

Kids address health needs early with nurse embedded in school

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Registered Nurse Julie Nye meets with a student at Monticello Middle School in Longview.

Julie Nye has had a long career in medicine. As a registered nurse, she has worked in surgery, acute care and a community health center. In 2015 she began working in the Monticello Middle school in Longview where she helps connect students to physical and mental health care. She also helps them get access to resources in their communities, such as food, clothing and shelter.

Her role at the school was part of a pilot project coordinated by the Cascade

Pacific Action Alliance, the Accountable Community of Health in the south Puget Sound region. The goal was to identify children with physical and behavioral health challenges and connect them with community-based intervention and treatment services.

“Youth in general, if they are not consistent in getting those well child checkups, making sure they have their immunizations, making sure nutrition, physical activity, all those

components of health are being addressed, their health is the first thing that can suffer,” Julie said. “Having the ability to have the care coordinator has been really important.”

In its first year, the project served more than 60 students and the school reported improvement in attendance and fewer disciplinary actions among participants. The ACH is leveraging lessons learned and working to spread the project to additional school districts, including

providing behavioral health therapy in rural schools.

The ACHs provide the power to act locally, bringing together partners from multiple sectors to address and respond to regional health needs.

Healthier Washington Linkages:

A primary goal of Healthier Washington is to transform Washington's health care system so that it delivers whole-person care, addressing the needs of the head and the body in a coordinated way. Treating the whole person (physical health and mental health) is a better way to help people get and stay healthy.



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