

The Paul Steinhauer Paediatric Clinic at George Webster

The Inspiration

The raising of competent and resilient children is a collective responsibility - one which, when achieved, benefits society as well as the individual child and family involved. The primary responsibility for child-rearing is, and will remain, that of the family. Increasingly, however ... most parents ... including those who need it most, lack the personal networks to supplement their own resources. From time to time, these parents will need the support of others - the community, mainstream resources such as health care, high-quality child care, schools and, in some cases, specialized services - if their children are to achieve their full measure of health, competence and resilience. – Paul Steinhauer¹

When Paul Steinhauer died in May, 2000, he was known throughout the world as “a children’s champion” and a “passionate advocate” for youth. In the spirit of Dr. Steinhauer’s work to break down barriers and promote mental and physical health for children, George Webster Elementary School plans to establish a Paediatric Health Clinic in its building that will provide access to health services to children in its community

The Paul Steinhauer Clinic will be amongst the first of many school-based paediatric clinics that The Toronto District School Board is planning to open, with the first scheduled to open in the fall of 2010. Located in inner-city schools, each clinic will provide comprehensive services to approximately 800 children. The clinic will be open to students of George Webster and their siblings, children registered in the school’s Parenting and Family Literacy Centre, and students from neighbouring schools from particular programs or referral processes.

The Health Foundation of Greater Cincinnati found that school-based health clinics:

- Improve children’s health status;
- Generate about \$2 in social benefit for each \$1 spent on operating costs;
- Increase access to services at no additional cost to the healthcare system;
- Save money on hospitalization and emergency room visits for children with asthma;
- Encourage the use of more appropriate healthcare services;
- Increase mental health care for children;
- Support working parents;
- Keep children in school and ready to learn.

The Model

Momentum for this model grew out of the research from other school board jurisdictions that showed School-Based Medical Clinics are successful and thriving in their efforts to make healthcare accessible to the community. Further to this, TDSB Model Schools for Inner Cities Program data was overlaid with other health care data in Toronto to show a demonstrated need that is prevalent across many families and communities within Toronto.

Medical professionals, together, with inner-city community partners will provide primary care to children and youth within the school clinic. Initially, the Clinic will operate two half days per week. An International Medical Graduate will be hired as the Clinic Coordinator. Mental health is critical in the treatment of children. At the Paul Steinhauer Paediatric Clinic, a Child Psychiatrist will play a consultative role.

A Nurse Practitioner, Family Physician and Paediatrician in collaboration and consultation with various partners will provide:

- diagnosis and treatment of acute and chronic illness and injury;
- preventative care and screening;
- mental health screening and its initial management;
- health promotion and education;
- referrals to medical and mental health practitioners with follow-up to ensure the patient attends these appointments.

¹ Steinhauer, Paul. The primary needs of children: A blueprint for effective health Promotion at the community level. Caledon Institute of Social Policy: 1996. Available from: URL: <http://www.caledoninst.org>.

Partnership

- Two agreements will be required: one with Toronto District School Board (TDSB) and one with Toronto Foundation for Student Success (TFSS);
- TFSS will hire the International Medical Graduate;
- TDSB's role is to provide space, promotion of this and other Clinics and the referral of patients;
- The Medical Institution partner (currently, Access Alliance has expressed interest in this role) is responsible for maintaining the health records, billing OHIP and paying salaried professionals;
- A Family Physician takes the lead in conducting assessments and making referrals to Paediatricians and other specialists, as required.

Funding Notes

Clinics are being established with seed funding and in-kind services as these resources are secured community by community. TFSS continues the work of pursuing Ministry and sustainable funding at the same time as these pilot clinic sites are organized and launch. George Webster ES is committed to assisting in the pursuit of seed money through fundraising activities. To operate the Paul Steinhauer Paediatric Clinic two half days a week, we are asking for the help of foundations, corporations, and private individuals in raising \$50,000. A plaque on the wall will gratefully acknowledge contributions.

Advisory Group:

As a tribute to the clinic and to the memory of Dr. Paul Steinhauer, a comprehensive and prominent group of people are proud to serve on the advisory committee. Members of the multidisciplinary committee include representatives from: Hincks-Dellcrest, The Child Development Institute, The Hospital for Sick Children, The Toronto District School Board, George Hull Treatment Centre, Toronto Public Health, members of the George Webster community and members of the Steinhauer family.

Members of the Advisory Group:

Angela Anderson, School Liaison Nurse, Toronto Public Health
 Dr. Taylor Armstrong, George Hull Treatment Centre
 Darlene Barry, School Health, Toronto Public Health
 Dawn Bernasch, Office Administrator and Alumna, George Webster
 Mandy Brow, Parent, School Council Member, George Webster
 Dianne Chopping, Maternal Infant Health Manager, Toronto Public Health
 Tony Diniz, Executive Director at Child Development Institute
 Kathie Droy, East York East Toronto Family Resource Centre
 Kara Feldcamp, School Council Member, George Webster
 David Gladstone, former Principal of Ryerson Public School
 Nasreen Kausar, Parent, Nutrition Coordinator and School Council Member, George Webster
 Dr. Marshall Korenblum, Chief Psychiatrist at Hincks-Dellcrest Treatment Centre
 Cliff Ledwos, Director, Primary Health Care and Special Initiatives, Access Alliance
 Jennifer Li, Teacher, George Webster
 Joy Lipkin, Social Worker, Baycrest Hospital
 Lili Litwin, Fundraiser
 Jacqueline Mankiewicz Smith, Program Director, The Circle for Children Foundation
 Elizabeth Manson, Director, Telelink Mental Health Program, Hospital for Sick Children
 Trevor McAlmont, Manager, Child Development Institute
 Seta Moore, Teacher, TDSB
 Estelle Steinhauer, Family Member
 Nancy Steinhauer, Principal, George Webster ES
 Dr. Ruth Stirtzinger, George Hull Treatment Centre
 Edith Weiss, Family Member
 Michelle Weiss, Social Worker
 Dr. Shelly Weiss, Paediatric Neurologist, Hospital for Sick Children
 Scott Wiseman, AuctionJam