rates. The overall health ranking is 46th and the education rank is 43rd. (UAA/ISER Kids Count Alaska Data). School nurses make a difference on both of these indexes.