

Bakersfield College Student Government Association
Memorandum in Support of Student Health Fee Adjustment

Should the KCCD Board of Trustees increase the assessed mandatory student health fee for every enrolled Bakersfield College student to \$26 for fall and spring instructional semesters and \$22 for summer instructional semester?

Currently, the KCCD Board of Trustees requires students be assessed a mandatory student health fee. If the fee increase is not approved, the Bakersfield College Student Health and Wellness Center will not be able to support the increase in health supervision and services, including direct or indirect medical and hospitalization services, or the operation of a student health center.

Executive Summary

Currently, the KCCD Board of Trustees requires students be assessed a mandatory student health fee. The health fee currently does not raise sufficient revenue to cover the fixed labor costs and ongoing services SHWC provides. SHWC is forced to operate without at least one licensed health care professional, and this is before non-labor expenses are accounted for. If the fee increase is not approved, SHWC will not be forced to begin cuts to existing services and possibly personnel.

Mission

The mission of the BC Student Health and Wellness Center (SHWC) is “to improve health outcomes for all our students, thus reducing disparities, increasing equity, and supporting the overall mission of the college. The goal is to help students persist and succeed by supporting a state of optimum health, both mental and physical”.

Background Information

Education Code sections 76355, 76360, and 76361 authorize the governing board of a community college district to charge health service fees and increase those fees by the same percentage as the increase in the Implicit Price Deflator for State and Local Government Purchases of Goods and Services as published by the U.S. Department of Commerce. In January of each year, the Chancellor’s Office calculates the percentage increase by comparing the prior year index with the current year index as published on the Department of Finance’s webpage.

In January 2023, The California Community College Chancellor’s Office has increased the maximum fee for Student Health Services. The fee will increase to \$26 (Fall and Spring semesters) and \$22 (Winter & Summer terms).

The last date that the Student Health Fee was increased was in 2020. As a result of the Student Health Fee increase, the SHWC has been able to:

- Almost cover its budgeted operating expenses
- Hire Two Full-Time In-Office Mental Health Clinicians Hire a Full-Time Nurse Practitioner
- Expand Bio-Metric Screening

- Bring the FamilyPACT Program to Campus
- Coordinate Participation in the Naloxone Distribution Program

Automatic Student Health Fee Increase

KCCD Board Policy 5030 is to be amended to assist SHWC

Student health services shall be provided in order to contribute to the education aims of students by promoting physical and emotional well-being through health oriented programs and services. A student health and wellness program is an essential part of the total educational process of the college. The Board of Trustees approves a student health/wellness program consistent with Title 5. The Board-approved student health program will provide clinical services; mental health services; support services, including maintenance of student case health records in a confidential and ethical manner; and special health services, including health education and a student accident insurance program. The District and/or College will charge the maximum allowable fee as approved by the State Chancellor's Office in accordance with the Education Code. Changes in the maximum allowable fee will be reported to the Board of Trustees and the Student Government Association prior to implementation.

Financial Impact

The Student Health and Wellness Center is supported entirely by the student health fee. Currently, students pay \$18 for Fall and Spring and \$15 for Summer instructional semesters. All eligible Bakersfield College student will be assessed the mandatory fee regardless of if they use the direct service or not. The increase is \$8 for the fall and spring semesters and \$9 for the summer semester. This is a total of \$17 increase annually for a student.

	Fall	Spring	Summer	Annual
Currently	\$18	\$18	\$13	\$49
Proposed	\$26	\$26	\$22	\$79

SHWC Revenue Trend

Fiscal Year	Headcount	Revenue	Change (%)
2014-15	25,321	\$ 661,249	
2015-16	27,627	\$ 535,150	-19.07 %
2016-17	31,290	\$ 600,000	12.12 %
2017-18	33,257	\$ 913,721	52.29 %
2018-19	36,997	\$ 1,036,265	13.41 %
2019-20	38,513	\$ 772,124	- 25.49 %
2020-21	36,940	\$ 204,206	- 73.55 %
2021-22	37,556	\$ 550,149	169.41 %
2022-23		\$ 656,972	19.42 %

SHWC Data Trend

Fiscal Year	Headcount	Clinic Visits*	Change
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*Projected

2014-15	25,321	1,320	
2015-16	27,627	2,951	123.56 %
2016-17	31,290	4,242	43.75 %
2017-18	33,257	4,611	8.70 %
2018-19	36,997	5,830	26.44 %
2019-20	38,513	3,338	- 42.70 %
2020-21	36,940	2,352	- 65.80 %
2021-22	37,556	12,285	422.32 %
2022-23		4,578**	- 62.74 %

*Not including mass COVID vaccination “drive-throughs.”

**As of March 1, 2023

Expenditures

The SHWC licensed staff consists of a physician-supervised nurse practitioner who acts as the full-time director while also acting as the sole provider of medical services to all students, two licensed clinical social workers who have transitioned from temporary employees to full-time employees, and a college nurse; patient flow is managed by a medical assistant and a DAIII provides administrative support; historically, the SHWC has employed a small number of student assistants with an interest in healthcare as part of our pedagogical mission. These individuals are essential and necessary to provide the increased support to all the direct or indirect basic health and mental health services offered by the SHWC.

Fiscal Year	Labor	Difference	Non-Labor	Difference
2014-15	\$ 567,002.57		\$ 3,004.35	
2015-16	\$ 507,628.97	-10.5 %	\$ 52,275.95	1,640.0 %
2016-17	\$ 538,892.23	6.2 %	\$ 147,948.49	183.0 %
2017-18	\$ 601,260.50	11.6 %	\$ 90,480.16	-38.8 %
2018-19	\$ 737,885.85	22.7 %	\$ 23,987.13	-73.5 %
2019-20	\$ 603,255.32	-18.2 %	\$ 21,069.15	-12.2 %
2020-21	\$ 556,621.39	-7.7 %	\$ 20,147.60	-4.4 %
2021-22	\$ 606,754.69	9.0 %	\$ 27,860.11	38.3 %
2022-23*	\$ 718,966.97	16.9 %	\$ 14,743.51	-61.6 %
2023-24*	\$ 732,228.75	1.8 %		
2024-25*	\$ 745,822.20	1.8 %		
2025-26*	\$ 759,755.38	1.9 %		
2026-27*	\$ 774,036.78	1.9 %		

The variation in the labor expenditures since the prior request for a health fee adjustment is primarily accounted for by: 1) filling the Nurse Practitioner / Director position in 2020; 2) fulfilling our prior promise to expand mental health services by hiring full time clinicians in 2022; 3) the incumbent leaving the College Nurse position in December 2021 with the position remaining unfilled due to lack of funding; and 4) various exigencies created by the COVID pandemic.

The cost solely of labor to keep the SHWC open is projected to be \$722,228.75. This does not account for the cost of the pharmaceuticals, medical supplies, contraception, or PPE provided

*Projected

free of charge to students; nor does this amount include the variable costs included in running a medical office (equipment purchase and repair, HIPAA compatible software licensing, etc.). As of this fiscal year, the non-labor costs consist of approximately \$11,500 of fixed operating expenses (electronic medical record, equipment safety maintenance, licensing, and institutional dues) leaving the health center \$2,972 to purchase over-the-counter medications, menstrual products, medical supplies, medical equipment, and all other expenses.

Services Subject to Potential Reduction or Elimination

The Student Health and Wellness Center requires additional revenue to staff its College Nurse position and to pay for all of its non-labor expenses. At the current funding projections, the SHWC will likely be unable to provide:

- Walk-In services
- All nursing services, including rendering first aid.
- Family planning counseling by an RN
- Campus-wide first aid kits
- Over-the-counter medications
- Any stock of on-site prescription medications
- Course-related biometric measurements
- Blood glucose, vision, and blood pressure screenings.
- COVID and Flu vaccination
- One-on-one information on health insurance, including MediCal and MediCal expansion and referral to local agencies that help with the application process

Who does it affect?

In accordance with Education Code Section 76355 and KCCD Board Policy, all enrolled Bakersfield College students are eligible for the fee, except the following category of students:

- a. Students who depend exclusively upon prayer for healing in accordance with the teachings of a bona fide religious sect, denomination, or organization;
- b. Students enrolled in an approved apprenticeship training program;
- c. Students enrolled only in courses of two weeks or less duration;
- d. Students who are incarcerated; and
- e. Students who are primarily attending high school.

Can students get a refund of this fee?

Yes, if the student drops all courses within the first two weeks or less, and as determined by the KCCD Board Policies and the California Education Code 76355.

Are students on California Promise or on financial assistance provided by the State or Federal government required to pay?

Yes, except as determined by the KCCD Board Policies and the California Education Code 76355.

Pro Arguments

- Will allow the Student Health Center to remain operational

- Common prescription medications can be stocked for provision in-office
- Provides students the opportunity for affordable health care services
- Could improve student health resulting in increased retention and graduation rates
- Preventative health interventions are the least expensive form of healthcare
- It will help students who do not have immediate health care
- Students will be able to use the services while at college
- Increase in services for our inner-city as well out towards rural Kern cities
- Potential Development of a telehealth care on mobile devices
- Increase in mental health professionals to see more students

Con Arguments

- Some people dislike public health and would not use it.
- Students that do not use the SHWC will still have to pay the fee
- Inconsistent accessibility to community stations
- Every regularly enrolled BC student who does not qualify for a waiver would pay the fee