

A REGIONAL APPROACH TO SUPPORT FOR STATE DIABETES PROGRAMS

Partnership across New England promotes networking and supports better program efforts

Public Health Problem

- Public health issues related to diabetes are similar across the New England states and collaborating on shared solutions extends the reach and impact of individual programs.
- The high turnover rate among diabetes program managers/coordinators in New England, one-third in a recent year, slows program progress in preventing and controlling diabetes.
- Management theory supports the value of networking with peers, professional development and teamwork as significant aspects of job satisfaction and retention of trained, competent workers.

Program

- To increase collaboration among diabetes program managers/coordinators six states, Massachusetts, Connecticut, Rhode Island, Maine, New Hampshire and Vermont, established a regional partnership to work on regional initiatives, share ideas and materials and provide networking opportunities and support to state program staff.
- In addition to planned meetings at conferences outside the region, an annual, regional meeting promotes work on state specific programs and projects of benefit to all states, such as the Management Information System and the Performance Improvement Plan.

Impact

As a result of the partnership, state diabetes programs in the New England region have:

- Decreased planning time for each individual state through the exchange of ideas for training of professional, lay health and para-professional program and partner staff
- Increased opportunities to extend the reach of the Stanford Chronic Disease Self Management Program, an evidence-based program shown to enhance quality of life for people with chronic diseases such as diabetes and improve the management of their condition
- Implemented the Move More Program to promote physical activity in additional states in the region following it's development in Maine
- Increased the public's exposure to diabetes public service announcements by sharing ideas within the region on the use of cable television to broadcast information on diabetes
- Improved cooperation among programs which resulted in anecdotal reports of increased job satisfaction for program coordinators that may promote retention of experienced staff.
- Improved program effectiveness through wider sharing of program knowledge among the region's diabetes programs, such as use of performance measures and ways to engage partners.

Contact

Cindy Kozak
Connecticut Department of Health
860-509-7737
cindy.kozak@ct.gov

