



# Healthy Eyes, Healthy Lives: Community Approaches to Children's Vision

**October 9, 2024**





# School-Based Health Alliance

## Transforming Health Care for Students

### Our **Focus**

The School-Based Health Alliance Works to Support & Grow SBHCs

#### Policy



Establishes and advocates for national policy priorities

#### Standards



Promotes high-quality clinical practices and standards, including for telehealth

#### Data



Supports data collection and reporting, evaluation, and research

#### Training



Provides training, technical assistance, and consultation

We support the improvement of students' health via school-based health care by supporting and creating community and school partnerships.

[www.sbh4all.org](http://www.sbh4all.org)

## Technical Assistance to Health Centers

- Vision Services Committee
- FQHC and Community Optometry Facebook Group

## Workforce Support

- Free job postings for optometry jobs on our career center
- 2024 Eye Care Workforce Survey

## Resources:

- FQHC Eye Care Services Billing & Coding Tips & FAQs

Scan the QR Code to  
Learn More



Email: Luke Ertle, Program Director at [lertle@clinicians.org](mailto:lertle@clinicians.org)



# Learning objectives

## Participants will be able to...

- Describe various models of school-based vision care services.
- Identify common vision disorders among school-age children.
- Identify strategies to address the social determinants of health and reduce barriers contributing to inequities in children's vision care by engaging in community partnerships.

## Today's Speakers



**Dr. Dedrix Daka**  
VP, Medical Affairs  
MCR Health



**Clifton Bush, MSM**  
Chief Operating Officer  
Albany Area Primary Health Care, Inc.



**Tiffany Ways, MSW, LISW-S**  
Chief School Health Officer  
Health Partners of Western Ohio



# Resources

## Vision Services

- [Eyes on Access: Children's Vision and Eye Health in Community Health Centers, Part 1](#)
- [Eyes on Access: Children's Vision and Eye Health in Community Health Centers, Part 2](#)
- [SBHA's Vision Services Overview](#)

## Mobile Health

- [School-Based Mobile Healthcare Toolkit](#)



**2025 National School-Based  
Health Care Conference**

**June 29 -  
July 1, 2025**

**Westin Washington, DC Downtown  
Hotel (formerly the Renaissance  
Downtown Hotel) in Washington, D.C**







# Unboxing



## THE SCHOOL-BASED HEALTH CENTER

SHARE A SHORT VIDEO HIGHLIGHTING YOUR  
SCHOOL-BASED HEALTH CENTER EXPERIENCE



The School-Based Health Alliance is hosting a video competition to celebrate the new school year!

Post on your social media with #LifeWithSBHC and tag @SBH4ALL.

**SUBMIT NOW TO WIN UP TO \$5000**

## Calling for Youth and SBHC Staff!

Submit your short video showing your day in the life at your school-based health center to win up to \$5000

More info: [bit.ly/unboxingsbhc](https://bit.ly/unboxingsbhc)

# Health Center Staff: *Give your input TODAY!*

## Complete the 2024 National Health Center Training and Technical Assistance (T/TA) Needs Assessment.

Tell us what training and professional development support you and your health center teammates need to best serve your community.

Help our training partners create learning opportunities **designed with health center teams in mind.**

This project is supported by the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) as part of an award totaling \$6,625,000 with zero percentage financed with non-governmental sources. The contents are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily represent the official views of, nor an endorsement, by HRSA, HHS, or the U.S. Government. For more information, please visit [HRSA.gov](https://www.hrsa.gov).



NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF  
Community Health Centers®

Who

ALL health center staff are encouraged to complete the National T/TA needs assessment. It's available in English and Spanish!

When

August 19 - November 1, 2024

How

Click on this link

Or scan the QR code:



Why

So you can help inform the training and professional development available to health center staff.

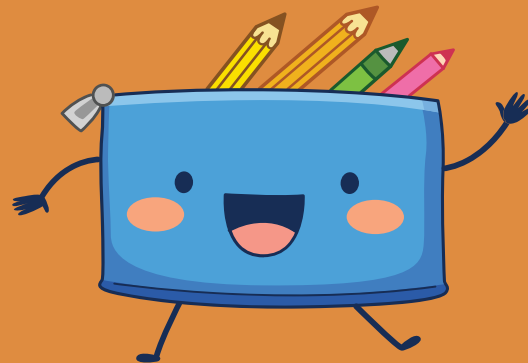
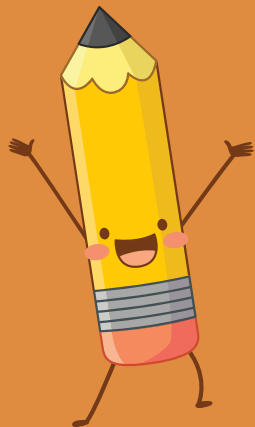


MCR Health Inc. – Mobile Eye Care

# Healthy Eyes, Healthy Lives

Dr. Dedrix B. Daka  
VP Medical Affairs, MCR Health

Bradenton, FL  
October 9, 2024



# MCR Health Patient Demographics

- Unduplicated Patients Served | 168,585
- Patient Encounters | 812,918
- Patients by Race
  - Black/African American | 9%
  - White | 41%
  - Other/Unreported | 50%
- Patients by Ethnicity
  - Hispanic | 24%
  - Non-Hispanic | 36%
  - Unreported | 40%



\*Data provided is for 2022 to accurately compare to the other reports.

# What We Do

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## Core Medical Services

- Family Practice
- Internal Medicine
- Pediatrics
- Obstetrics/Gynecology
- Dental

## Specialty Services

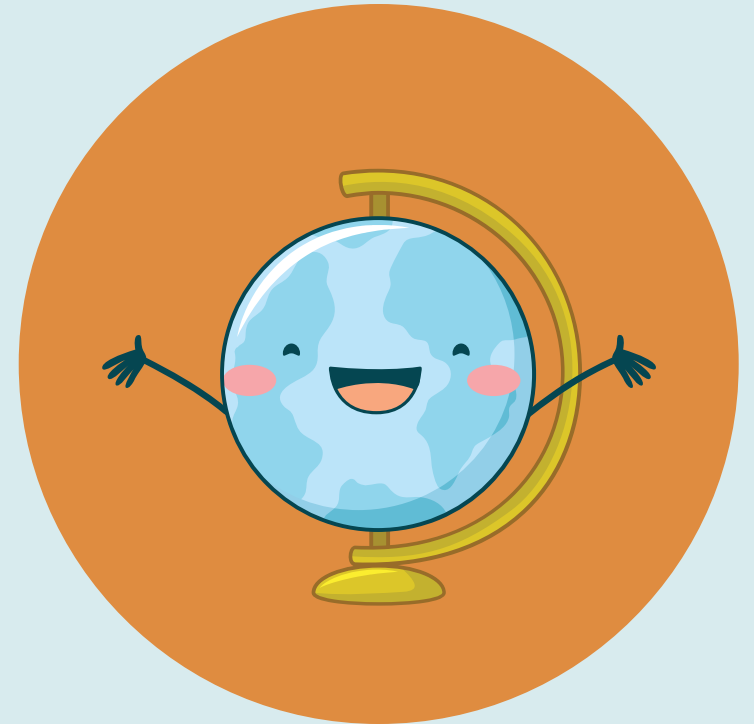
- Podiatry
- Behavioral Health
- Optometry
- Infectious Disease
- General Surgery
- Perinatology
- Endocrinology
- Specialty Pharmacy
- Dermatology
- Orthopedics
- Cardiology
- Psychiatry
- Pulmonology

## Enabling and Other Clinical Services

- Care Coordination
- Health Education
- Outreach
- Financial Counselors
- Pharmacy/Telepharmacy
- Durable Medical Equipment

# Access for All

- As an FQHC, **MCR Health** is a **critical component** of the health care **safety net** through its ability to provide comprehensive **primary** care and **preventive** care, including health, oral, and behavioral health, regardless of their ability to pay and have health insurance.
- MCR's commitment to **access for ALL** includes the ability to service and care for any population as well as the **indigent**.
- MCR Health **provides** in excess of **\$43 million** in **unreimbursed** care.



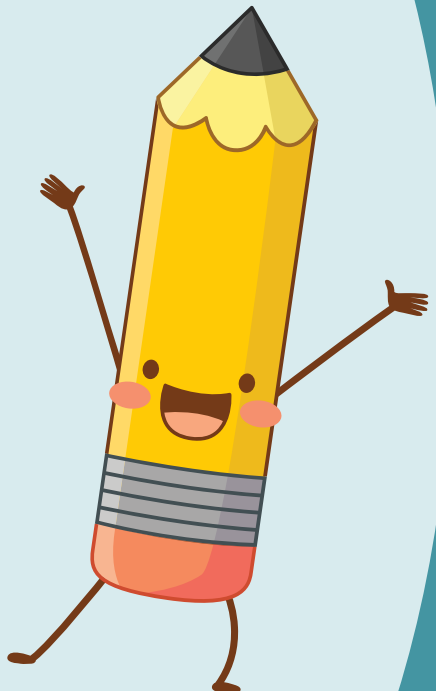
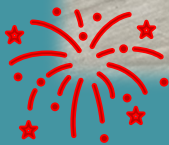
# MCR Health School-Based Initiatives



Southeast High School

Partnerships –

- ‘Workstation on Wheels’
- Manatee Elementary
- Our Newest – Daughtrey Elementary School





# Coordinating Deployment



- Consents – Our favorite word
  - Review in advance with Health Center Leadership/County Leadership
  - Consider schools to provide consents during registration/open house
  - Staff/Providers should support school events
- Residual Benefits to Health Center
  - Lifelong patients,
  - Parent and Family patients
  - Exposure



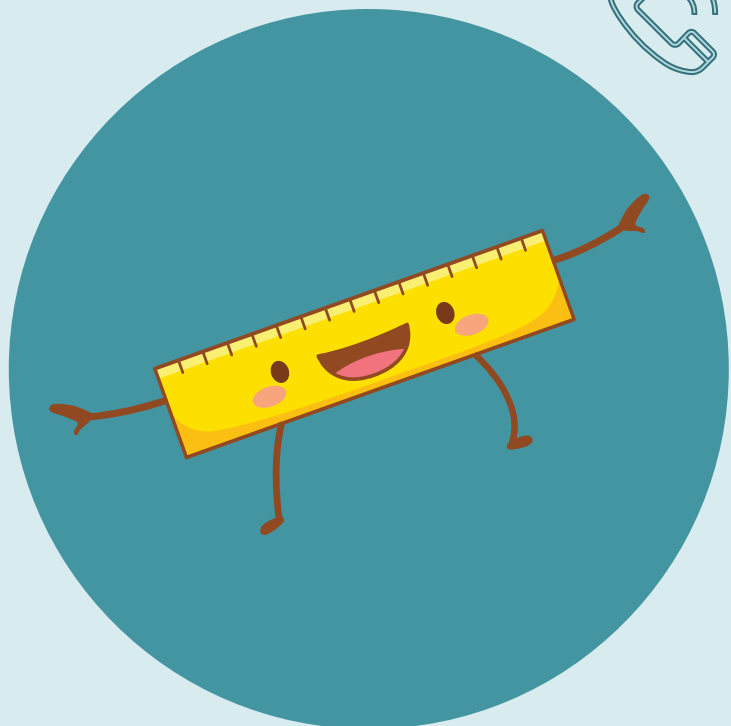




# Coordinating Deployment



- Communication
  - Health Centers and Schools have inherent cultural differences
  - Assign 1 individual to be point of contact on both sides
  - Clearly identify timeline and expectations prior to start of year
  - Regular check-ins
  - Allow time/buffer for authorization/planning

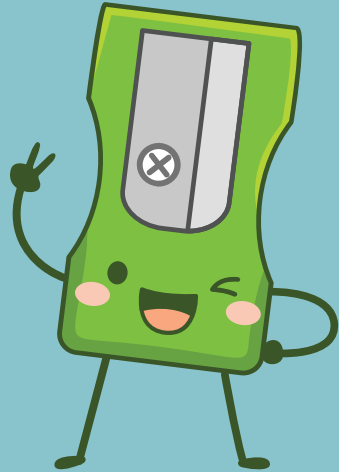


# Coordinating Deployment

- Clear Vision – Providing Care on mobile deployments

## Patient Evaluation

- Tends to lean 'routine vision'
- Communicating to patient without the parent
- Undiagnosed Headaches and Eye Strain
- Reading comfort
- Managing Double Vision



1. Eye chart reading



2. Swinging flashlight test



3. Cover test



4. Confrontation visual field test



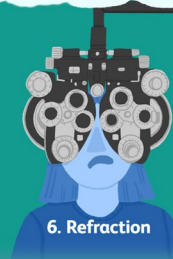
## What to Expect During an Eye Exam



5. Color blindness test



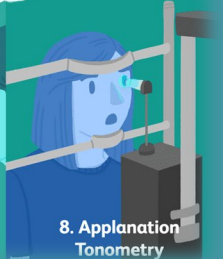
6. Refraction



7. Slit lamp exam



8. Applanation Tonometry

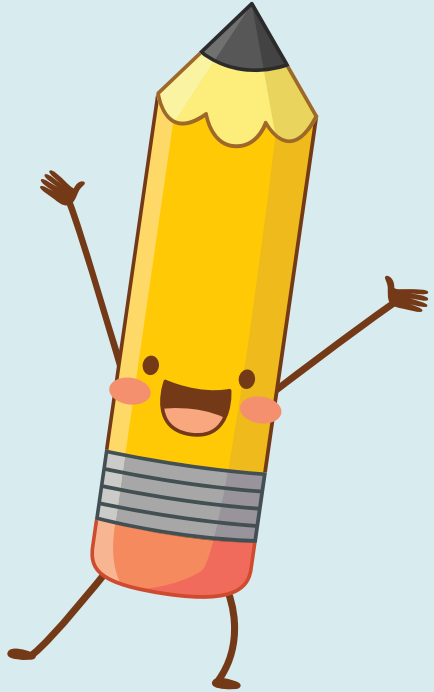


# Coordinating Deployment

- Clear Vision – Providing Care on mobile deployments

## Optical

- Simplify your offerings – build a ‘deployment pack’
- Plan to return in 2-3 week to dispense all glasses at once
- Ensure central points of contact remain in communication
- Preparation in advance regarding eligibility/flow are keys to success



# Why We Do This - SDOH

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- These are the patients that do not have the ability to get to the doctor
- Community Health Centers prioritize Health Education, Patient Portal and providing care within Guidelines and Best Practice
- Community Outreach emphasizes the importance of Health to all communities
- With Consents, Communication and Clear Vision – we can provide excellent Care!



Thank you!

# Health Eyes, Health Lives:

Community Approaches to Children's Vision and Eye Health

for the **School Based Health Alliance**

**Clifton Bush**

**Chief Operating Officer**

**Albany Area Primary Health Care, Inc.**

**October 8, 2024**

# Information about AAPHC

- Corporation initially established in 1978 and current institution was incorporated in 1979.
- Grant for FQHC funding to develop clinic in Lee County was based on thesis project regarding lack of care for women and babies in the community, particularly prenatal care. AAPHC did not implement OB services until 2009...thirty years later.
- AAPHC had three locations in 1982 and has grown to include 30, which includes 11 school-based sites.
- AAPHC opened the doors to it's inaugural School-Based Health Center in March 2013.



**AAPHC**  
Albany Area  
Primary Health Care

# AAPHC Optometry Department

- Currently have 1 Optometrist along with 1 Ophthalmologist on staff; currently recruiting for an additional Optometrist
- Staffing for SBHC includes Optometrist, Optician, and 2 Optometric Technicians
- Served 3,681 patients according to the 2023 UDS
- Has served 4,506 SBHC patient encounters since the opening of the SBHC vision clinic in 2018.
- Also serves patients at 2 of our outpatient community clinics; over 21,000 encounters to date for this program
- Currently have 3 optometry sites along with optometry on our mobile unit





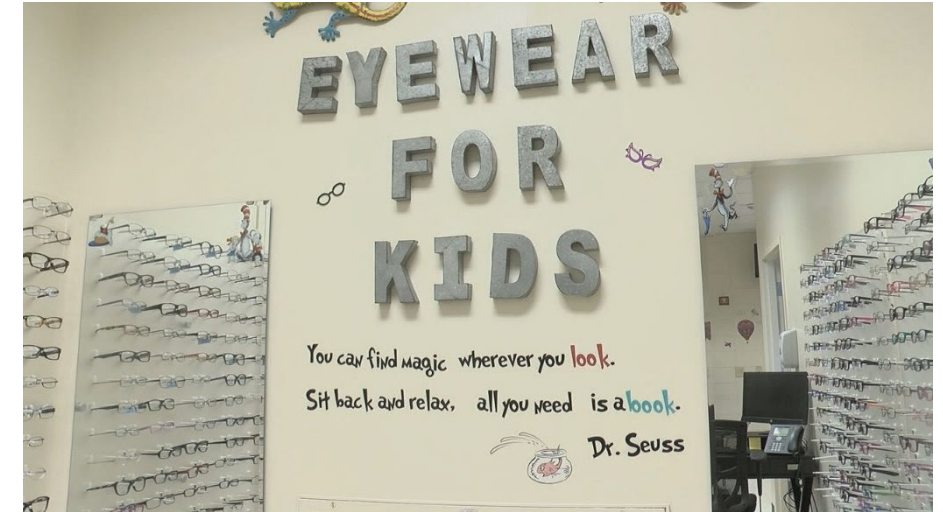
# AAPHC FUNDING



- **Received funding from the One Sight Foundation in 2017 to start a vision center in our School Based Health Center program.**
  - Funding included construction of the site, salaries for 1 year (*Optometrist, Optician, Optometric Technician, and a Front Desk Receptionist*)
  - Free frames for patients that met poverty guidelines and did not have vision benefits for frames
  - Allowed AAPHC to also open a community clinic for optometry
- **Also received funding from the Association of Underserved Clinicians to start another vision center at one of our SBHC clinics**
  - Funding included the equipment for a vision center at Dooly County Elementary and Middle School (*a very rural community with lack of specialty services*)

# Space/Clinic Layout

- Used a classroom located within an elementary school for the vision center.
  - Two exam rooms (Lanes)
  - Pre-Test Room
  - Front Desk Receptionist area
  - Workstation area for the Optometrist and Optometric Technicians
  - Workspace for the Optician
  - Space for the Frames area
  - Small waiting area for the students/patients



# Services Offered

- Vision Exams for Students, Siblings of students, Faculty & Staff, and families of the faculty and staff
- Frames
- Ophthalmology Services
- Transportation Services via the School System



# SBHC Optometry Clinic Process

- Consent Forms are sent home to the parents to complete every year during the first week of school
- Patient Navigator works the consent forms to schedule appointments for the SBHC vision clinics
- AAPHC Pediatricians, Family Medicine providers, and SBHC providers refer patients to the SBHC vision clinic
- Referrals from AAPHC providers are worked by the optometric technicians and the referral specialist dedicated to the SBHC program
- Transportation is provided for the students to access the services in all of the school systems that we serve for optometry services

# Operations/Sustainability

- We bill the student's insurance for the vision services provided which includes frames
- If the student does not have any insurance and the parent cannot pay for the vision exam and/or frames, we do not turn any student away
- We make sure to schedule the patient back for their annual exam each year
- We have access to the school system's infinite campus system to be able to locate students if they move to another school. This system also gives us access to the student's phone number as well to be able to reach the parents
- We set-up one or two schools daily to be transported to the SBHC vision center for services



# Patient Stories/Case Studies

- Elementary School Student Success Stories
- 1<sup>st</sup> Month Open- Over 200 students seen with 160 of the students needing glasses
- Have seen over 3,500 patient encounters since the opening of the center at the school in 2018 and over 21,000 patient encounters within the community clinic since the clinic opening in November 2017
- Expanded to our mobile unit with vision services to another school system and have participated in a service project with the Department of Education. AAPHC will continue expansion of this and other opportunities in the future





# Thank You

Clifton Bush  
Albany Area Primary Health Care, Inc.  
Clifton.Bush@aaphc.org  
(229) 888-6559



**Health Partners  
of Western Ohio**

# School Based Mobile Vision Services

Tiffany Ways, MSW, LISW-S  
Chief School Health Officer

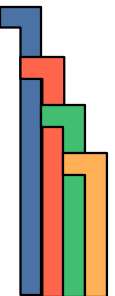


# School Required Vision Screening



Health Partners  
of Western Ohio

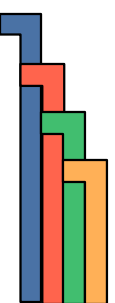
- Vision screenings are required for students in the following grades:
  - Preschool (prior to entering kindergarten)
  - Kindergarten
  - 1st grade
  - 3rd grade
  - 5th grade
  - 7th grade
  - 9th or 11th grade (as determined by the school district)
- In Ohio, 80% of children who fail school vision screening do not receive a comprehensive eye exam.



# Outreach Vehicles



Health Partners  
of Western Ohio





### Promotional materials:

- Flyers sent home
- Social media posts
- School newsletters
- Classroom to home communication systems ex: Remind/ClassDoJo
- School wide text/call system

## Treatments

 Eye Exam

 Glasses as necessary

Sign up by filling out a consent form and turning it in to your school. No insurance? No problem! Treatments are available for those who are insured or uninsured. No out-of-pocket cost. Insurance is billed, if you have it.



Our team will visit your school the week of:

**April 14, 2025**



Questions: Health Partners Vision Outreach **419-516-0799**



Health Partners of Western Ohio  
Dental/Vision Outreach Consent Form  
**PLEASE SIGN AND RETURN TO SCHOOL**



Our Outreach Team will be coming to your school and offering vision and dental services. Regular dental and vision check-ups are an important part of overall health. We will bill Medicaid and Private Insurance. The dental visit will be considered a preventive visit through your insurance company. If your child has no health coverage there will be NO charge. Our center can help sign you and your family up for insurance, if eligible. The program is open to all children.



Health Partners of Western Ohio

YES, I give my informed consent for my child to participate in the School-Based Outreach Program.

Please check which services you wish for your child to participate in:

Dental Only  Vision Only  Both Dental and Vision

Please complete the rest of this form, **PRINT & SIGN at the bottom** and return it to school.

Child's First Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Child's Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Child's Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_  Female  Male Child's SSN: \_\_\_\_\_-\_\_\_\_\_-\_\_\_\_

School Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Grade \_\_\_\_ Rm # \_\_\_\_ Teacher: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_ County: \_\_\_\_\_

Race/Ethnicity (Circle all that apply): White Black/African American Hispanic Asian Pacific Islander/ Hawaiian Native American/Alaskan Native Other

Does your child have any serious health problems?  Yes  No If YES, please explain: \_\_\_\_\_

Does your child have any allergies? (i.e.: acrylics/plastics/bees/latex, etc.)  Yes  No Please List: \_\_\_\_\_

**Insurance Information**

Medicaid Plans

Circle plan your child has and fill in Billing Information



Member ID # \_\_\_\_\_

Medicaid # (MMIS) \_\_\_\_\_

Private Insurance Plans

Name of Dental Plan: \_\_\_\_\_

ID # \_\_\_\_\_ Group # \_\_\_\_\_

Insurance Holder Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Insurance Holder DOB: \_\_\_\_\_

Insurance Holder SSN: \_\_\_\_\_

Claim Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

Employer: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Vision Plan: \_\_\_\_\_

ID # \_\_\_\_\_ Group # \_\_\_\_\_

Insurance Holder Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Insurance Holder DOB: \_\_\_\_\_

Insurance Holder SSN: \_\_\_\_\_

Claim Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

Employer: \_\_\_\_\_

I have read and completed the information on this consent form and my signature below gives consent for treatment and is valid for one calendar year from date of signature. I have read and understand the Notice of Privacy Practices on the back of this form and know that a copy is available from the school office or hpwohio.org. This form, when signed and filled in, contains Protected Health Information and the information is to be protected according to the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act. I authorize Health Partners staff to provide dental and vision services at school to the above named child. The dental services include an exam, cleaning, fluoride, sealants, and the application of Silver Diamine Fluoride as needed. (The use of Silver Diamine Fluoride may discolor any cavities to a brown or black color. SEE BACK FOR DETAILS.) The vision services include a full vision exam, dilation drops as necessary, and prescription glasses. I give consent for Health Partners staff to collaborate with school staff especially when additional dental and/or vision treatment is necessary to ensure my student receives follow-up care.

**Parent/Guardian Signature** \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

**Print Parent/Guardian Name** \_\_\_\_\_

**Consent for Treatment:**

- Physical consents sent home with students at the beginning of the academic year.
- Electronic consents can be sent via email or text.

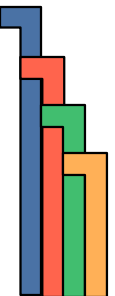
To find a medical or dental office near you, please visit our website at [www.hpwohio.org](http://www.hpwohio.org) or call 567-825-0226. Like us on Facebook!

# Outreach Process



**Health Partners  
of Western Ohio**

- Services are coordinated with the school nurse or school designee.
- Students are registered prior to the outreach teams visit to the school.
- School nurses provide priority list based upon the following factors:
  - Failed vision screening
  - Individual Education Plan requirements
  - School staff or parent concerns
- After completion of the priority list, the team begins exams on younger grades and moves up based upon time availability.
- Consents coordinated according to classrooms to reduce classroom disruptions.



# Outreach Vehicle



Health Partners  
of Western Ohio





## Health Partners of Western Ohio

Students identified in need of glasses do frame selection same day.

Licensed Optician assists students with frame selection.

Some schools have space to allow for pretesting and frame selection to occur within the school building.



# Health Partners of Western Ohio

## Vision Outreach Services

Child Name: \_\_\_\_\_ School: \_\_\_\_\_

DOB: \_\_\_\_\_

### Dear Parent/Guardian,

#### Your child had a complete eye exam today.

If their eyes were dilated, they may have blurred vision and be sensitive to bright light for a few hours. If you have questions, please call 419-442-7702.

#### During the eye exam it was found that:

- No Glasses Needed**       **Follow-Up or Referral Needed** (Our team will contact you in the next few days to discuss)
- Glasses Needed** (Glasses were chosen today and will be delivered to the school in 3-4 weeks)
- Good Vision & Eye Health** (No problems were found today. The next eye exam should be in one year)

#### Your child needs glasses because they have the following vision problem(s):

- Nearsighted** (blurred far vision)
- Farsighted** (keeping near vision clear is hard)
- Astigmatism** (blurred, shadowed vision at any distance)
- Amblyopia / "Lazy Eye"** (poor vision due to not wearing glasses or having an eye turn)

#### Glasses should be worn:

- All the time**
- At school**
- Distance only**
- While reading / screen use**
- Other:**

**Glasses Prescription**    **Issue Date:** \_\_\_\_\_    **Expire Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

	Sph	Cyl	Axis	Add	Prism	PD
OD (R)						
OS (L)						

#### Additional Notes:

*Dr. Christopher De Guzman*

Christopher De Guzman, O.D.



# Health Partners of Western Ohio

Letter home to parents regarding the outcome of the examination.

Document is a triplicate:

- Home document
- School document
- Health Partners document

**Bulldog Health Center at Scott High School**  
 2400 Collingwood Avenue  
 Toledo, Ohio 43620  
 419-442-7701

**Rams Health Center at Rogers High School**  
 222 McTigue Drive  
 Toledo, OH 43615  
 419-442-7702

**Waite Health Center**  
 301 Morrison Dr.  
 Toledo, OH 43605  
 567-204-3056

**Woodward Health Center**  
 701 E. Central Ave.  
 Toledo, OH 43608  
 567-343-6890

**Start Health Center**  
 2010 Tremainsville Rd.  
 Toledo, OH 43613  
 419-812-2393

**Bowsher Health Center**  
 2200 Arlington Ave.  
 Toledo, OH 43614  
 419-812-2809

**Spartan Health Center**  
 1 Spartan Way  
 Lima, OH 45801  
 419-222-3546

**Perry Health Center**  
 2765 E. Breese Rd.  
 Lima, OH 45806  
 419-812-2915

**Wildcat Health Center**  
 631 Silver St.  
 Kenton, OH 43326  
 419-673-7248 ext. 3





**Health Partners  
of Western Ohio**



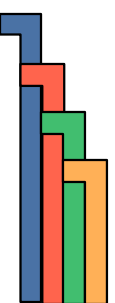
Glasses received and placed according to classroom for dispensing.

Glasses are dispensed within two weeks of exam day.

Optician returns to the school to dispense glasses.

Outreach team conducts referrals and follow-ups as necessary.

Students also receive replacement glasses for broken or lost glasses.

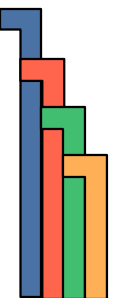


# Service Costs



**Health Partners  
of Western Ohio**

- Services are billed to insurance.
- There is no out of pocket cost for the Vision Outreach Program.
- Health Partners is committed to the provision of vision services regardless of ability to pay for services.
- Health Partners sustains the Vision Outreach Program through billing for services and organizational revenue.
- Health Partners has received operational grant funding through the Ohio Department of Health to help support initial implementation of the Vision Outreach Program.

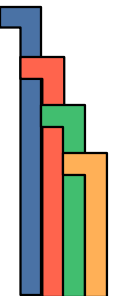


# 2022-2023 Academic Year



Health Partners  
of Western Ohio

- Ohio is facing a shortage of optometrists, particularly in rural and underserved areas.
- Vision Outreach Program
  - 1 Outreach Team
  - 1.0 FTE Optometrist
  - 1.5 Opticians
- School Visited: 32 schools
- Comprehensive Exams: 2,097 unduplicated students
- Glasses Dispensed: 1,354 pair of glasses

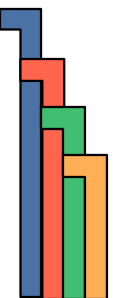


# 2023-2024 Academic Year



Health Partners  
of Western Ohio

- Vision Outreach Program
  - 3 Outreach Teams
  - 2.75 FTE Optometrist
  - 4 Opticians
- School Visited: 102 schools
- Comprehensive Exams: 6,110 unduplicated students
- Glasses Dispensed: 2,816 pair of glasses

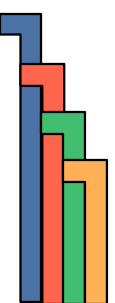
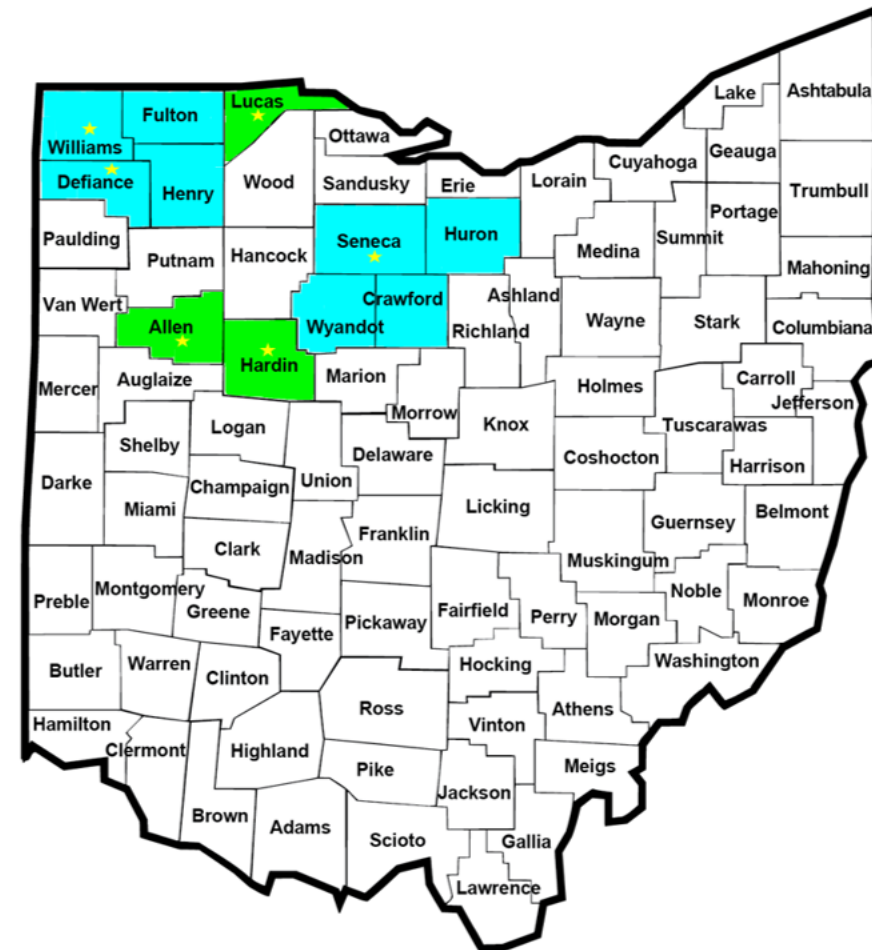


# 2024-2025 Academic Year



Health Partners  
of Western Ohio

- Vision Outreach Program
  - 6 Outreach Teams
  - 4.0 FTE Optometrist
  - 5.0 FTE Opticians
  - 2.0 FTE Receptionists
  - 1.0 FTE Coordinator
- Receptionists register all patients and answer calls regarding program/services.
- Program Coordinator works with all school nurses and teams to schedule visits to schools.





Feel free to contact:

Health Partners of Western Ohio  
Tiffany Ways, MSW, LISW-S

[tways@hpwohio.org](mailto:tways@hpwohio.org)

# Stay Connected!



1. Subscribe to our bi-weekly e-newsletter (Digest)

Go to <https://bit.ly/SBHAdigest>

2. Follow us on social media



<https://www.facebook.com/SchoolBasedHealthAlliance>



<https://twitter.com/sbh4all>



<https://www.linkedin.com/company/school-based-health-alliance/>



<https://www.instagram.com/sbh4all/>



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