

## Beaumont Teen Health Center at Grosse Pointe North Clinic FAQ

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### **Background Information**

In May 2022, GPPSS was awarded a grant from the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services for a Child and Adolescent Health Clinic. MDHHS currently funds more than 200 clinics located inside schools.

GPPSS submitted the grant application in collaboration with Beaumont. The clinic will be located at Grosse Pointe North High School and operated by Oakwood Healthcare, Inc. (Beaumont).

Benefits of school-based health clinics include the following:

- Improving health outcomes and reducing health disparities
- Identifying and addressing mental health concerns that might otherwise go unmet, especially among adolescents with no health insurance
- Addressing bullying, violence and suicide prevention
- Managing chronic illnesses such as asthma and diabetes
- Delivering preventive care such as immunizations
- Improving school performance and high school completion
- Reducing absenteeism and time missed from school
- Identifying and supporting social or emotional sources of stress that interfere with a student's academic achievement

*[Source: American Academy of Pediatrics](#)*

General information about the current Beaumont Teen Health Centers can be found at [this link](#).

### **1. Why am I just now hearing about this clinic if the grant was approved in May?**

GPPSS shared the news about the grant being awarded in the [May 24 district update](#) to all families. Specific details about the program were presented to the board of education at the Nov. 14 board meeting. The board will vote on the grant at the Nov. 28 meeting in Brownell's multipurpose room.

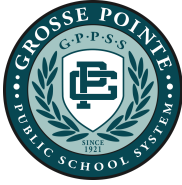
There was also a local news story on Fox 2 Detroit when the grants were awarded (which included a mention of Grosse Pointe North) on May 18, 2022. [Click here](#) to view and read the story.

### **2. Is the clinic just for GPPSS students?**

No. The clinic is restricted to young people ages 5-21 within the Grosse Pointes and Harper Woods. Anyone within these age ranges in the Grosse Pointes and Harper Woods (even those who live outside our GPPSS attendance boundaries) is eligible for services and the cost is covered by the grant. At other existing sites, 90% of the services are accessed by students. 95% of the other community members (age 5-21) who access the clinic do so on the one evening a week the clinic is required through the grant to be open late.

### **3. You say this clinic is for the whole district and community, yet it is located at North, which means it's really more for North students. How is that fair?**

The clinic is housed at Grosse Pointe North because that is where we have the most students with the most need. According to data provided by the program directors at Oakwood Health, it is



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anticipated that approximately 90% of those served at the clinic will be North students. The reality is that North (and several of our other north end schools) have the most poverty. Due to this higher poverty rate we have a considerable number of students that do not have access to health care. While the clinic is open to all young people ages 5-21 who live in the Grosse Pointes and Harper Woods, because of its location, North students are anticipated to be the vast majority of clinic users, including our students who receive special education services up to age 26.

This grant was specifically sought out and subsequently awarded to Grosse Pointe North High School based on the specific population of the school. North has a much higher percentage of economically disadvantaged students (26% compared to 10% at Grosse Pointe South), students who struggle with access to health care, and students who have struggled with attendance and mental health. These were the major factors that prompted both the decision to submit the grant application, as well as the reason North was awarded the grant when the State reviewed the data.

#### **4. How will we keep students safe at North?**

Students may enter the clinic from inside the school. When students leave the clinic, the door to the school must be released by a buzzer system to reenter the school; similar to the way our school office security functions. Community members would not have access beyond the clinic (again, similar to our new secure offices in each school). Community members must enter the clinic through the exterior entrance that goes directly into the clinic.

#### **5. How much money will this cost the district?**

The one-time cost to the district includes approximately \$900,000 to convert a classroom to a clinic. These funds will be spent from the sinking fund. No general fund dollars will be used for this project. GPPSS will utilize existing custodial staff to clean the clinic. There will be no additional costs to GPPSS.

#### **6. Is it legal to use sinking funds to build a clinic within North High School?**

According to a Jan. 17, 2023 letter from Miller, Canfield, Paddock and Stone, P.L.C. the school district has clear authority to use the proceeds of its sinking fund millage to construct the improvements for the clinic. [Click here](#) to read the resolution, the demand letter and the letter from Miller Canfield.

#### **7. \$900,000 is more than the original estimate - what changed?**

The initial estimate (closer to \$700,000) was based on the design development estimate while the cost of approximately \$900,000 is the final recommendation based on proposals received through the competitive bidding process. We saw increases between these two phases in hard construction costs, direct and soft costs. The biggest increases were in plumbing, HVAC, general trades and construction personnel costs.



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**8. \$900,000 is a lot of money for something not related to academics. We could be spending this money on a lot of other things. Why this project? We aren't in the healthcare business.**

The initial outlay of funds for the construction costs for the clinic is a significant investment in the health of our students. However, the anticipated value of the services our students will receive from the grant is approximately \$350,000 to 400,000 annually. This includes annual funding from the grant and the Beaumont Foundation. The plan for this clinic is to remain for many years to come, addressing medical and mental health needs and improving our students' overall wellbeing at no cost to them or the district beyond the original investment.

While we are not a healthcare organization (the clinic would, in fact, be run and staffed by Beaumont medical professionals), we are in the business of supporting students so that they can meet their full potential. Data shows that access to healthcare, especially mental health care (two thirds of current clinic visits at other sites are for mental health services) improves student outcomes.

On-site access to a clinic also significantly reduces student absences, which is a major barrier to student achievement. Students can obtain services and then get right back to class.

GPPSS has been providing elements of healthcare/screenings for many years, including vision and hearing screenings, vaccination clinics and sports physical clinics. We employ three full-time nurses who travel between all 13 buildings, and multiple psychologists and social workers. Demand exceeds what they can offer.

**9. What is the ongoing cost to the district for services at the clinic? If a person doesn't have insurance, who foots the bill?**

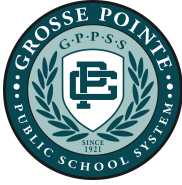
GPPSS will not be responsible for any ongoing costs associated with the clinic. All students will receive services for free. If the student has insurance, the clinic will bill the insurance company and cover any co-payments. If the student does not have insurance, the grant will cover the costs.

**10. What happens if we don't get the grant renewed each year?**

There is a non-competitive grant renewal process that takes place each year. In the 34-year history of this program, no school has ever been denied the grant renewal. We fully expect the clinic to remain at North for many years to come.

**11. How will the staff at the clinic handle parental consent for services?**

The rules for parental consent for healthcare services are governed by the state. The clinic will fully comply with all laws regarding healthcare consent for minors, care clinics or emergency rooms (see below). Parental consent is required for all services (e.g., prescriptions, immunizations, physicals, treatment of illnesses) except those described below.



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**12. Are there any services that minors can access without parental consent? Why?**

By state law, minors have access at every health care facility to certain confidential services without parental consent. This access to “confidential services” (this is a term from the applicable law) is available at all health care service providers, including your child’s current pediatrician’s office and all of the local urgent care facilities. Included, by law, under “confidential services” are things like mental health counseling and STI/HIV testing and treatment. It does not include prescriptions or distribution of contraceptives, immunizations, physicals or treatment of illnesses.

**13. What happens if a child comes to the clinic in a ‘mental health crisis’?**

Like all health providers, if a student presents at the clinic in a mental health crisis, which would include if the student is a risk to themselves or others, confidentiality is waived and the clinic (like any health care provider) would contact parents or guardians, the police or other emergency services.

**14. Who is responsible for staffing the clinic and what medical professionals will be on-site?**

Jeff Cook, Interim Senior Director of Community Health & Health Equity, Beaumont Health, is in charge of Beaumont’s Teen Health Centers throughout the area and will oversee staffing. All sites are supervised by a Board-certified physician, who is the medical director in charge of the clinic. GPPSS’s Teen Health Center will have a full-time nurse practitioner board certified in pediatric or family practice. There will also be a full-time Master level therapist, social worker or licensed professional counselor on staff and a full-time medical assistant certified by the state to assist the nurse practitioner and social worker.

**15. What about parking?**

Based on data from the existing school clinics, we do not anticipate much outside traffic during the school day. Students are already in the building and there is plenty of space in North’s parking lot - even with construction this year. We will schedule the one evening of services mandated through the grant cognizant of events we plan and approve at the Performing Arts Center.

**16. Will the clinic provide abortions?**

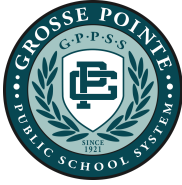
No.

**17. Will the clinic provide contraception?**

Per state law, the clinic is not allowed to prescribe or dispense any method of birth control, including condoms. This is the case in all of the school-based clinics.

**18. Will the clinic conduct invasive exams, including pelvic exams?**

No.



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**19. Why does it cost so much money to retrofit the space for the clinic?**

Construction costs include a new fire alarm and fire protection (sprinkler system) to conform with the new layouts; 100 feet of new underground plumbing that requires saw-cut and replacement of the concrete floor for five new sinks; a new entryway with a new opening, aluminum door and entry; and a new isolated AC system, lighting, flooring, ceilings and millworks. All of the work done on the space will be subject to a bidding process per BOE policies to ensure the best pricing possible.

**20. If the clinic closes, what is the cost to convert it back to classroom space?**

It would cost approximately \$150,000 to convert the space back to classroom use.

**21. Will the clinic have scheduled appointments or is it walk-in only?**

The clinic provides a combination of scheduled and walk-in appointments. Routine medical services such as immunizations and physicals are best scheduled, but the availability of a walk-in clinic is important if a student has immediate health needs. The rules on parental consent apply whether the appointment is walk-in or scheduled.

**22. What parameters will be in place to check for need-based care without opening the floodgates to free healthcare?**

Beaumont was awarded this grant in partnership with GPPSS because there is demonstrated need within the community. Part of the aggregate data provided was illnesses and absences related to a medical or mental health issue. The purpose of this grant is to provide access to quality healthcare that will help students manage their health, reduce the number of emergency visits and absences, and keep students in school.

**23. Why was this process so rushed? Did the BOE have time to do its due diligence? Is it just being pushed through before the new board members are sworn in?**

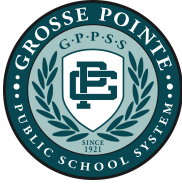
Board members were informed of the award of the grant on May 10, 2022. There was discussion about it at subsequent meetings, including at Facilities Committee meetings. The timing of the review and discussion at one public meeting followed by a vote at the next is standard practice and has provided ample time for community input, as evidenced by the number of emails the BOE has received, the questions submitted for the Virtual Town Hall and the attendance at the Town Hall. The board members who have been part of this discussion since May 2022 are the ones tasked with voting on November 28.

**24. Is the Interagency Agreement irrevocable?**

No. The agreement can be canceled with 30 days' notice.

**25. Has a medical director to oversee the facility been appointed?**

No.



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**26. Does this clinic compete with the many urgent care clinics available in our community? And why do we need it when there are so many already available?**

The medical staff at the clinic will work in partnership with local healthcare organizations and primary care physicians to provide referrals whenever necessary. If anything, the clinic, by providing ready access to healthcare, reduces ER visits and wait time for all by helping students learn to handle their health needs and manage medical conditions like asthma with best practices. The clinic is not intended to be students' medical provider; we are there to support them and their medical plans.

While there are a number of urgent care and walk-in clinics available, research has shown that school-based health centers help students manage chronic illness such as asthma and diabetes, address mental health conditions, and improve overall wellness. Walk-in clinics typically are not for management of chronic conditions, well visits or on-site mental health services.

**27. Does the district plan to offer transportation from other school buildings so the clinic is accessible to more students across the district?**

No. Transportation will not be provided.

**28. How long has Beaumont been in the school health clinic business?**

Their oldest clinic is 34 years old.

**29. How did you determine the number of people who were uninsured?**

Beaumont grant writers had access to various publicly available reports that show the number of uninsured in the community.

**30. What is the expected utilization of the clinic annually?**

The specific deliverables are outlined in the work plan. They include how many users, how many visits, demographics, tests provided, quality of services provided based on patient feedback. Beaumont teen health clinics all hold above 90% patient satisfaction on all services.

Overall, Beaumont anticipates 12-14 visits for medical and mental health each day. The goal is 500 unduplicated count per state objectives and requirements annually. The state is very clear in what they expect to see in a successful clinic. Please note, the clinic is open year round, not just when school is in session.