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EXPLANATION OF SERVICES PROVIDED BY THE ST. JAMES HIGH SCHOOL SCHOOL-BASED HEALTH CENTER

Dear Parent/Guardian/Student:

Teche Action Clinic is proud to partner with St. James School District to offer healthcare services in the **St. James High School SBHC**. We want to welcome your family, give you some information about the SBHC and its services, and provide the Consent Form should you choose to enroll your child/children in the school-based health center. Please keep this letter and refer to it when you need to. If you have any questions, please contact Karla Vappie, the SBHC Director at (337) 828-2550, ext. 2236.

The SBHC must have parental consent prior to enrolling a student as a patient. A parent or guardian must sign both the Uniform Consent and any center-specific forms that require signature for the student to receive SBHC services. Once the parent/guardian signs the Uniform Consent and the center-specific forms, the SBHC will provide or refer the student for any of the services that the child needs. Although, the SBHC will attempt to keep parents informed of the services their child receives, signing the Uniform Consent gives the SBHC permission to provide medical and behavioral health services to the child without contacting the parent each time the child visits the SBHC. No child is treated, counseled, or referred without a consent form signed by parent, but the SBHC is required by law to treat the child even if the parent cannot be reached.

The SBHC is staffed with a medical provider, nursing staff, and behavioral health specialists who will provide care to students. All staff are licensed and/or certified professionals according to their job function. They are here to keep your child healthy, in school and ready to learn. Feel free to call the SBHC if you have a question or suggestion.

The services provided in the SBHC are the same as those any physician, Nurse Practitioner, or Physician's Assistant can provide in a medical office. Louisiana Medicaid/EPSTDT wants medical providers to provide these services at certain ages. The American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) hopes that all medical providers and nurses across the US provide these services because they help prevent illness and keep children healthy. The information in the attached documents shows the recommended ages for certain services. The SBHC makes every effort to follow these recommendations.

Teche Action Clinic has an agreement with the School Board to provide services to the faculty, students and staff of the St. James High School and students enrolled at most schools in the St. James school district.

While the SBHC will **NOT** collect any co-pays or deductibles from the students who present without a parent, a **bill** will be sent to the insurance plan(s) that are listed on the consent forms and to the parents for any co-pay or deductible that is owed, after any eligible slide discount is applied.

If a parent/guardian brings a student into the SBHC to be seen, staff will attempt to collect a co-pay or deductible at the time of service, after any eligible discount is applied. If they cannot pay at time of service, they will receive a bill for the amount they are responsible for and we will also bill the insurance plan.

If a staff or faculty member presents, the SBHC will collect the required co-pays or deductibles from them, after applying any eligible discount. If they cannot pay at time of service, they will receive a bill in the mail for the balance they still owe, and Teche will bill the insurance plan.

There are **some** services that will be provided to students at “**NO CHARGE,**” as the insurance plans specifically cover these services at no cost to the members. These services for which there is no charge are for the following visits **ONLY**:

- **Well child check-ups** in which the staff will:
 - measure student’s height and weight
 - check if child weighs too much, too little, or are within normal range for their age and height
 - take blood pressure
 - draw blood or collect urine to be sure child does not have anemia, high blood sugar, lead poisoning, or other problems
 - test vision and hearing
- **Immunizations** – students can get their shots at the SBHC

All other services listed, will result in a bill being sent to the insurance company and the parent if we are required to collect any co-pay or deductible.

If the SBHC refers the client outside of the center to another medical provider for a test or procedure that cannot be performed in the SBHC (i.e., X-rays, certain laboratory tests, etc.), families may get a bill from that provider.

Primary and preventive health care/comprehensive history and physical exam include:

- Well child check-ups where the staff will:
 - Measure students’ height and weight
 - Check if they weigh too much, too little, or are just right for their age, weight, and height
 - Take their blood pressure
 - Draw some blood or collect some urine to be sure they do not have anemia, high blood sugar, lead poisoning, or other problems
 - Test their vision and hearing
- Immunizations – students can get their shots at the SBHC
- Nutrition- the staff will talk to students about health eating habits including, eating good foods (like fruits and vegetables), and avoiding or limiting junk food
- Health education- the staff will talk to students about doing healthy things like using a bike helmet and seat belts and getting exercise. They will also ask about unhealthy habits have caused students to be sick and if they need medicine to help. The staff will talk to them about stopping these unhealthy habits and how to get help to stop.
- Comprehensive history means that the staff will ask students about:
 - Past and current health
 - Past illnesses or times spent in the hospital
 - Any allergies to medicines
 - Diseases that run in the family, like high blood pressure or high blood sugar
 - Using tobacco, alcohol, or drugs
 - Feeling sad, depressed, and angry
 - Having sex
- A physical exam means that the staff will ask a student to get undressed and put on a hospital gown or sheet. Then the staff will check all body systems to be sure that the student is healthy in all areas. This is the same thing that would happen in a doctor’s office.

Services for sexually transmitted infections (STI) and HIV/AIDS:

- Students who are having sex may get infections that they do not know they have. These infections can make them sick and can make the person they are having sex with sick. If a person does not take medicine, some of these infections can cause a person to not be able to have children. Some people who have not gotten medicine have died from STIs. The staff at the health center can test students for these infections and can give students medicine to get rid of infections if they have any. The staff will talk to students about not continuing to have sex and not giving STIs to other people.
- The staff can also test students to see if they have HIV/AIDS. Medical providers want everyone age 13 and older be tested for HIV/AIDS whether they are having sex or not. If a student does have HIV/AIDS, they will be referred immediately to a doctor specializing in the care of this disease.

Chronic disease management:

- If students have diseases like asthma or diabetes, the staff can help them stay on their medicines and help them if they get sick at school. The staff can also help students learn how to live with their illnesses without getting sick as often.

Acute/ emergency care for minor illness and injury and referral for serious illness or injury:

- The staff takes care of cuts, headaches, colds, or other short-term problems
- The staff takes care of emergency situations, like accidents on the campus
- The staff will be sure students get help from another doctor or hospital if students are too sick to get all the help they need at the SBHC.

Behavioral Health services:

- The counselor conducts a risk assessment to assist in addressing the risk behaviors impacting health, well-being, and academic success in youth.
- The counselor talks to students about healthy coping skills
- The counselor talks to students about staying away from or stopping risky behaviors like using alcohol and/or drugs, smoking, vaping, sexual activity
- The counselor teaches students how to make good decisions
- The counselor helps students overcome feelings of sadness/depression and anxiety
- The counselor works with students by themselves or in groups on anger control, expressing emotions in healthy ways