



# PENNSYLVANIA SCHOOL-BASED HEALTH ALLIANCE

Healthy Children, Healthy Teens, Healthy Schools

## 2022 Year In Review

At PSBHA, we have three essential and effective objectives for creating change for school-based health centers (SBHCs) in Pennsylvania:

### Unified Voice

Working with PA SBHCs to speak with a unified voice, elevate their role in Pennsylvania's education and pediatric primary care, and empower youth voice for credibility and responsive programming.

### Effective Advocacy

Raising knowledge and awareness at the state and national level to increase support for PA SBHCs to expand their reach and impact.

### Technical Assistance

Working to create standards and share best practice for quality and public funding in PA, grown from local data on the local impact.



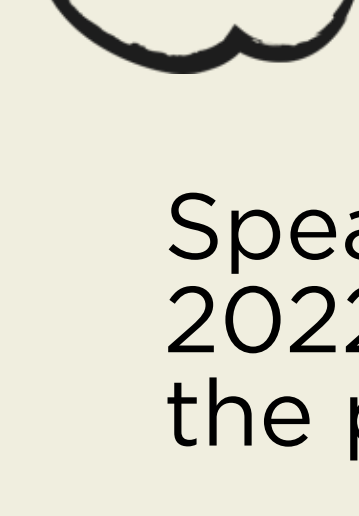
## UNIFIED VOICE



As we work to build public awareness about the value and impact of school-based health centers (SBHCs), speaking as one deepens understanding of what SBHCs are and the transformational change they bring for students struggling with the effects of health and education inequities.

For the first time, PSBHA partnered with the Center for Rural Pennsylvania to look at a number of data points, including community indicators, rural school districts and healthcare outcomes for youth in rural areas. The report shows that youth with limited access to quality healthcare suffer from decreased academic performance. It provides a roadmap of where SBHCs could really make an impact and create better student outcomes.

Visit <https://www.rural.pa.gov/>, or if you would like a copy of the report compiled by the Center for Rural Pennsylvania, email [contact@psbha.org](mailto:contact@psbha.org).



## EFFECTIVE ADVOCACY

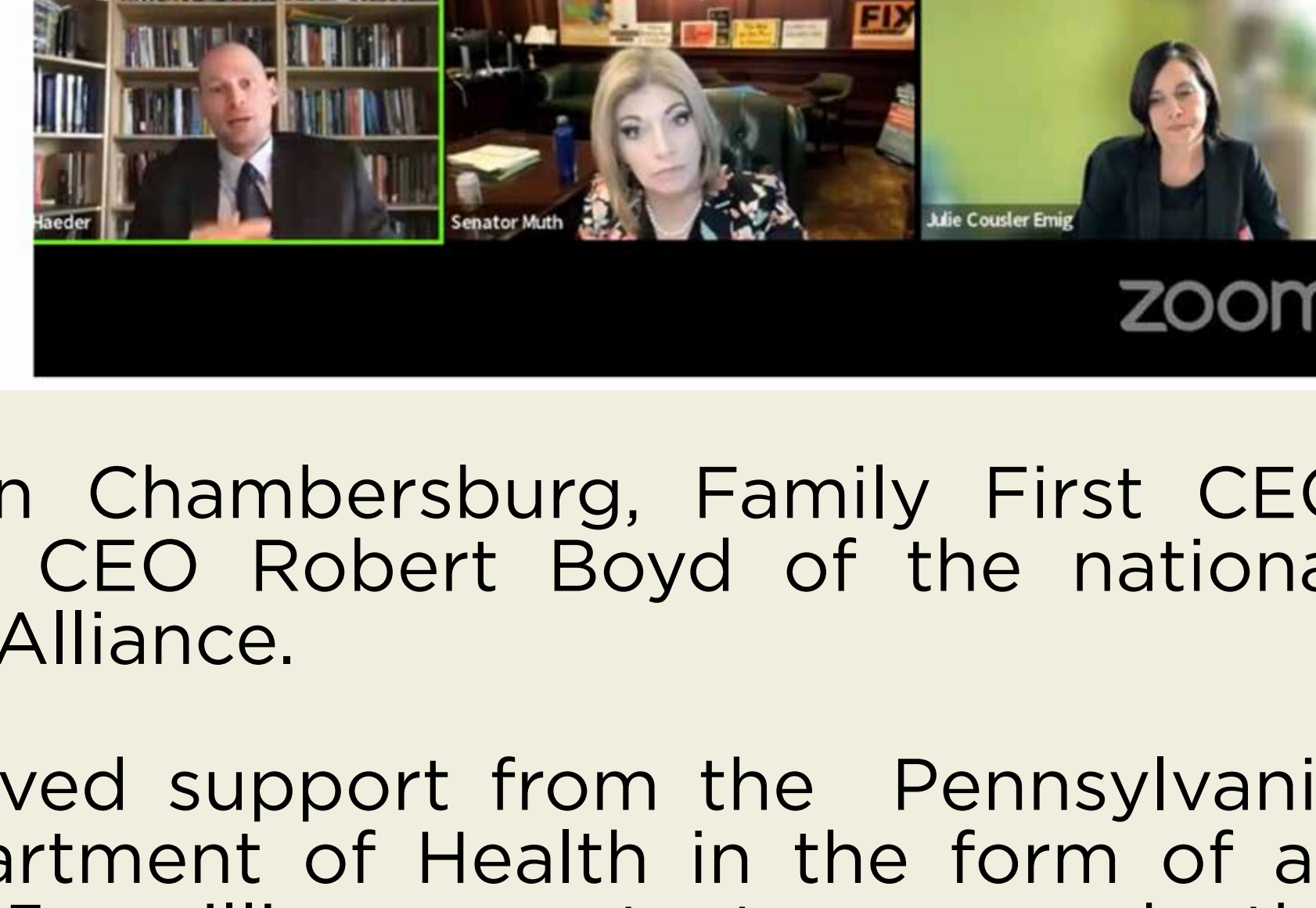
Speaking as one, advocacy becomes much more effective. 2022 was a notable year for PSBHA and made possible by the previous years' advocacy.

In February, PSBHA hosted a robust Advocacy Week in recognition of School-Based Health Awareness Month. Joined by SBHCs across the state, we organized 13 meetings representing SBHCs in 7 cities, attended by 15 staff members from community health workers to executive directors, local volunteers and PSBHA board members.

In April, Senators Art Haywood and Katie Muth hosted a policy hearing on school-based health centers. PSBHA Director Julie Cousler spoke on the scope and reach of SBHCs across the state and nation, along with Dr. Michael Colli of Keystone Community Health in Chambersburg, Family First CEO Jenny Englerth, and CEO Robert Boyd of the national School-Based Health Alliance.

### Senate Democrats Hear Support for School-Based Health Centers

April 27, 2022



In May, PSBHA received support from the Pennsylvania Legislature and Department of Health in the form of an unprecedented \$2.85 million grant to expand the integrative behavioral health work done by SBHCs across the state. The award will support 32 school-based health centers to serve more than 4,000 youth across with state with universal behavioral health screening, clinical care and care coordination.

PA Acting Secretary of Health Dr. Denise Johnson visited three member SBHCs this fall in Erie, Philadelphia, and Chambersburg to tour the facilities, further discuss the effectiveness and pledge her support for our need.

## TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE



PSBHA Director Julie Cousler spoke to the Multi State Collaborative hosted by mdlogix about promoting universal screening in schools with SBHC collaboration.

PSBHA Director Julie Cousler joined a panel discussion led by Dr. Anna Flattau, Chair of Family and Community Medicine for Thomas Jefferson Primary Care at the 22nd annual Population Health Colloquium.



The panel showcased school-based health centers as a leading strategy for Promoting Access and Quality of Care for Children Speaking on the panel

also was Dr. Kendra McDow, School System Medical Officer for the School District of Philadelphia, and Jeanne Felder, Department Chair for Counseling & Behavioral Health and Director of Jefferson's Trauma Education Network (J-TEN).

The PSBHA convened SBHC staff from across the state to learn about the Telephonic Psychiatric Services Program (TiPS) consultation line for providers. As SBHCs deepen their integrative work with youth with new support from the legislature, the TiPS line becomes a more critical resource.

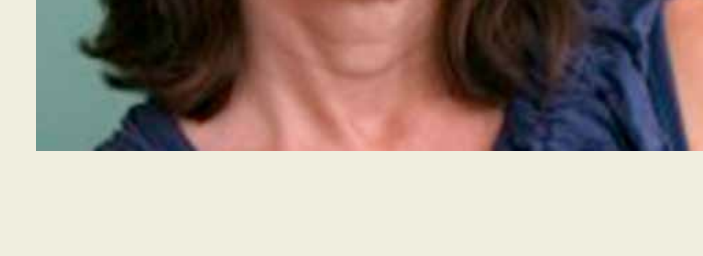


## Become a member!



Help us build a coalition of advocates to work with state and federal government allies. Every member contribution goes towards improving health and education outcomes for Pennsylvania's youth. Become a member as an individual, SBHC operator, or partner.

## OUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS



Julie Cousler, MSW, President

