

The History of School Nursing



- Belgium 1873
 - Brussels—first city to employ a school physician
 - Regular city-wide system of school inspection



- London 1892
 - First employment of school nurse—Amy Hughes—to investigate nutrition of school children
 - Six years later (1898) The London School Nurse Society was established



1894—Boston

- First school health services in schools
- Identifies and excludes from schools: students with serious communicable disease (scarlet fever, diphtheria, pertussis, chicken pox, measles, mumps, and impetigo; later—parasitic diseases such as scabies, ringworm)



MISS LINA ROGERS
(Mrs. W. E. Struthers)
First School Nurse appointed
in America

1902—New York

- Lina Rogers-First public health school nurse in New York City schools.
Decreased the rate of absenteeism and spread of communicable disease.



1902 New York

- Board of Education hires 25 more nurses shortly after Lina Rogers begins working
- Statistics on exclusions:
 - September 1902: 10,567
 - September 1903: 1,101

1920-1930's



- Health education added to school nurse role
- Medical Examination
 - Search for physical defects
 - Focus on case finding and disability limitations
 - Ignores all preventive aspects of health



1944

- Increased interest in preventative aspect of school nursing
- Communicable disease control
- Included innovations such as specialized classes for handicapped, those crippled by polio, vision classes, deaf or hard of hearing, lip reading classes, speech therapy
- Dental health—dental inspections & referral



1944

- Medical Exam
 - Emphasis on outcome of referral → new term "health counseling" or "guidance"
 - Includes health exam and follow-up procedures
 - Assists students to solve own health problems to assume responsibility for protection, maintenance, or improvement of their health



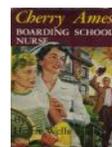
1945—Freeman identified 4 major changes as having implications for school nursing:



- Emphasis on classroom teacher involvement in health teaching
- Health as school subject area evolved into physical fitness programs instruction and home care of ill persons
- Increased acceptance of the need to correlate health instruction and health practice with school and home behavior
- Increased participation and call by students, teachers, parents, administrators, special health personnel, and community representatives in planning and implementing health programs



During this era, responsibility shifted from school nurse and school physician being solely responsible for school health programs to sharing of responsibility by teachers, students, and health personnel with coordinated and integrated health education curriculum






Expanded role of the school nurse—
additional educational preparation for
nurses:

- Increased technical expertise based on accurate and current scientific data
- Better preparation for leadership with courses on research methods, decision-making, and methods of influencing behavior of others
- Expanded background in educational methods and family health
- Interdisciplinary course work with other school personnel such as teachers, physicians, and administrators





1949—Sixteen state Departments of Education require teaching certificates to work in schools; four other states require a certificate if the nurse taught any classes





1950—Expansion and development of programs and priorities established in 1940's:

- "Health is the first objective of education"—generally accepted
- Goal of School Health programs—to develop "optimum health" for every school child, healthful school surroundings, student will want same for family and community
- Optimal health defined: physical fitness, absence of defects
- Health included mental, spiritual, and emotional elements
 - Shift from medical exam by school physician to private physician




Virginia History

- 1905 Norfolk, VA public health department employed nurses for the schools.
- 1913 Portsmouth Public Schools employed a physician and school nurses.



Today in Virginia

- 1,385 FTE Registered Nurses
- Ratio of 1:873
- 234 FTE Licensed Practical Nurses
- 3 State School Nurse Consultant Positions (2 DOE, 1 VDH)

(Statistics from the 2006-07 School Health Services Survey)



Today in Virginia

- All 132 school divisions have licensed nurses (RN and/or LPN).
- School divisions employ/contract nurses through:

Local Health Departments
Rural Health Center
Local School Boards

