Appendix 5: Water Access Key Stakeholder Sample Interview Questions

Basic Information

Date of Interview: Type of Stakeholder:

Coder Initials: Title of Stakeholder:

Identification Number: Type of Organization:

Topic #1: Accessibility of Drinking Water in Schools

What type of access do students have to drinking water in school?

Probe: Examples could include water fountains, bathrooms sinks, bottled water from vending machines, water coolers, hydrations systems, water brought from home, pitchers of water served at lunch, and water as a part of the meal tray.

Do you think students have adequate access to drinking water in public schools?

Topic #2: Attitudes and Perceptions About Current Drinking Water in Schools

What are potential barriers to drinking water in schools?

Probe: Examples could include inadequate number of water access points, inconvenient location of water access points, water safety concerns, poor maintenance of drinking water outlets, broken or dirty water fountains, poor water taste, warm and unappealing water color.

Topic #3: Attitudes, Barriers, and Facilitators for Providing Drinking Water in Schools

In your opinion, how should water be offered in schools?

Probe: Examples could include water fountains, bottled water from vending machines, water coolers, hydrations systems with cups vs. refillable water bottles, water brought from home, pitchers of water served at lunch, and water as a part of the meal tray.

When should students have access to water in schools?

Probe: Examples could include during mealtimes (breakfast, lunch, and for nutrition), after recess, right before school, after school, after sports or PE, and during classes.

What factors would make providing water in schools hard to do? (Ask the following probes if not covered in response to this question.)

Probe (if needed): Do you know of any federal or state regulations that prohibit serving water at breakfast or lunch or for nutrition. If so, what is your understanding of these regulations? (Probe about USDA reimbursement for certain types of beverages offered in the cafeteria.)

Probe (if needed): Are there individual school or district challenges to providing water to students in schools? If so, what are these challenges? (e.g., providing students with containers for water [disposable cups vs. bottles], long lines to water dispensing areas, time for obtaining water, costs, labor union contracts, vandals tampering with hydration stations, maintenance personnel to assist with upkeep, increased restroom access or breaks because of increased consumption, water bottle size limitations).

Probe (if needed): Are there any regulations related to water safety and quality?

What factors would make providing water in school easy to do?

Topic #4: Water-Related Interventions

Do you know of other schools that are providing water to students? If so, how do these schools provide water to students?

Probe: Examples could include filtered water stations, pitchers of water, as a part of the meal tray, and vending machines with bottled water for purchase.

When do these schools provide water to students? Does the availability vary depending on the water source?

Probe: Examples could include accessible all day, meal times, after school, and summer.

Do you know the costs associated with providing water to students? (Costs can include those to students, schools, etc.)

How, if at all, does the school advertise, market, or promote drinking water to students?

Topic #5: Suggestions for Other Key Informants

If you were designing an intervention a program to increase availability and consumption of water in schools, from whom in the community would you want to get input and buy-in?

Probe: Examples include PTA leaders, teachers, school leaders, city officials, media, businesses, community organizations, students, parents, policymakers, and advocacy groups.

I am interested in interviewing other individuals like you. Whom would you suggest?

Appendices 47