

NYSCHA Annual Meeting
October 22, 2008
Vanessa Britto, M.D., M.Sc.
Director, Wellesley College Health Service

Contemporary Perspectives of College Health: A Panel Presentation

1. Threats and opportunities facing college health services in context of global issues
2. Influences on health-seeking behaviors of students

Threats

1. Insurance
 - Employer based insurance plans may become more unavailable or inadequate. Because of financial constraints small schools may not be able to offer the robust policies that large schools can (smaller risk pool). May force students to choose coverage that is below their threshold of need either because the
 - Graduate students, dependents, and non-traditional age students may not have as many options available to them at a small school. The college insurance policy may be the only policy for all family members
 - No dental coverage
 - Rising premiums
 - Medication benefits may be inadequate for those who have chronic problems and multiple prescriptions
2. Limited service hours
3. Limited financial resources to support operational costs
4. Space limitations
5. Limited human resources
 - Hiring restrictions, freezes
 - Limited physician availability
 - Inadequate staffing

6. Insufficient use of technology, information systems
 - Inadequate funds

 - Inadequate personnel

Opportunities

1. Combining purchasing power and exploring synergies with other small area schools (ie insurance, vendor negotiation and product procurement, etc.)
2. Working closely with community subspecialists may provide opportunities for services on campus that would otherwise be difficult to higher staff to cover.
3. Avoid marginalization by staying in communication with other members of the Division of Student Life or Student Affairs in order to stay current and strategic in goal development
4. Providing services that are valued
5. Periodic self assessment and external review to help identify efficiencies
6. Pursue accreditation when possible to highlight quality care delivery
7. Seek opportunities for curriculum infusion
8. Take advantage of campus expertise and student learning