

Morning mail

Wellness Clinic at South Division worth a try in other schools

I congratulate the Milwaukee Sentinel for its recent coverage of the Sixteenth Street Community Health Center's Wellness Clinic at South Division High School and a related student survey.

Unfortunately, some other media coverage of the clinic and student survey focused more on the problems and who should be blamed.

The problems of violence, drugs, teenage pregnancy and other health concerns are not caused by our schools. They are problems of our society as a whole, which show up on the doorstep of virtually every school today. The Wellness Center is an example of how a school can take positive steps to address the needs of an important group of citizens — our children.

The teachers and administrators at South Division should be applauded for recognizing that the issues covered in the student survey do have an impact on the effectiveness of our teachers and the schools. Instead of blaming South Division, this community should be congratulating school leaders for working with Sixteenth Street Community Health Center to establish a program that helps to address some of the health and wellness concerns of South Division students.

The student survey helped to determine the level of student need and interest in a school-based clinic and measure the Wellness Center's effectiveness in meeting the students' health care needs. Clearly, the fact that two-thirds of South Division students have used the center in its first six months of operation indicates we are meeting a need.

South Division's Wellness Center demonstrates that school administrators are working toward solutions. The clinic is one example of a program that, based on initial results, is working.

My hope is that the South Division Wellness Center can be duplicated in other schools so our young people have a better opportunity to lead healthier, more productive lives.

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Chief executive officer

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